

## **Minutes of the Meeting of Turville Parish Council on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at Turville School, Turville commencing at 7.30 pm**

Present: David Cairns, Chairman  
Ray Jones, Vice Chairman  
Margaret Drage  
Barbara Phillips  
Veronica Ramsay

In attendance: Deirdre Hansen- Clerk.

Also attended by Kate Ashbrook and Sarah Evans.

344. No apologies for absence were received.

345. Disclosures of interest:

- a. Cllr Phillips as landowner of Bumble Bee also along Turville Heath made a disclosure of personal interest in item 348.
- b. - In item 348. Cllr Cairns reported that he had disclosed a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in the register of such interests as the joint beneficial owner of Bramblewood at Turville Heath. He also reported that while he did not have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in the common at Turville Heath or in the quotes for clearance of Himalayan Balsam on the common, he did have an interest in the clearance of Himalayan Balsam which might reasonably be regarded as affecting his wellbeing to a greater extent that it would affect the majority of Council tax payers and residents in the parish.  
-Cllr Ramsay made a disclosure of personal interest in item 353. Planning application 15/05264/CTREE she lives opposite St Mary's Church and she considered that her personal wellbeing may be affected by the removal of trees. .  
-Cllr Jones declared a personal interest in item 353. Planning application 15/05264/CTREE as his wife is the applicant in her role as church warden. He had decided not to contribute to the comments made on this application.  
- Cllr Drage made a personal interest in item 353. Planning application 15/05264/CTREE as a member of St Mary's PCC.

346. The minutes:

- a. The minutes of the Ordinary meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> January 2015 were confirmed as true record and signed by the Chairman after the following amendments were made to appendix 3:
  - Filming income of £600 was added to the est. full year income 2014/15 column;
  - The total of the est. full year income 2014/15 was now changed to read £7193;
  - In the column est. full year 2014/15, the surplus for the year was amended to £1707
  - In the column est. full year 2014/15 the closing balance was amended to reflect the above changes and now shows £7525.
  - In the column Budget 2015/16 the opening accumulated surplus now shows £7525.
- b. The minutes of the Extra Ordinary Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> March 2015 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

*It was agreed to move agenda items 9,10,11 and 12 to the top of the agenda as Cllr Philips will have to leave the meeting early.*

347. Repainting of Turville Heath bus shelter.

- a. 2 quotes had been received one for £120 and one for £160. Both had been circulated and the meeting agreed to accept the quote for £120. Clerk to arrange for the work to be carried out.

348. Eradicating Himalayan Balsam on Turville Heath.

The Chairman explained that the information included in the agenda for item 10 was significantly incorrect and that the councillors had been advised prior to the meeting of the corrections.

The correct quotes are as follows:

- Quote 1: £3000 plus Vat p.a. for 3 years, a total of £9,000 plus Vat over 3 years. The reference to a landowner contribution of £1500 should be deleted.
- Quote 2: £3500-£4200 p.a. for 3 years, no Vat, a minimum total for £10500, a maximum of £12600 (no Vat) for the 3 year project. The initial cost for the clearance of branches, £2250-£2700 should be deleted.
- Quote 3: £2100 plus Vat for the first year, later years depending upon the success of the first year.

The Chairman explained that the PC is able to recover input Vat, so the Vat element of any costing is only relevant in terms of cash flow, not cost.

He also explained that quote 3 is a year old and has not been checked with the contractor. Furthermore, it involves the use of herbicide which although recommended by the Chilterns Conservation Board is not supported by the landowner nor by several residents. Quote 3 had been obtained in the context of a wider community led project in which the spraying would be part of a larger project with extensive involvement of local residents and other parties. The PC agreed not to consider quote 3 as it was a year old, had not been checked with the supplier and used herbicides to clear the plants which is not supported by the landowners and some residents.

Cllr Philips had obtained quotes 1 and 2, and had circulated the quotes and clarifications prior to the meeting. Both quotes envisaged all work to be carried out by the contractors.

Both quotes cover a three year period and the total costs are £9,000 and £10,500-£12,600 respectively.

The Chairman had spoken to the one of the landowners of the common, who had confirmed that he would, at his expense, ensure his part of the common would be cleared of fallen branches and scrub to enable the clearance work to take place.

It was confirmed that there would, currently, be no other landowner contributions for the clearance of Himalayan Balsam on Turville Heath.

- a. The meeting discussed spending money on the project to eradicate Himalayan Balsam on Turville Heath. A resolution was proposed by Cllr Drage and seconded by Cllr Phillips for the PC to pay the full amount of work (up to £3000 p.a.) for the first two years and up to £1500 in the third year for the eradication of Himalayan Balsam on Turville Heath. The resolution was carried by a majority, Cllrs Drage, Ramsay and Phillips voting in favour with Cllrs Cairns and Jones voting against the resolution.
- b. Following the decision made under 348.a above, a resolution was proposed by Cllr Drage and seconded by Cllr Phillips to award the contract to the supplier in quote 1. The resolution was carried by a majority. Cllrs Drage, Ramsay and Phillips voting in favour, Cllr Jones voting against the proposal and Cllr Cairns abstaining.
- c. It was agreed to send a letter to the residents of Turville Heath informing them of the PC's intentions to eradicate Himalayan Balsam on Turville Heath over a three year period. The clerk would arrange for a suitable draft to be produced.

