

MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 24TH NOVEMBER 2009
AT WOOLSTONE LODGE

Present: Chairman	Mr C Ryan
Clerk	Mrs A Hollingworth
PCSO	Mrs M Pack
Property Manager, NT	Mr R Henderson

and 23 parishioners

Lt Col H Rogers, Mr & Mrs A Coulson, Mr & Mrs J Twynam, Mrs C Ryan, Mrs L McAuliffe, Mr A Spink, Mr B Campbell, Mrs L Walker, Mr & Mrs R Salmon, Mr J Smith, Mrs E Blount, Mr & Mrs C Avenell, Mr H Baxter, Mrs E Baber, Mr & Mrs S Searis, Prof W Davies, Mr R Godfrey, Mr Q Finnegan.

REPORT ON THE WHITE HORSE HILL: MR R HENDERSON,
PROPERTY MANAGER, NATIONAL TRUST

Borehole: after the last Parish Meeting in May Mr R Henderson had had a meeting with Mr J Twynam, Chairman of Woolstone Water, to address the Parish's concern that the installation of a borehole would not affect the flow and pressure of Woolstone water to its users. Mr R Henderson reassured the Meeting that the water taken from the borehole is to be used only to fill a couple of water troughs and, therefore, the flow and pressure of Woolstone water should not be affected. Moreover, there was no intention, as far as he was aware, that the installation of a borehole is the beginning of the development of the area eg the introduction of toilet facilities.

The NT had put in an agricultural application for the borehole. This had not been the correct application. A full planning application needed to be submitted as it is intended that solar panels are to be used to pump the water from the borehole to the reservoir. The full planning application was submitted last week.

Filming on the White Horse: there had been a feature on the White Horse and an interview with Miss C Searle, the NT Warden, on a recent edition of the BBC TV programme Countryfile. A number of overseas film crews had also filmed on the White Horse. However, it was emphasised that the NT does not give consent to all requests for filming,

no matter how lucrative the contract. If the filming is deemed to be inappropriate then permission is not granted eg Morrisons supermarket wished to portray the horse as a cow – this was deemed to be inappropriate.

Illegal Activity: a couple of months ago there had been a rave at Waylands Smithy. There have recently been an increase in the number of raves in the area and throughout the Thames Valley. The NT, in conjunction with the National Trails Group and the police, is establishing a procedure which will, hopefully, result in quicker response times to deal with the problems caused by raves. One of the items being worked upon is the drawing up of a list of grid references for the usual places where raves take place. Any member of the public who suspects that there might be a rave taking place ie unusual number of vehicles in the area, loud music etc is to call the usual police number 0845 8 505 505. On calling it must be stressed that there might be a rave going on. This should ensure that the police will act quickly on the information. If it is merely reported that there is a lot of loud music the matter will probably be passed to the Environmental Health Officer who will react to the complaint as if it was noise pollution. All were asked not to contact Mr R Salmon.

Pay & Display Car Park: to date the machines have not been tampered with. They have been a success, with the number of motorists not paying being few in number. As a result of the introduction of car parking charges there has been a very slight increase in the number of new members. Unfortunately the volunteer who mans the caravan in the car park has been unwell so the caravan has not been open on a regular basis.

REPORT FROM PCSO MRS M PACK

There is now a new Neighbourhood Policing Team at Faringdon. The Clerk will put up a poster on the noticeboard which gives details of the new team.

Every month a Neighbourhood Policing Update is published. This gives details of criminal activity in the area. A copy will be posted on the village web site, on the noticeboard and on the telegraph pole in Lower Woolstone.

Recently there have been some incidents of hare coursing. If anyone suspects hare coursing or lamping is taking place they are to phone the police.

Everyone was asked to keep vigilant and to report any suspicious characters, vehicles or activities.

Police surgeries: these are being held throughout the area. Details are on the noticeboard.

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs A Fitzgerald O'Connor (County Councillor), Mr L Hollingworth, Mrs P Spink, Mrs A Campbell, Mr H Smith, Mrs U Rogers, Mrs J Nelson, Mrs C Lawrence, Mr T Clifford, Miss B Lawrence, Mr D Baber.

2. READ AND ADOPT MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the last Meeting held on the 12th May 2009 were read. Mr A Spink said that the Planning Sub-Committee met every year and not every couple of years as stated in Minute 8. The Clerk will amend the Minute as appropriate. Subject to this amendment the Minutes were approved as proposed by Mrs P Coulson, seconded by Mr J Smith and unanimously agreed by the Meeting.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Overhanging branches etc: every one was asked to trim back hedges, trees, etc which overhang the road.

Litter Bin: Lt Col H Rogers reported that he had been informed by Mrs Laura Hopkins, VWHDC, that the Council had fined the people for not emptying the litter bin.

Funeral Cortège: Lt Col H Rogers reported that he had, initially, put notices on the noticeboard regarding the times the Cortège would be passing Faringdon. However as he was not given much notice of the actual times he has stopped putting up notices and he now e-mails those who are interested. If anyone wishes to receive details then they are to contact Lt Col H Rogers.

Church path: Mr H Baxter reported that the hogging should be laid by Christmas. It was noted that there will still be a corner in the path but it should not be as sharp as it is now.

Pothole in Church Lane: this has been reported to OCC.

Condition of road outside Cob Cottage: this has also been reported to OCC.

Mr B Campbell proposed that the Minutes of all future Meetings be circulated to parishioners via e-mail and he also proposed that the

Minutes be published on the website. These proposals were agreed by the Meeting.

