

Abinger Parish Council

Abinger Common, Abinger Hammer, Forest Green, Oakwood Hill & Walliswood

Unapproved Minutes of Ordinary Meeting on 23rd January 2017

Venue	Village Hall, Walliswood
Chair	Ros Doree (RD)
Councillors	Richard Frost (RF), Deardre Cunningham (DC), Paul Cleaver (PaulC), Peter Farley (PF), William Corke (WC), Henry Barnard (HB)
Clerk	Trevor Haylett
Attending	Carla Jones (CJ), Valerie Miles (VM), Graham Quinnell (GQ)
No.	Item
1/1/17	Apologies – Mike Brady
2/1/17	New Councillor Carla Jones, a resident of Walliswood, had expressed an interest in filling the vacancy in the South Ward and it was unanimously agreed that she be co-opted onto the Parish Council. She then took her place alongside the other Councillors.
3/1/17	To receive any declarations of interests All Councillors declared trusteeship of Abinger Parish Recreation Grounds Charity (APRGC).
4/1/17	To confirm and sign Minutes The Minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2016 were agreed, proposed by RF and seconded by DC, and duly signed. In Matters Arising, the Clerk said that Mr L.N. Grant, chairman of Martin Grant Homes, had responded to a letter from the Parish Council explaining that permission needed to be sought before trees were cut down by the car park. Mr Grant apologised and said permission would be sought in future.
5/1/17	Finances (a) Financial Statement – The Clerk’s financial statement had previously been circulated. It was approved. (b) 2017/18 Budget and Precept – RD had previously circulated a draft budget. She said the Parish Council should increase the precept by £1,000, the same as last year. The aim was to build up the deposit account to roughly what the precept is and hopefully the Parish Council could put £5,000 from the current account into the deposit account, as in 2016/17. Costs were rising – the Clerk needed to be paid for the extra hours he was working and there was also the issue of a pension which he was legally entitled to. WC said the only other income for the Parish Council came from the RideLondon event and added that, with rising costs, APC could make a perfectly good case for increasing the precept.

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	<p>RF proposed, and PaulC seconded, that the precept be raised by £1,000. The motion was agreed.</p> <p>(c) Internet Banking – Forms were circulated at the meeting so Councillors could sign their approval. RF said he didn't want one person to be able to pay bills online and the Clerk explained that as the account was set up for two signatures, that couldn't happen.</p> <p>(d) Section 137 Grants – An application had been made by the St James Church Council, Abinger Common, for help in funding a project to re-shingle the spire. They had asked for £250 from the Parish Council and RD proposed that it be granted. It was approved.</p> <p>The Clerk explained that the Wasp Bus committee had asked for a donation, as in previous years. He had sent them a 137 Form but they replied they found it difficult to state the exact amounts that they require and when the need would arise.</p> <p>Action: The Clerk will speak to the Wasp Bus committee and try and get them to put their targets down on the form.</p>
6/1/17	<p>Public Question Time</p> <p>GQ asked if the Village Hall committee could have the authority to allow parking on the Green for events like christening parties. Agreement was given as long as it wasn't wet and there was the possibility of damaging the grass.</p> <p>GQ also mentioned that there was a large build-up of leaves on the field and asked if it was APC's responsibility to clear them.</p> <p>VM asked about the brambles at the back of the car park and also the overhanging trees at the field. RD said it would be the responsibility of APC to cut the hedgerows and clear the leaves. The Parish Council would try and get these jobs done before March; otherwise they would have to wait until the autumn.</p> <p>As regards the overhanging trees, RD said it would be folly to prune the trees because you would then be required to do it every year, the trees grow back and not in an attractive way. HB said pruning can also introduce disease.</p> <p>Action: It was agreed to wait until the summer and assess the situation with trees then. With the leaves, RD and DC will have a walk round the field and assess the problem.</p> <p>It was mentioned that the police and ambulance authorities had asked the Village Hall committee about carrying out drone training on the field. No approach had been made to the Parish Council and no decision would be made until it had.</p>
7/1/17	<p>Juniper Hall</p>

