

REMENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held in the Parish Hall on 12th April 2016 starting at 8:00pm (circulated 21 April 2016)

PRESENT: Cllrs John Halsall (JH; Chairman)
Richard Fletcher (RF; Deputy Chairman)
Alison Barraclough (AB)
Peter Grace (PG)
Sue Laing (SL)
John Merkel (JM)
Darrel Poulos (DP)
Clerk: Paul Sermon

In attendance:
Linda Ashwell (LA)
Chris Drury (CD)
Justin Hargreaves (JHA)
Felicity Rutland (FR)
Dommel Tantes (DT)

47/16: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies.

48/16: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

49/16: MINUTES OF THE MEETING

It was AGREED that the Deputy Chairman be authorised to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 8 Mar 2016 as a true record of that meeting.

50/16: MATTERS ARISING

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

51/16: NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (NP)

FR was pleased to report that there had been 26 replies on the NP questionnaire within 24h.

It was noted that The Chairman and The Clerk had attended a meeting on housing plans and a Green Belt review and the need for an RPC response on the latter. Following a discussion, The Chairman read out a suggested RPC response (see Appendix). This was AGREED and The Clerk was asked to send this to the review staff.

52/16: PLANNING

There was discussion on planning application 160871 (private polo facility). LA commented that Dairy Lane was narrow and not suitable for two-way horse-box traffic. DT thought that there would be significant earth moving necessary and that people might also be entering the site via the equine entrance. The Chairman said that sacrificing a consented house for a polo facility. He thought that the management of Park Place would in doing this be maintaining the landscape of Capability Brown with what was essentially an agricultural use of the land. PG questioned whether an equine use was the same as an agricultural use. PG said he had spoken to residents who were worried about increased flows of vehicles (especially large horse-boxes), horse numbers and their waste and the size of the Arena all-weather pitch. PG mentioned an accident close to the garage and DP agreed that road safety would be a nightmare. DP thought we could not

Signed..........Chairman

challenge the stable building size. SL agreed that access would be problematic at a very busy junction. JM commented that polo matches were additional events for Remenham. It AGREED that the principal issues were (i) land management, (ii) water/waste management, (iii) avoiding external lighting on the Arena etc, and (iv) minimise the impact of traffic/horse-box vehicle movements. JH mention that RPC was invited to visit the site (DT was not available, but The Clerk and PG would attend with JH) and that The Chairman would list the application

JH described having been shown a new plan for Barn Cottage by HRR. SL commented that the property was not presently in good order. JH indicated that he was shortly to meet with WBC Planning.

The Clerk reported that WBC Planning had responded to a request for information about the date on which application 153483 (Hobbs Boat Yard) might be discussed, by saying that no date had yet been set. Apparently the Environment Agency did not have concerns.

53/16: WEBSITE

SL indicated that the website continued to thrive, with 3960 visits in March and 6953 pages visited. She highlighted visits to the TV police alert.

54/16: LICENSING

The Chairman described a license request for a swim event on 10 July and the concern of local people related to this event. There was discussion about event licences. CD/JHA expressed concern about the stream of such events.

55/16: TRAFFIC AND HIGHWAYS;

The Chairman described continuing traffic issues. There was mention of broken fencing on Remenham Lane and water collecting opposite White Hill Garage; AB also reminded RPC that water collecting in Aston Lane had still not been sorted out. DT mentioned his concern about the state of trees on both sides of White Hill. PG/DT thought that fallen trees were not always dealt with by WBC. JM reminded RPC that at the last meeting it was AGREED that RPC would request air quality measurement on our side of the river. It was AGREED that The Chairman would follow this up.

LA raised the issue of litter picking. FR suggested the Adopt-a-Street scheme. It was AGREED that The Clerk would draw up a list a roads with and without pavements for consideration at the next meeting.

The Clerk reminded RPC they had agreed to recommend to WBC Highways action to make good potholes the towpath from Henley Bridge to Aston with soil.

56/16: HENLEY ISSUES

There was nothing to report.

57/16: FOOTPATHS

AB reminded the meeting that the footpath over HRR land towards Leander remained unresolved. The Chairman AGREED to follow this up.

58/16: WOKINGHAM ISSUES

The Chairman mention WDALC and its future.

59/16: FINANCIAL MATTERS

It was AGREED that The Clerk would proceed with the purchase of hardwood noticeboards and that he would obtain quotes for the projector/screen. The Chairman recommended that RPC consider moving to

Signed..........Chairman

electronic banking. SL/DT offered to help with this transition. The following cheques were signed by JH and RF:

BALC subscription	£123.80 (incl. £20.63 VAT)	000618
CPRE subscription	£ 36.00	000619
SSE electricity	£258.36 (incl 12.30 VAT)	000620
RPCC churchyard	£650.00	000621
RPCC Parish Hall	£650.00	000622
RPCC Newsletter	£650.00	000623
Harris Coachways (RAG)	£360.00*	000624
LA copying (RAG)	£ 7.20	000625

*Expenditure on cheque 000624 was covered by cash/cheques paid in to RPC under 031926.

60/16: ANY OTHER BUSINESS; LA raised the issue of bollards and bulbs planted on Remenham Hill. The Chairman suggested that this was considered after the May elections.

61/16: DATE OF NEXT MEETING; It was AGREED that the APM would be at 10 May 2016 at 8pm in the Parish Hall (preceded by a short RPC meeting at 7pm).

ACTIONS by The Chairman;

list planning application 160871 (private polo facility)

request air quality measurement on our side of the river

contact WBC Highways requesting that they make good potholes the towpath

from Henley Bridge to Aston with soil

obtain an update on the footpath over HRR land towards Leander

ACTIONS by The Clerk to:

send the RPC comments (in the Appendix) to those undertaking the GB review

draw up a list a roads with an without pavements for consideration of an Adopt-a-Street scheme

purchase 2 hardwood noticeboards

obtain quotes for the projector/screen purchase/installation

obtain information on electronic banking

Signed.....Chairman

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Appendix: RPC response on the Green Belt review methodology

RPC would like the following 4 comments to be considered:

Green Belt (GB) land (together with Conservation and Covenanted areas) is central to the whole of Remenham, which acts as a recreational lung and green backdrop for the historic town of Henley-on-Thames and its internationally-known Royal Regatta (and the wider WBC community) and RPC husbands Remenham GB land for future generations. In large measure this land has a defensible Thames/Thames Path boundary with South Oxfordshire; Henley-on-Thames access is via its A4130 and A321 (yet even along these roads fields, historic country house estates/parkland and woodland form the dominant views) and footpaths (whose use is encouraged on RPC's website and additional footpaths come into play at times of Thames flooding).

The subdivision of Remenham GB into parcels is somewhat arbitrary

Were (a) three-levels of local GB or (b) the extraction of settlements washed-over by GB to be review outcomes, RPC would want to avoid this catalysing future GB environmental/recreational losses (for the whole community).

Given the importance of this subject, might it be appropriate for the Proforma review on an individual GB parcel by Amec to be independently doubly-assessed.

Signed..........Chairman
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