

REMENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held in the Parish Hall on 10 May 2016 starting at 6:45pm and finishing at 8:15pm (circulated 11 May 2016) followed by Annual Parish Meeting (APM) that finished at 9:38pm

PRESENT: Cllrs John Halsall (JH; Chairman)
Richard Fletcher (RF; Deputy Chairman)
Alison Baraclough (AB)
John Merkel (JM)
Darrel Poulos (DP)
Clerk: Paul Sermon

In attendance:
Linda Ashwell (LA)
Felicity Rutland (FR)
John Bateman (JB)
Domnall Tait
Chi Ann Rajah
Neal Thomas
Ann Burley
Vicky Roberts
Pat Sly
And others

100/16: ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

JH was nominated/seconded to be Chairman by RF/DP. RF was nominated/seconded to be Deputy Chairman by JH/DP.

101/16: Casual Vacancy (CV)

The CV arising from the resignation of Sue Laing was noted; the Chairman mentioned her sterling website work. He explained that the vacancy had been advertised on the website and the noticeboard. Three candidates had expressed an interest. The Chairman described alternative ways forward. It was AGREED that RPC should consider the matter again at its next meeting.

102/16: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Peter Grace (PG) remains on sabbatical.

103/16: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

104/16: MINUTES OF THE MEETING

It was AGREED that the Chairman be authorised to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 12 April 2016 as a true record of that meeting.

105/16: MATTERS ARISING

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

106/16: PLANNING

The Chairman outlined outcomes of discussions on RPC's concerns on 160871 (Private Polo Facility that is planned to replace the consented Malmesbury House). These included design, construction, screening, the practice pitch, lighting, noise/amplified sound, roads/traffic/access, flooding/pond/drainage, bunds, number of polo matches, public attendance and horse grazing. He indicated that the application had been listed by RPC. John Bateman then made a presentation on the application and answered questions. There seemed to be different messages from WBC on access via the A4130 and Culham Lane. At present access from the A4130

Signed.....Chairman

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was planned to be widened from 3m to 6m. There was discussion about where vehicles would be parked. There was also discussion about the relative sizes of Malmesbury House and the stables for 40 horses; JB said that a 2008 agreement limited the total build volume for the estate. DP asked if the safety zone around the polo pitch could be reduced to allow either movement of the practice polo area or the stabling to the eastern end of the site; JB said that one issue was the flatness of the relevant land. There was discussion about the number of polo matches likely to be played. The Chairman said that residents could comment on the application in a personal capacity to WBC Planning, but could also send any comments to him in case these could be incorporated in RPC's comments. The Clerk reminded the meeting that RPC's comments were expected by 12 May. Later it was AGREED that sustainable/green waste disposal would be added to RPC concerns and that the Chairman would submit RPCs comments to WBC Planning (including resident's concerns, where appropriate).

107/16: TRAFFIC AND HIGHWAYS;

CL commented that traffic pressure in Remenham was likely to increase with polo matches now being added to the list of events. JM reminded the meeting about his request for air quality measurements for the Remenham side of the river. It was AGREED that The Clerk would enquire about relevant emission/pollution/traffic technology/providers that were available.

108/16: FINANCIAL MATTERS

It was AGREED that payments to S.Hounsome for the website would increase from £43.33 a month to £65.00 a month and a standing order to that effect was signed. The following cheques were also signed

000626	£242.99	Purchase of Projector (Maplin) (£202.50 Excl. VAT)
000627	£ 69.67	Clerk's expenses (Dec 2015-May 2016)
000628	£700.00	Churchyard maintenance (2016)
000629	£700.00	Parish Hall (2016)
000630	£700.00	Newsletter (2016)

109/16: ANY OTHER BUSINESS;

The Clerk was thanked for making this RPC's first step towards the paperless digital age.

110/16: DATE OF NEXT MEETING

14 June 2016 at 8pm in the Parish Hall.

111/16: APM Notes

Additionally attended by

Sue Laing
Per Berggren
Louise Berggren
Davinia Hudson
David Cook
And others

The Chairman welcomed those attending the Annual Parish Meeting (APM).

JH invited PC Simon Botham (our local policeman) to introduce himself and describe how the Thames Valley Force could best help in Remenham. SB said that he was based in Twyford and he welcomed the appearance of

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

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Thames Valley Police Alerts on Remenham's website. He asked residents to contact him with any specific concerns and suggested residents also check the serial numbers on any expensive items.

The Chairman outlined the 2015-2016 Remenham year. This had seen new Chairs of HRR and The Henley Festival, with the latter offering some tickets only to RG9 residents. He highlighted Sue Laing's achievements with the much-visited website. He mentioned the amazing work of LA and RAG. He spoke of FR circulating a questionnaire that would move the Neighbourhood Plan forward. He described highways developments: third Thames bridge, the questionnaire on the traffic flows/rat-runs in Remenham and bridge traffic lights affecting traffic flows and traffic-derived pollution. David Cook said that traffic on White Hill had been very bad in the last month; DP mentioned that there was to be a relevant meeting on 5th June. Louise Berggren asked if the out-of-date traffic/pollution technology on the Henley side could be updated. JH said that new building in Benson and Wokingham could well increase traffic on White Hill and the A4130. He then described planning applications considered in the last year (e.g. Thames Bridge House, Hobbs' Boat Yard pontoons, Bird Place Cottage and most recently The Private Polo facility); he added that RPC-HRR discussions on Barn Cottage illustrated a positive way forward. JH said that consideration of a licence for a controversial Henley Swim in July 2016 was ongoing, as was a discussion on a footpath over HRR land. Finally, he added that RPC hoped to start an adopt-a-street scheme in 2016 as a way of controlling litter.

The Clerk outlined the present financial position of RPC. He said that RPC had maintained its precept from the previous year. He said that RPC had approximately £59,000 and should plan to move £20,000 from its current to its reserve account. It was agreed that this level of reserve was necessary to ensure that RPC could act on traffic/pollution issues, Neighbourhood Plan outcomes and changes in WBC service provision. The Clerk said that (as last year) the accounts (once audited) would be published and be available.

David Cook commented that RPC minutes were not up-to-date on the website. The Clerk said that there had been a mixing of Agenda and Minutes on the website (but that this had been attended to) and all minutes were on the website and (very soon) would also be appearing on the new noticeboard. Pat Sly said she had missed notices appearing on the noticeboard. The Clerk said this would be remedied shortly.

ACTIONS by The Chairman:

summarise RPC concerns regarding the proposed Polo Facility (including resident's concerns, where appropriate) and submit these to WBC Planning on 11/12 May

ACTIONS by The Clerk:

order one new noticeboard

enquire about relevant emission/pollution/traffic technology providers

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