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	<p>RD said she now had a signed licence agreement with Juniper Hall. The organisation had agreed to the Parish Council's request that certain conditions be applied for the student visits and also to charge a fee for every student using the Green which would then be passed on to APC. RD said the money would be paid termly and would help in the maintenance of the Green.</p>
8/1/17	<p>Abinger Hammer - Clearing stream</p> <p>RD said the stream at Abinger Hammer was getting quite overgrown but this could be a mixed blessing; it protects the stream from the students visiting there but if it gets too clogged up that could threaten wildlife. It was agreed to have another go at clearing out the tunnel under Felday Road later in the year and to tackle some of the weeds.</p>
9/1/17	<p>Highways</p> <p>The railings at Abinger Hammer had been damaged and RD had endeavoured to get the highway authorities to repair them. HB and PaulC mentioned that there had been instances of car counters working in the village and it was understood there were plans for a pedestrian crossing near the village stores. The railings on Horsham Road, Walliswood also need repairing. County Councillor Hazel Watson would be asked for her help on the matter.</p> <p>Action: The Clerk would press SCC to improve the railings in Abinger Hammer and also in Horsham Road, Walliswood.</p>
10/1/17	<p>Planning Applications received since the last meeting:-</p> <p>MO/2016/2039/PLAH - Croft End, Horsham Road, Wallis Wood (last one – 13th Jan) MO/2016/2011/PLA - Hill View, Walliswood Green Road, Wallis Wood MO/2016/2053/PLA - The Old Dairy, Copsbridge Farm, Weare Street, Ockley MO/2016/2025/PLA - Larkspur, Mill Lane, Forest Green - Detailed MO/2016/1956/SCC - Public Bridleway 162 and Public Footpaths 162a and 164, Ockley - SCC MO/2016/1882/PLAH - Dragon Roost, Horsham Road, Wallis Wood – Detailed Householder MO/2016/1881/PLAH - Hammer Hill, Hammerfield Drive, Abinger Hammer – Detailed Householder MO/2016/1883/PLAMAJ - Gatton Manor Hotel and Country Club – Detailed Major MO/2016/1680/CAT - Tillies Cottage, Horsham Road, Forest Green – Conservation Area Trees MO/2016/1784/PLAH - The Studio, Horsham Road, Forest Green - Detailed Householder MO/2016/0973/PLAH - Griffins, Sutton Lane, Abinger - Detailed Householder MO/2016/1765/PNQ - Fishfold Farmhouse, Pislely Lane, Ockley - PN - Agriculture to Residential MO/2016/1743/LBC - Boswells House, Ruckmans Lane, Okewood Hill – Listed Building Consent MO/2016/1742/LBC - (same) - Listed Building Consent – Compliance with Conditions MO/2016/1741/PLA - (same) - Detailed MO/2016/1757/CC - Holmbury Farm, Cotton Row, Abinger – Compliance with Conditions MO/2016/1768/ECL - Bridgham Cottage, Horsham Road, Forest Green - Existing Certificate of Lawful Use MO/2016/1764/PNQ - Pislely Farm House, Pislely Lane, Ockley - PN - Agriculture to Residential MO/2016/1766/PNQ - Gosterwood Manor, Horsham Road, Forest Green - PN - Agriculture to Residential</p> <p>DC said the Parish Council were objecting to the following applications: Furzen Farm, Bennetts Grove, Pislely Farm, Bridgham Cottage, The Studio and Larkspur. With Danesmead, APC would write to MVDC to ensure the conditions were being adhered to.</p>