4. PLANNING MATTERS

Mr A Spink, the Chairman of the Planning Sub-Committee, reported that the following applications had been received since the last Parish Meeting:

Oxleaze Farm chicken farm for 15,000 chickens approved

White Horse Hill borehole with solar panels and pending
Car Park small reservoir

Yew Tree Cottage extension pending

5. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Mr A Coulson, Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator for Lower Woolstone, had nothing further to add to the report given by PCSO Mrs M Pack.

However as an aside Mr A Coulson warned all to be wary of telephone callers who try to obtain bank details over the telephone by saying that the person who answers the phone is entitled to a large refund from the District Council.

6. WOOLSTONE WATER

Mr J Twynam, Chairman of Woolstone Water, reported that, after the meeting he had had with the NT, he was re-assured that the installation of the borehole would not interrupt the flow of Woolstone water to its users.

In early October another enjoyable expedition to the source of Woolstone Water had taken place. This might become a yearly event. The header tank is in need of repair but, overall, the system is in good shape.

There is always the risk of e-coli, in the water, which cannot be eradicated centrally. Hence all users of Woolstone Water are given information as to the precautions that should be taken eg boiling all water that is to be used for drinking.

There are now no public taps because of the possibility of e-coli. However there are 2 semi-public taps (1 outside The Tower and the other outside Mione Cottage) and consideration needs to be given to putting up appropriate notices by these taps.

Woolstone Water holds 2 meetings a year for all its users.

7. PRECEPT

The Clerk reported that, as at today's date, there was approximately £ 420.00 in the Parish Account. The annual contribution of £ 50.00, towards the annual running costs of THMH still needs to be paid. At the suggestion of the Clerk it was proposed by Mr S Searis that the precept for the forthcoming year be £ 150.00. This was seconded by Mr A Spink and unanimously agreed by the Meeting.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chairman: after 13 years as Chairman Mr C Ryan tendered his resignation. Mr A Spink thanked Mr C Ryan for all his work and humour whilst being the Chairman. He will be greatly missed. Only 1 nomination had been received for Chairman, Mr J Smith. It was proposed by Lt Col H Rogers, seconded by Mr C Ryan and unanimously agreed by the Meeting that Mr J Smith be appointed as Chairman.

Vice-Chairman: Mr A Spink was unanimously re-elected by the Meeting.

Clerk: the Clerk informed the Meeting that after 11 years service she would like to resign from the position. Unfortunately there were no nominations. The Clerk agreed to stand again but only for a maximum period of 1 year. Mrs A Hollingworth was unanimously re-elected by the Meeting.

ALL NOMINATIONS FOR THE POSITION OF CLERK SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO EITHER THE CHAIRMAN OR THE CLERK.

9. FRIENDS OF WOOLSTONE CHURCH

Mr H Baxter gave a short report on how the Friends of Woolstone Church came into being and its role in relation to All Saints Church. The Friends of Woolstone Church is a registered Charitable Trust. In March 1993 Mr E Penser, via the company Fraxinus SA, offered to All Saints Church, Woolstone the piece of land between the northern side of the churchyard and Laundry Cottage. As the policy of the Oxford Diocese was not to accept additional land to extend the churchyard The Friends of Woolstone Church was established. The Trustees are the Chairman of the Parish Meeting, the 2 Church Wardens, 1 person nominated by the PCC and 1 person nominated by the Parish Meeting. The objects of the Trust are to own the non-consecrated land and to assist the Church in maintaining and improving the Church facilities. It will be providing the funds for the improvement of the path leading up to the Church. The Friends organise fundraising events and to this end they are looking for

volunteers to help. Anyone interested should contact Mr H Baxter. At today's date the Trust has £ 2,000.00 approx.. The Friends will, once again, be organising carol singing around the village. Volunteers are needed to join the Baxter's instrumental music group. The date and time of the carol singing will be circulated in due course.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Lt Col H Rogers reported that £ 279.00 had been raised from the Poppy Appeal collection in the village and £ 60.00 had been collected in the box in the White Horse Inn. He wished to thank all for their generous support.

Lt Col H Rogers asked if the edges of the road by Medworth and going down towards the T-Junction by the White Horse Inn could be swept by the VWHDC as there was a significant build up of fallen leaves. It was noted that the VWHDC's policy is only to sweep roads where there is a kerb. There is no kerb on this stretch of road. However the Clerk will contact the VWHDC to see what can be done about the problem.

Mrs L McAuliffe introduced herself as the new landlady at the White Horse Inn. She encouraged all to let her know if there was anything they could do to help the village.

It was noted that the Winnebago, parked in the pub car park, was an eye sore to some residents of the village. Mrs L McAuliffe was open to any suggestions as to where it could be parked in a less conspicuous place.

In the absence of Mrs A Campbell, Chairman of the Woolstone Garden Committee, the Clerk reported that the Gardens Open Day had made £ 2,046.70. 340 people had visited Woolstone, double the number from 2008. Mr D Baber had taken some photographs which may be viewed on the village web site at woolstonevillage.co.uk.

A leaflet called "Health and Social Care" has been published by the Faringdon Area Project which gives useful information on health and social service care in the area and details of public transport to various hospitals. In particular, it advises that when calling 999 all callers should ensure that they say that they are from Faringdon, spelt with 1 "r", in Oxfordshire. Otherwise the ambulance may turn up in Farringdon in Hampshire! Copies of the leaflet were available for all those in attendance. The Clerk will ensure that those parishioners not at the Meeting will receive a leaflet.

The Clerk asked that if anyone was interested in getting involved in and having a say in promoting local health and social care services they are to contact Oxfordshire LINK. The Clerk had a supply of cards which gave details of the organisation and the relevant contacts.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the date of the next Meeting be Tuesday 11th May 2010 at 8pm.

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 9.10pm.

SIGNED _____
Chairman

DATED _____

Unapproved