

REMENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held in the Parish Hall on 14th Nov starting at 8:02pm
and finishing at 9:39pm (circulated 17th Nov 2017)

PRESENT: Cllrs John Halsall (JH; Chairman)

Alison Barraclough (AB)

Franky Cookson (FC)

Richard Fletcher (RF)

Peter Grace (PG)

John Merkel (JM)

Darrel Poulos (DP)

Clerk: Paul Sermon

In attendance:

Mike Dudley (MD)

109/17: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

110/17: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST; No declarations of interest were made.

111/17: MINUTES OF THE MEETING

It was AGREED that the Chairman be authorised to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 12th Sept and 10th Oct 2017 as a true record of those meetings.

112/17: MATTERS ARISING

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

113/17: PLANNING

The proposed landscaping and drainage in application 173156 (Land to the West of Remenham Lane) was considered. It was felt that the landscaping hedge on the river side of the new larger storage building should be evergreen (e.g. laurel) rather than deciduous (as proposed). It was also judged that the same hedging should be extended along the building end – where recently a container is camouflaged by hedging. It was also hoped that in changing the line of the track, the acreage of tarmac should not be increased – as it would make water drainage even more problematic. It was AGREED that The Clerk would write to WBC Planning to this effect.

PG raised the issue of new houses on Park Place off Culham Lane; JH said these were covered by permissions given some time ago.

114/17: LICENSING

The Chairman said that he and RF had met with WBC Staff to discuss the cumulative impact of licensing events; he reported that this matter was now going to the Licensing and Appeals Committee. MD thought that this was a good outcome and thanked the Chairman.

MD raised license breaches by Rewind. JH said that this had been done.

MD raised the question of inappropriate adverts on the corner of White Hill and Remenham Church Lane. It was AGREED that this matter would be raised by The Chairman with the Enforcement Officer.

Signed.....Chairman

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115/17: WEBSITE

FC gave details of the website use. JH asked if there could be links to sites of other parish councils, Kenton Theatre, Little Angel, etc. FC reminded the Clerk that July and Sept minutes had yet to go on the website; he replied that this was because a typo had been spotted on the latter, which meant that they were being re-signed tonight.

116/17: TRAFFIC, HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATH ISSUES

The Chairman said that Kings College London (KCL) now thought that proposed analysers that were planned for Henley and Remenham air quality measurements were inaccurate. The Clerk mentioned a Birmingham Pollution Sensors meeting that he had been to and promised to provide literature.

The Chairman said that WBC's civil parking enforcement would allow Remenham to seek traffic wardens in HRR and Women's Royal Regatta to control street parking (e.g. make sure parking bays were clear).

FC reiterated her call for changes to the White Hill 30mph section and mentioned two recent accidents near the entrance to Culham Court. She also asked for recent speed test data to be made available. JH AGREED to look into this. JM said that he still hoped for similar action on Wargrave Road. DP said that possibly one needed to install average speed cameras,

Consideration was given to proposals (see Appendix) made by some Remenham residents to WBC Highways focussing on traffic measures on Remenham lanes. The suggestions were for:

- (i) permanent removal of two parking bays on Remenham lane
- (ii) a weight (10 ton)/width limit on traffic and
- (iii) introduction of speed indicators, access only signs, white gates and chicanes where appropriate.

AB described some cycling on Remenham footpaths as inappropriate.

It was agreed that the outline Adopt-a-Street suggestion would go on the website inviting offers (in addition to the efforts of the litter picker) to keep footpaths, lanes and pavements in a tidy state.

It was AGREED that the dog waste bin had been a success, needing now to be emptied each Thursday and that The Clerk would contact the Parish Hall Committee/Father Martyn to see whether he was happy for the scheme to be extended.

117/17: WOKINGHAM ISSUES

Consideration was given to a letter from some parishes to Government ministers and an email from David Lee's staff at WBC offering to come to talk at a future RPC meeting. It was AGREED that The Clerk would suggest he come in Feb-Mar 2018.

