

REMENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held in the Parish Hall on 12 Jan 2016 starting at 8:00pm and finishing at 9:04pm (circulated 13 Jan 2016)

PRESENT: Cllrs Richard Fletcher (RF; Deputy Chairman)
Sue Laing (SL)
John Merkel (JM)
Darrel Poulos (DP)
Clerk: Paul Sermon

In attendance:
Linda Ashwell (LA)
Felicity Rutland (FR)
Chris Leeming (CL)

1/16: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from John Halsall (Chairman) and Alison Barraclough (AB). A card was signed by those present for Alison. The Deputy Chairman noted that on 17 Dec 2015 The Chairman had offered Peter Grace (PG) a sabbatical until the October RPC meeting.

2/16: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

3/16: MINUTES OF THE MEETING

It was AGREED that the Deputy Chairman be authorised to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 9 Dec 2015 as a true record of that meeting.

4/16: MATTERS ARISING

There were no other Matters Arising, other than those appearing in the agenda of this meeting.

5/16: NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (NP)

There was discussion about the NP questionnaire. It was AGREED that one copy would (after an announcement in the Remenham Newsletter) go to individual households and individual businesses with an interest in Remenham on 1st March 2016 requesting their return by 31st March. It was AGREED that the summarised feedback from the questionnaire (and earlier responses) would be fed back to an Annual Parish Meeting in May 2016.

6/16: PLANNING

It was noted that in December RPC had commented to WBC Planning on applications relating to Thames Bridge House, Old Police House and 26 Aston Lane Aston. The Clerk confirmed that no RPC comment had been requested on Pilar Lodge (153331). CL said that the Thames Bridge House application (152913) was misleading and that in reality the development would be seen from The Angel Pub, Bridge and The Old Rectory, resulting in a greater negative impact. It was AGREED that The Clerk would contact WBC Planning to determine whether this comment could be added to its existing comments after the normal deadline.

7/16: WEBSITE

SL said that the 18 Dec had seen the highest ever number of visits to the Remenham website (243) and that in December there were 4586 unique visits with 6977 pages visited. It was AGREED that this was evidence of a strong website performance. SL said she was to have an updating meeting with Steve Hounscome.

8/16: LICENSING

There was nothing to report.

Signed.....Deputy Chairman

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9/16: TRAFFIC AND HIGHWAYS;

The Deputy Chairman thanked LA and RAG (helped by JH and JM) for their sterling work on bulb planting. He then summarised comments from the Chairman (JH) on the Highways Initiative questionnaire. It appeared that further work was needed to draw out ways forward, but it thought this might well take until after the responses from the NP questionnaire were received.

10/16: HENLEY ISSUES

There was nothing to report.

11/16: FOOTPATHS

JM asked about a footpath (FP) from Wargrave Road to White Hill. He showed a photograph appearing to show blockage at the Wargrave Road end. The Clerk said he thought that the White Hill end was signposted and offered to walk the White Hill end of the FP. DP said he thought the Wargrave Road end of the FP might be waterlogged.

12/16: WOKINGHAM ISSUES

The Clerk said WBC had asked that examples of incidents should go on the Remenham Emergency Plan. In a discussion, suitable examples were suggested (flooding of Remenham Lane/ Upper Culham Lane and fallen trees); it was AGREED that these would be inserted and then the one-pager would be uploaded to the website and sent to WBC.

The Clerk said that it appeared that a Licence 50 form needed to be completed and submitted to WBC for the phonebox. It was AGREED that he should do this. SL suggested that rather than have another phonebox near the Bridge and "elsewhere", a noticeboard might be better.

LA asked that RPC should attempt discover what WBC services Remenham has lost (or might be about to lose) so that RPC could then rethink its budget in case it wanted to remedy any deficiencies. It was AGREED that the Clerk would approach WBC to discover what had been lost before the next meeting.

The Deputy Chairman outlined information from JH on a WBC 'clean-up' day on 19 March; SL said that the same date had been suggested for a clean-up around the church and also mentioned that a litter related e-mail had been received from Tina Hudson. DP thought that there were community benefits of such actions. It was AGREED that this might be best the first Saturday after Easter (rather than over Easter).

CL commented on his concerns about the Thames towpath being tarmacked with issues of water drainage and riverside piling causing a loss of riverbank habitat. FR said she thought RPC had discussed this last time. The Clerk said this was in terms of filling pot-holes with soil. JM thought that this might be part of the NP document.

13/16: FINANCIAL MATTERS

It was noted that RPC's precept form had been the first received by WBC. The suggestion that RPC meetings become paperless was not yet thought to be appropriate, but that a projector was still most effective at larger meetings (e.g. that in May on the NP).

14/16: DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Signed.....Deputy Chairman

13 Jan 2016

There was discussion about the date of Feb meeting. It was subsequently agreed that this would be in The Flower Pot at 8pm on 9 Feb 2016. FR and JH offered to take the minutes in the absence of The Clerk on that day.

ACTIONS:

The Chairman would be asked to:

develop feedback from the Highways Initiative questionnaire to move things forward

organise for one copy of the NP questionnaire (after an announcement in the Remenham Newsletter) to go to individual households and individual businesses with an interest in Remenham on 1st March 2016 requesting their return by 31st March

organise for a summary of NP questionnaire feedback (possibly linked with a summary of Highway Initiative feedback) to be generated for discussion at the Annual Parish Meeting in May 2016

consider a clean-up session on the first Saturday after Easter.

The Clerk would:

contact WBC Planning to see if RPC could comment further on the Thames Bridge House application (152913) to indicate that it was misleading in terms of the development being seen from The Angel Pub, the bridge and the Old Rectory

approach WBC to discover what services had been lost and whether any budget changes were need to remedy this

update the Remenham Emergency Plan with suitable examples of incidents (flooding of Remenham Lane/ Upper Culham Lane and fallen trees) and then upload the one-pager to the website and send it to WBC

submit a Licence 50 form to WBC for the proposed phonebox-noticeboard.

JM/DP/The Clerk would:

walk parts of the Wargrave Road-White Hill footpath

Signed.....Deputy Chairman

13 Jan 2016

Remenham Parish Council (RPC) Community Emergency Plan

*Call 999 if you or someone else you spot
is in immediate danger*

Date accepted by RPC	12 Jan 2016	Date of issue	14 Jan 2016
Amended	-	Exercise	-
<p>In the event of finding persons/animals in difficulty in the river or on the towpath and needing assistance please telephone either of those below</p> <p>or Wokingham's Community Resilience Team (0118 974 6473) if additional support needed</p>			
Remenham Emergency Team Contacts			
John Halsall (coordinator)	01491576190 07939041227	Paul Sermon	01491412908 07425131861
<p>In the event of seeing any pollution please report this to the Environment Agency hotline (0800807060)</p>			
<p>Occasionally flooding is found in Remenham Lane and Upper Culham Lane. Sometimes trees are damaged by high winds with debris falling on roads/paths e.g. Wargrave Road. On occasions high traffic density may delay the attendance of emergency vehicles a little.</p>			

Jan 2016

Signed.....Deputy Chairman

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