Cllr Philips left the meeting.

349. Replacing stiles with gates under the "Donate a gate" scheme run by the Chiltern Society. Papers had been circulated by Cllr Ramsay.

- a. The meeting discussed the proposal to replace stiles with gates using the Chiltern Society's "Donate a Gate" scheme with each gate costing £250. The intention is to eventually provide a circular stile free walks linking Turville, Southend, Turville Heath and Stonor.
- b. It was proposed by Cllr Ramsay and seconded by Cllr Drage and unanimously agreed to replace 4 stiles with gates, 2 on footpath T17 starting at Summerheath, replacing the first and second stiles and 2 stiles on footpath T4 opposite the back entrance to Wormsley, replace the one on Holloway Lane and the next one up the hill at a total cost of £1000. The money to be spent in the current financial year 2014/15.

350. Exploring the Chilterns walks and rides leaflets published by the Chilterns Conservation Board.

- a. The PC noted that the Chairman had agreed, in his personal capacity, to write guides to footpaths in the area for the Chilterns Conservation Board.
- b. The Chairman reported the establishment of the Hambleden Valley Business Network by businesses in the area including several in the parish.

351. Matters arising:

- a. The clerk was asked to remind the Local Area Technician of his promise to tour the parish to survey the state of the road in the spring.

352. Reports to be received:

- a. Police: At the last speed watch event in February 3 cars were caught travelling at a speed in excess of 30mph. Local residents had commented to the Chairman, that they were very pleased the activity was taking place. Although this time it was taking place during a quiet time of day.
- b. Northend- village association: Sarah Evans reported that pond clearance work has been done and will now stop for the nesting season. A review will be undertaken in spring. They intend to undertake a 5-year plan for the pond.
- c. Turville- village association: no report.
- d. Chairman's report/correspondence received/local matters:
  - The Japanese knot weed at Northend was noted.
  - The requested footpath diversion at Twigside Farm, Ibstone, was noted.
  - The cycle part of the Henley Triathlon will come through Southend, Turville Heath and Northend in 6<sup>th</sup> June, but the roads will not be closed.
  - The Women's Tour of Britain will pass through Skirmett and Fingest on 21st June on closed roads.
- e. Village Hall: nothing to report.
- f. Meetings attended:
  - WDC- Fly the Flag 09/03/15 was attended by Cllr Jones and he signed the Community Covenant with the Armed Forces on behalf of the PC.
  - Act of Commemoration to celebrate WW1 was attended by Cllr Jones
  - Hambleden PC- Broadband meeting 09/03/15 was attended by Cllrs Jones and Ramsay. The lack of broadband in the valley was an agenda item. Hambleden PC would write to the Leader of BCC, Chris Rawson, Connected Counties and Charles Meakings, Head of Democratic, Legal and Policy Services at WDC. WDC is putting some money into the effort of improving broadband facilities in the Hambleden Valley. The PC discussed action Turville PC could take given that broadband connections in the parish are very poor. It was decided that a letter should be sent to the same persons that Hambleden PC had sent their letter to plus BC Cllr Teesdale, expressing its concerns about the exceptionally low broadband speeds in the parish, the negative impact this has on residents and the local community. Local residents were also encouraged to send their own letters of interest in this problem.

- NAG 09/01/15 attended by Cllr Jones and the clerk. Speeding had been the main issue.