118/17: HENLEY ISSUES

The Chairman said that there had been a lot of activity on the Henley Traffic Scheme. DP commented that quite a few people had changed their minds after a talk from those with experience at Poynton. PG said that he hoped this would not involve traffic speeding up. JH thought that experience in Holland suggested that it would involve traffic moving more steadily-slowly. He thanked DP who he said had been a catalyst for the change of approach.

Signed.....Chairman

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119/17: FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Clerk's expenses (£108.41) were agreed.

JH suggested that if RPC was to embark on traffic measures that it should suggest a precept increased by 4% on last year, in line with WBC.

The Chairman outlined TSB, Santander, Lloyds and Nationwide banking options that might be useful for RPC. It was AGREED that The Clerk would look into these options and come back with an assessment of the benefits of a TSB current account (18 months free banking) and a TSB/Nationwide savings account.

120/17: ANY OTHER MATTERS

MD asked about the possible roll-out of high speed broadband in Remenham. He noted that this was at Remenham Farm units. PG pointed out that the optical cable belonged to COPAS. MD thought it was BT OpenReach. JH said that he was in contact with Andy Nicholls, who is acting for all Berkshire on the high speed broadband roll-out. The Gigashare scheme he though had not gone well in Wargrave/Crazies Hill.

121/17; DATE OF NEXT MEETING

12th Dec 2017 at 8:00pm in the Parish Hall.

ACTIONS:

The Chairman will

Contact The Enforcement Officer on the question of inappropriate adverts on the corner of White Hill and Remenham Church Lane.

Look into the question of where the 30mph section ends on White Hill and the Wargrave Road and the availability of recent speed data.

Contact David Lee's staff at WBC suggesting that he came to speak to RPC in Feb-Mar 2018.

The Clerk will

Write to WBC Planning on the proposed landscaping and drainage in application 173156 (Land to the West of Remenham Lane) to say that RPC felt that the landscaping hedge on the river side of the new larger storage building should be evergreen (e.g. laurel) rather than deciduous (as proposed) and that the same hedging should be extended along the building end – where presently a container is camouflaged by hedging and also that in changing the line of the track, the acreage of tarmac should not be increased

report on alternative air quality analysers/the Birmingham Pollution Sensors meeting

contact the Parish Hall Committee/Father Martyn to see whether he was happy for the dog waste scheme might to be extended

obtain more details on TSB, Santander, Lloyds and Nationwide banking options

FC will

Signed.....Chairman

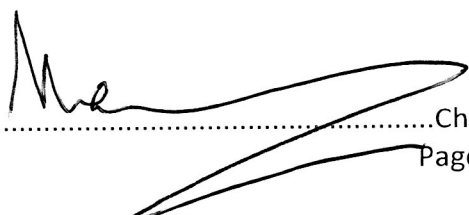
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consider website links to sites of other parish councils, Kenton Theatre, Little Angel, etc.

upload the outline Adopt-a-Street suggestion to the website inviting offers of help (in addition to the litter picker's efforts)

APPENDIX: Some comments of Remenham residents to WBC Highways focussing on traffic measures on Remenham lanes:

Signed..........Chairman
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Remenham Manor, Henley on Thames RG9 3DD
Telephone: 01491 574750, email: jahwest@aol.com

Mr Alex Deans
Head of Highways and Transport
Wokingham Borough Council
Shute End
Wokingham
Berkshire
RG40 1BN

13 November 2017

Dear Mr Deans

We are writing as residents of Remenham with our urgent concerns about traffic and safety on our lanes and to ask for a meeting to discuss what actions will be taken.

Over recent years the number of events held in this parish, and the related increases in traffic, have increased significantly; this, together with the now daily use of Remenham Church and Remenham Lanes as rat runs for traffic avoiding White Hill, has created ongoing, frequently serious and - more importantly - dangerous disruption. There have been a number of incidents, several covered in the Henley Standard, which range from: total gridlock as large articulated lorries become stuck, leading to delays of up to an hour to traverse the short length of Remenham Lane; a car being written off by an articulated lorry; and a local resident being prevented from being taken to hospital. It is clear that it is only a matter of time before emergency vehicles, called to an incident in this parish, will be prevented from accessing the incident, with consequent serious implications.



