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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GREENHAM PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN ST MARY'S CHURCH HALL, GREENHAM
ON 10th February 2016 AT 7.30pm**

Cllr P. Barnett (Chairman)
Cllr C. Austin (Vice Chairman)

Cllr Christopher Dewhurst
Cllr Ernie Hicks

Cllr A. Agutter
Cllr T. King
Cllr J. Swift-Hook
Cllr S. Westbrook
Cllr H. Westbrook
Cllr B Drummond
Cllr A Johnson

Theresa Elgar Clerk to the Council

IN ATTENDANCE: 4 members of the Public (including 1 member of the Press).

1. Apologies received

Apologies were received from Cllr P Hay & Cllr S Huxtable.
Notice of late arrival received from Cllr G Puffett.

2. Co-opted Councillors

Nominations had been received ahead of the meeting from Christopher Dewhurst & Ernie Hicks.
There were no objections from any of the members so it was proposed by Cllr T King that
Christopher Dewhurst & Ernie Hicks were co-opted onto GPC

Seconded - Cllr A Agutter

Cllr A Johnson abstained.

All others present voted in favour of the proposal.

Cllr C Dewhurst & Cllr E Hicks each signed a declaration of acceptance and officially joined the meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest, Statements of Position and Dispensations

Cllr. J Swift Hook stated that:

"Any views that I may express about planning matters and other business before this Council tonight are in my capacity as a member of this Council (Greenham Parish) and are based on the information before me tonight. If and when I consider any of the items at any future time in my capacity as a member of Newbury Town Council, I will consider each item on its merits at that time, taking full account of all the facts and information which are put before me at that time, as a result of which I may well form a different view from any view I may express tonight". I would like to make clear that my use of computer equipment during the meeting is to enable me to access information about the business in front of this meeting".

Cllr B Drummond stated that

"Any views that I may express about planning matters and other business before this Council tonight are in my capacity as a member of *this* Council (Greenham Parish) and are based on the information before me tonight. If and when I consider any of the items at any future time in my capacity as a member of West Berkshire Council, I will consider each item on its merits at that time, taking full

account of all the facts and information which are put before me at that time, as a result of which **I may well form a different view from any view I may express tonight**".

Cllr A Johnson stated that

"Any views that I may express about planning matters and other business before this Council tonight are in my capacity as a member of *this* Council (Greenham Parish) and are based on the information before me tonight. If and when I consider any of the items at any future time in my capacity as a member of Newbury Town Council, I will consider each item on its merits at that time, taking full account of all the facts and information which are put before me at that time, as a result of which **I may well form a different view from any view I may express tonight**".

Cllr P Barnett stated that as he was a governor of Park House School he would not take part in any discussion relating to The Sandleford Development.

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th January

The minutes of this meeting had previously been circulated.

Cllr J Swift Hook had also circulated an amendment to item 9 which he felt more accurately reflected the discussion that took place at the meeting and requested that the minutes were amended accordingly.

Cllr J Swift Hook advise that he had received no comments ahead of this meeting with regards to his amendment.

After a lengthy discussion on the precise nature of and reasons for the amendment it was proposed by Cllr S Westbrook that the amendments made by Cllr Swift Hook be accepted with one exception.

Seconded - Cllr T King.

Objections from Cllr A Johnson & Cllr B Drummond.

All others present voted in favour of the proposal.

The minutes were then signed by the Chairman, with the exception of section 9, as a true reflection of the meeting.

Minute of the meeting held on 21st January 2016

Cllr J Swift Hook proposed an amendment to the second paragraph on page 2

Seconded - Cllr C Austin

All others present voted in favour of the proposal.

5. Matters to report

(1) Letter received from Royal Berks Fire & Rescue

Action: Clerk to circulate to members.

(2) Open Space - renewal request received

Action: To be passed to Finance Committee for consideration.

(3) Letter from WBDC re Neighbourhood Warden Scheme

Action: Clerk to forward to members for discussion at a future meeting.

(4) Liberty Ballroom

Graham Berry, representing the campaign in support of Liberty Ballroom, addressed the meeting and outlined the group's concerns and aims.

He read a question on behalf Graham Padlock to members asking whether GPC would assist the campaign by holding an open meeting to discuss actions needed to keep the ballroom open.

Cllr B Drummond's opinion was that the Liberty Ballroom was a unique place and that GPC should take the lead in supporting the campaign.