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	<p>RD said the PC had had two meetings with Gatton Manor about their proposals for a major refurbishment including a medspa. They had also held an open afternoon for consultation but RD said for such a big project the consultation had been limited. She said it was the biggest planning application to have happened in that half of the parish in 40 years. She said they hadn't been able to ascertain what the actual construction will consist of and that was important because it would determine the size of the lorries attending the site. Traffic was the main issue in the APC's objections; both construction traffic and then the increased traffic once it is built.</p> <p>APC and Ockley PC had met and Ockley had suggested there should be restricted times when lorries were allowed in and for a one-way system to operate, which residents would also have to adhere to. Both APC and Ockley were demanding they were involved in the traffic management process.</p> <p>Action: APC will object to the planning application, pointing out the damaging effects of the increased traffic on the rural roads and the proposed building materials.</p>
11/1/17	<p>Playgrounds</p> <p>The Clerk had met with representatives of Playdale and Kompan to discuss options for the playground refurbishment at Abinger Common. He would also be meeting other playground companies to see what they could offer.</p> <p>RD said the Parish Council could be quite ambitious with their plans for the playground – and could confidently hope for a generous grant from London Marathon Trust towards it.</p>
12/1/17	<p>New Mowing Contract</p> <p>The Clerk explained that the mowing contract comes to an end in March 2017 though there is an option to continue with Burleys for another year. RD proposed that the option be taken up. DC seconded the motion which was agreed.</p> <p>Action: The Clerk would inform Burleys that the option of a third year on the existing terms would be taken up. The Clerk would also talk to Burleys about a contract beyond 2018.</p>
13/1/17	<p>Bye-Laws</p> <p>RF said APC was ready to start an informal consultation process on the new bye-laws, then they would need approval from the Secretary of State for Communities. They would then be published with a view for public comment, before coming into force which RF hoped would be this summer. The initial consultation would involve the cricket clubs at Abinger Hammer and Forest Green as well as local riding clubs and disabled groups.</p> <p>PaulC wondered about the process of enforcing the bye-laws. RD replied that they could only be enforced by the police or the Clerk.</p>
14/1/17	<p>Changing Solicitors</p> <p>RD explained that Ian Davison, who had dealt with APC while with Wellers Hedleys</p>

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	<p>Solicitors had left to set up his own practice, Surrey Hills Lawyers. Their charges would be largely similar to Hedleys and they would have a specialist in parish council work. RD proposed that APC changed solicitors and switched to Surrey Hills Lawyers and this was seconded by PaulC and agreed.</p> <p>PaulC suggested that Hedleys were holding a big file of APC business and felt it would be worthwhile for the Parish Council to have a look at it.</p> <p>Action: Surrey Hills Lawyers will be instructed to take over the APC work and Hedleys will be instructed to hand over the APC archive files.</p>
15/1/17	<p>Parish Council Website</p> <p>The Clerk explained that a late hitch was holding up the new website and preventing the old url – abinger-pc@gov.uk from being viewed online. The new website was available at https://www.hugofox.com/community/abinger-parish-council-13002/about-us although the information on it has not yet been updated. Technical issues were delaying the transfer from MVDC, with whom the domain name is registered, to HugoFox and WC said he would be willing to look into the problem and speak to both parties.</p> <p>RF said it was vital that the website should be up and running as soon as possible.</p>
16/1/17	<p>Clerk's Contracted Hours and Pension</p> <p>RD said the Clerk was working more than his contracted hours and recommended that they be increased from 11 to 13 hours a week. This was agreed.</p> <p>The Clerk left the meeting while his pension was discussed. He had told Councillors that he was happy to join a pension fund through NEST, the Government fund which had been set up to deal with the new workplace pension legislation. It was agreed that the Parish Council would contribute 5% of the Clerk's salary into the fund.</p>
17/1/17	<p>Events/Invitations/Correspondence</p> <p>The Walliswood Village Hall committee had asked about the payment for mowing the field and whether it could be increased. It was agreed to pay £875 for 2016 and increase it to £900 for 2017.</p> <p>A Rural Parishes Meeting will be held on March 14th at Betchworth Village Hall – RD said she would attend.</p> <p>The organisers of the Teddy Bear Picnic are seeking permission to hold this year's event on the Green at Abinger Hammer on May 1st. They pointed out that their insurance is due to be renewed on April 26th. Permission was agreed providing the renewed insurance is in order.</p>
	<p>Future Meetings</p> <p>20 March 2017 – Abinger Hammer Village Hall 15 May 2017 – Evelyn Hall, Abinger Common, Annual Meeting & Annual Parish Meeting</p>

The meeting closed at 22:15pm