It is for these reasons that we have listed below what we believe to be urgent and necessary actions on the part of Wokingham Borough Council to at least limit these risks. We believe they are both practical and essential to prevent what might be further events that have more significant consequences. It has been clear for some time that the roads that serve this part of the parish, being single track country lanes, are totally unsuitable for what has emerged in terms of the traffic allowed to access them.

This, therefore, is more than an issue of inconvenience for local residents or the detrimental effect on the enjoyment of their properties, which are themselves significant, but one of risk management for which WBC has the primary responsibility. Our recommendations are as follows:

Signed.....Chairman

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1 Remove, permanently, the two Parking areas towards the end of Remenham Lane

These cause severe congestion and, at times, complete gridlock, blocking that part of the Lane for unacceptable periods. The restrictions (length of parking time and staying within the bays) are not adhered to in any case, although we recognise that is a difficult area for WBC to monitor.

There was at least one incident during the summer when one resident was unable to reach a hospital appointment, by reason of traffic congestion.

This apart, there are many evenings when traffic backs up to about 40 vehicles, using the Lanes as a "Rat Run" from the junction of the A4130 at the top of White Hill. With the Parking areas in use, traffic coming towards Remenham Village, from the junction by the Little Angel, is blocked.

The problem has been exacerbated by the creation of a double kerb on the side of the Lane opposite one of the car parking areas, rendering the effective use of the Lane even narrower than it was before. A wide vehicle in the bay recently made it almost impossible for first an AA van and then a caravan to pass, again causing back-ups of traffic, and a refuse van had similar difficulties last week.



2 Impose a weight limit on the two Lanes, and/or a width limit.

During the summer months, whilst preparations for events, on various areas of land adjoining the Lanes, are taking place, enormous HGVs are accessing sites with the consequence that ordinary traffic is severely disrupted. The Lanes are simply too narrow to accommodate these vehicles.

3 Signage to be installed

- 3.1 By the Little Angel (at the junction of Remenham Lane with White Hill), signs indicating the weight and width restrictions for access
- 3.2 By the Little Angel signs prohibiting access to all vehicles of say 10 tonnes and over, which should be shown diverted up White Hill to the junction with Remenham Church Lane
- 3.3 At the junction of Church Lane and White Hill signs indicating that a 10 tonne weight restriction applies on Remenham Lane. One event organiser is now giving its delivery lorries the post code for this junction, which is very helpful. We recognise that such vehicles require access but we recommend that there should also be controls in place to prevent such lorries using the lane in both directions at the same time.

4 Consider traffic calming measures on the Lanes, which could include

- 4.1 "Flashing Speed Indicators" to assist with eliminating vehicles exceeding the 30mph speed limit – similar to those in nearby White Hill – and/or "Flashing Slow Down" signs.
- 4.2 "No Entry except for Access" sign, at top of White Hill, as a deterrent
- 4.3 "White Gates" at both ends of the Lanes
- 4.4 Chicanes at appropriate points on the Lanes, though the lanes may not be wide enough for a long enough stretch

Signed.....Chairman

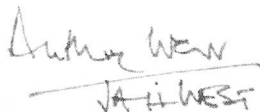
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It would be helpful for you to meet with us to discuss these very real concerns, particularly over safety and emergency service issues, to establish which of the solutions (or others) might be possible and what actions you will now take. We have researched some of the relevant legislation, and in particular would like clarification of traffic management legislation for substantial events. We also have some additional photographs of particular incidents.

In due course we shall need to consult the Parish Council and all other residents who are affected, but we are agreed that a meeting with us should be the next step.

Will you please contact me by telephone or email (see above) to arrange a suitable appointment for you to meet us, on site. We are all residents who have frontages to Remenham Lane and Remenham Church Lane.

Yours sincerely



Anthony West, on behalf of

Richard Murdoch (Woodside Farmhouse)

Michael Dudley (The Reach)

Nigel Gray (Remenham Farmhouse)

Ron Emerson (The Reeds)

Sue Laing (Home Farm)

Felicity Rutland (Riverway)

cc JASHalsall, Chairman Remenham Parish Council

Signed.....Chairman
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