Cllr P Barnett's opinion was that GPC should establish who is currently involved in the campaign and take a lead in inviting groups to support the campaign but felt GPC needed to know exactly where the campaign was to date.

Action: Cllr A Johnson to make contact with the Support Group to establish more facts.

Mrs Berry also address the meeting .

Cllr J Swift Hook suggested the group should lobby WBDC.

Cllr H Westbrook asked Mr & Mrs Berry exactly how she thought GPC could support the group.

Mrs Berry thought possibly in a financial way but gave no further detail. Cllr. Ernie Hicks advised that Greenham Parish Council had limited financial resources.

There was general support around the table for the campaign and Mr & Mrs Berry provided their contact details to the clerk for future contact.

10. Control Tower. (this item was brought forward in The Agenda by agreement with the Chair)

Cllr H Westbrook gave an update on the current situation regarding project and briefed member on

the Control Tower Committee meeting of 4th Feb

Cllr H Westbrook detailed the various issues with the building following a recent site visit, including: leaking roof, water ingress, blown window sills & damp in the downstairs rooms.

She advised that she was in the process of talking to building surveyors in order to obtain quotes for a FULL SURVEY of the building.

Cllr H Westbrook also circulated photos taken on site showing some of the problems.

She also updated members with the situation regarding sign off of the electrical work and the plumbing works completed to date.

Cllr S Westbrook asked if the records that had been requested from the Cllr J.Swift Hook in his capacity of former chairman had been received.

Cllr J Swift Hook advised that he would discuss that question with The Chairman outside of the meeting.

Cllr H Westbrook advised the date of the next meeting of the CTC: **Wednesday 25th February at- 7.30pm**

Cllr C Austin proposed that the committee should engage a Surveyor to carry out a survey

Seconded - Cllr A. Agutter

Abstentions received from Cllr J Swift Hook & Cllr A Johnson.

All others present voted in favour of the proposal.

6. Public Session

Tony Vickers addressed the meeting on behalf of The Newbury Society.

He gave background information on the original sale & purchase by GPC of the Control Tower.

He also outlined the role of The Newbury Society and advised the meeting of the support that the society wished to give GPC with the current work being undertaken on the control tower and their desire to help promote the tower to visitors in the future and thereby increase its revenue possibilities. He also directly asked members how they thought The Newbury Society might assist with the Control Tower Project.

It was agreed that Tony Vickers would talk with Cllr H Westbrook outside of the meeting.

Cllr A Johnson left the meeting at 9pm

Cllr H Westbrook asked for ratification of The Terms of Reference of the Control Tower Committee, as previously circulated.

Ratification of the CTC Terms of Reference - Proposed - Cllr S Westbrook

Seconded - Cllr A Agutter

Abstentions from Cllr J Swift Hook & Cllr B Drummond

All others present voted in favour of the proposal.

7. Parish Plan

Cllr H Westbrook read an email received from John Bramhall requesting approval by GPC of the proposed Queen's 90th Birthday Party celebrations in June.

The proposal to support was made by Cllr Barnett

Seconded - Cllr Agutter

All others present voted in favour of the proposal.

Further discussion took place as to the membership of The Parish Plan group.

Cllr P Barnett voiced his concern as to whether the group needed more members.

Actions: Parish Plan Group to identify if more members are needed. Clerk to contact John Bramhall to ask if assistance is needed with the Party Celebration arrangements.

8. Planning & Licensing

Planning Applications received from:

Kawasaki Motors

Cllr H. Westbrook read out the thoughts of Cllr S Huxtable who had visited the site.

Her opinion was that The Council should object.

Cllr J Swift-Hook raised a point of order concerning the voicing of Cllr Huxtable's objections as she had a personal interest in the application. Cllr J Swift Hook advised that her views should **not** have been made known to council.

Cllr B Drummond declared his interest.

Further discussion of the application took place.

It was proposed **NO OBJECTION** by Cllr E Hicks

Seconded - Cllr A Agutter

Abstention Cllr C Austin

All others present voted in favour of the proposal.

Cllr G Puffett joined the meeting at this point.

Co-parts

Cllr H Westbrook advised there was to be a site meeting on **Thursday 17th February**.

Cllr P Barnett & Cllr J Swift-Hook was in agreement that it was inappropriate that Cllr S Huxtable attend on behalf of GPC due to her personal interest.