### 353.Planning:

- a. The reply from Alistair Nicholson, WDC Development Manager, to the PC's letters addressed to Penelope Tollitt Head of Planning and Sustainability concerning WDC inconsistencies in and process for decisions on planning applications and related matters was discussed. It was decided that the PC was not satisfied that the questions raised had been answered and it was minded to raise it to a higher level. It was agreed to advise Penelope Tollitt, Head of Planning and Sustainability of that fact, but to leave further consideration of the matter until after the election in May.
- b. WDC decisions:
  - 14/07656/CTREE Cobstone Mill Farmhouse. Various tree works. Reduce height of cherry by 4-5 meters to provide clearance from telephone wires, fell sycamore: reduce cedar, 2 Scots Pine and a spruce by 20-30%. PC no objection. WDC made a tree preservation order on four trees located in the curtilage of the property, but not on 2 others nearer the dwelling house. The property owners have appealed the WDC decision.
  - 14/08160/FUL Juniper Cottage, Northend. Householder application for erection of single storey side extension with habitable rooms in roof space. PC no objection, but wished to see the retention of boundary hedges, to maintain privacy for neighbouring properties. WDC permitted, but had not required the retention of boundary hedges.
  - 15/05019/FUL Brackendale, Northend Road, Northend. Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of a detached 4-bed dwelling with double garage. PC majority decision not to object. WDC permitted.
  - 15/05064/TPO Wheelrights, Northend. Remove the first 5 lower larger branches, crown thin by 10%, reduce branches by up to 2m and reduce height by up to 3m to silver birch T1. PC no objection. WDC permitted following amendments.
  - 15/05066/CTREE Wheelrights, Northend. Crown thinning by up to 5% and reduction of the branch length of the lowest two branches on to the east and one to the west length down to a suitable branch union leaving a branch length of approx. 2m( east branch) and 3.5m ( west branch) to birch (T2). Fell goat willow(T3). Crown reduce height by approx. 3m to cypress (T4). PC no objection. WDC decided not to make a TPO.
  - 15/05268/FUL Tumblewood, Northend Tumblewood, Northend Road, Northend. Householder application for demolition of existing dwelling, annexe and outbuildings and erection of two storey detached 5-bed dwelling with detached garage sited northwest of the dwelling. PC had objected at the EOM 05/03/15 and it was noted that WD Cllr Roger Metcalfe has asked for the application to be called to WDC planning committee if WDC were minded to permit this application
- c. New applications:
  - 15/05264/CTREE notification for tree works fell yew T1,yew T2, rowan T3, yew T6 and yew T7; pollard to previous pollard points chestnut T4,T8 and sycamore T9at St Mary's church, Turville. Cllr Jones declared an interest and did not comment. In principle the PC had no objections, but there were points raised.
  - Model Farm, Northend (SODC)P15/S0092/FUL revision of planning permission P13/S1543/FUL. Erection of two storey dwelling with residential curtilage, link to retained stable block with new pitched roof to allow plain tiles and use as ancillary to main house. PC had no comment to make. PC had not objected to previous application.

- 15/05406/FUL Northend Cottage, Northend. Householder application for erection of replacement shed using existing concrete base. PC no objection.

354.Revised Parish Plan: the revised plan was noted.

355.Undergrounding electric cables in Turville:

- From recent plans concerning the undergrounding of electrical cabling in Turville it has come to light that a 3m x3m switchbox will be situated next to the Chiltern Way by the entrance to the garden of Cobstone Mill Farmhouse. The work will take place in August. Savills to be notified that the Nursery School is in permanent use, action clerk. It was agreed to write to Savills and the Chilterns Conservation Board registering the PC's concerns about the proposed location of this switchbox and asking if the switch box could be situated in a more suitable location.

356.Finance:

- Bank balances: Lloyds 30/01/15- £ 7,808.76, Nationwide 31/12/14 £ 1,792.06
- Correspondence received from Henley CAB thanking PC for the £50 contribution (Jan 2015)
- Income/expenditure YTD and estimated full year (31/03/15) was noted.
  - Income for the year is £7,267.27.
  - Estimated expenditure was noted at £ 5790.95
  - A estimated surplus for the year of £ 1476.32
  - Using the estimates our closing bank balances for the year will be £ £6097.41 + £1797.27=£ £7894.68

<b>Income</b>	<b>Year to date 19/03/15</b>	<b>Budget 2014/15</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Year to date 19/03/15</b>	<b>Est. Full year</b>	<b>Budget 2014/15</b>
Precept	6500.00	6500.00	Staff costs	3038.05	3315.80	3278.00
WDC grant	93.27		Admin Expenses *	520.13	520.13	485.00
Filming	600.00		Insurance	265.00	265.00	360.00
Vat repayment	68.79		Grass cutting	210.00	210.00	250.00
Interest	5.21		Donations	100.00	100.00	150.00
			Subscriptions	207.52	207.52	210.00
			Audit fee	20.00	20.00	120.00
			Maintenance	40.00	40.00	350.00
			Training	0	0	150.00
			Turville Times	0	0	650.00
			Sundry	1035.00	1035.00	497.00
			Vat	77.50	77.50	
<b>Total income</b>	<b>7267.27</b>	<b>6500.00</b>	<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>5513.20</b>	<b>5790.95</b>	<b>6500.00</b>

- Receipt of Vat repayment 2013/14 £68.79 noted
- Interest received from Nationwide account £5.21 noted.
- Renewal of CPRE membership @ £36 approved
- Data protection registration @ £35 approved
- Clerk's salary incl. working from home allowance Jan and Feb 2015 by S/O of £277.75 per month approved
- The following cheques were approved for payment and signed:

<b>Cheques approved:</b>		
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CPRE	Membership renewal	£ 36.00
The Information Commissioner	Data protection registration renewal	£ 35.00
D Hansen	Clerk's expenses Jan-March	£ 84.85
The Chiltern Society-Donate a gate	For the replacement of 4 stiles with gates	£ 1,000
Total		£1,155.85

357. The date of the next Meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 13 May 2015 at Turville Village Hall, Northend.

The Ordinary Meeting will be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. The first meeting will start at 7.30pm.

358. The clerk was asked to write a clear guidance with dates on the election and have it placed on the Turville.net website along with the WDC election pack containing nomination forms and consent forms and other information about the Turville PC election.

Veronica Ramsay would not be standing for the parish council elections in May and the Chairman thanked her for her hard work for the council over the last four years. She replied saying she had enjoyed her time with the council.

The Chairman.....

date.....