Action: Deputy Clerk to advise Cllr S Huxtable that she cannot attend the site meeting as a representative of GPC

Cllr B Drummond advised that he had "Called -In" the application to WBDC and left the meeting.

It was proposed by Cllr S Westbrook to delegate authority to the Planning & Licensing Committee to deal with this application.

Seconded - Cllr J Swift-Hook

All others present voted in favour of the proposal.

Newbury Racecourse

It was proposed **NO OBJECTION** by Cllr J Swift-Hook

Seconded Cllr A. Agutter

All others present voted in favour of the proposal.

Burys Bank Road

It was proposed **NO OBJECTION** by Cllr CAustin

Seconded - Cllr S Westbrook

All others present voted in favour of the proposal.

87 Greenham Road

It was proposed **NO OBJECTION** by Cllr S Westbrook

Seconded - Cllr Agutter

All others present voted in favour of the proposal.

Sandleford Park

Cllrs S Westbrook & H Westbrook advised a *pecuniary* interest and left the meeting

Cllr P Barnett and Cllr J Swift- Hook queried whether councillors S & H Westbrook should actually have stated the exact nature of their interest before leaving the meeting.

Action: Clerk to check & advise

A lengthy discussion was held but there was general agreement that this application and all others for Sandleford Park would hinge on the highway's position

It was proposed to **OBJECT** on the grounds of Highways issues, by Cllr Swift-Hook

Seconded: Cllr A Agutter

All others present voted in favour of the proposal.

9. Finance & Accounts

West Berks CAB £1000

H Westbrook petty cash 24.99

Control Tower

BT £93.56

BT £94 .80

Sundog £154.00

Sundog £820.00

painter and decorator 1603.95

Active Heating £4778.14 (to be held until works completed)

Hogans Electrical £4664.35 (to be held until works completed)

It was proposed by Cllr S Westbrook that the invoices be approved for payment & cheques signed.

Seconded Cllr A. Agutter

All others present voted in favour of the proposal.

Additional Invoice:

Project Administrator

A lengthy discussion took place regarding the Final Invoice submitted by the project administrator for The Control Tower project.

Cllr Swift-Hooks opinion was that GPC should communicate to the contractor why it was withholding the payment given that the Final Invoice was substantially no different to earlier invoices submitted & approved.

It was Cllr Barnett's strongly expressed opinion that the contractor should not be paid for the 2hrs spent attending a GPC committee meeting.

After further discussion it was proposed to sign off the invoice for payment with the exception of the above mention 2 hours. Total amount to be paid = £1072.01

Proposed by Cllr P. Barnett

Seconded - Cllr S Westbrook

Cllr H.Westbrook abstained

All others present voted in favour of the proposal.

Action: Cllr Barnett to contact contractor to advise reason for shortfall in payment

Grant Applications

2 x grant applications presented for consideration - Berkshire Vision & Relate

Cllr J Hook Swift suggested that the grant applications were channelled through The Greenham Common Trust where the benefit of matched funding could be obtained.

11. Any Other Items

Cllr T King advised that residents had contacted her enquiring about the reasons for the new mixed colour lighting on the Westwood Farm Estate.

Action: Clerk to ask WBDC Highways for clarification

Cllr H Westbrook advised that a member of GPC had suggested GPC undergo a full governance audit.

Acting as deputy clerk she had already started to obtain quotes for a Full Governance Audit.

Cllr P Barnett advised his concerns regarding the traffic restrictions currently in town affecting The Parish.

Cllr C Austin advised that cattle were again being fed on The Common but thought the impact would be less than in previous years.

Cllr J.Swift Hook advised that he was pleased to hear news of the Full Governance Audit proposal and hoped it will be supported by the members

Cllr E Hicks voiced his opinion that GPC should sit down with Newbury Racecourse to formulate a plan to ease traffic situation re the Boundary Road works.

The Meeting closed at 10.50pm

Date of **Next Meeting** to be held on **Wednesday 9th March 2016 at 7.30pm**

Members of the Public are welcome to attend the meeting, to ask questions and to comment on the proceedings **with the consent of the Chairman.**

Confidential Matters – Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960: To resolve under Article 1 (2) to exclude the public and press whenever publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

You are invited to **contact the Clerk of the Council** if you have any matters of concern that you would like the Council to address.