

WHITCHURCH ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL whitchurchonthames.com

Report of the meeting of Whitchurch on Thames Parish Council on Monday 23rd May 2011

Present:

Cllr Harry Butterworth (chairman), Cllr Keith Brooks (vice-chairman), Cllr Vincent Aldridge, Cllr Lindsay Austin, Cllr Jim Donahue, Cllr Nigel Grove, Cllr Matilda Oppenheimer,

In attendance:

Jo Wheeler (parish clerk), District Council Slatter Apologies for absence were received from
County Cllr Dave Sexon

Election of chairman

Cllr Grove nominated Cllr Butterworth; Cllr Aldridge seconded this. Resolved to appoint Cllr Butterworth as chairman.

Election of vice-chair and committees

The Council resolved to appoint Cllr Brooks as vice-chairman.

Council resolved to appoint Councillors to the following committees:

| Committee | Councillor |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Planning | Cllr Aldridge |
| Finance | Cllr Austin |
| Traffic & Pavements Advisory Group | Cllr Butterworth |
| Environmental matters | Cllr Brooks |
| Village hall | Cllr Grove |
| Community sports field | Cllr Oppenheimer |
| Sustainability & allotments | Cllr Donahue |

Co-option of parish councillors

The Council resolved to co-opt Dr Oppenheimer and Jim Donahue as parish councillors.

Police matters

Our local policeman, PCSO Mark Bell explained that he has been busy training new PCSOs. In particular Michael Warmesley; who will be covering the Whitchurch area.

PCSO Bell said that following the rash of burglaries and break-ins in Whitchurch there has been an increase in burglaries in Goring.

The Pangbourne River Meadow task group meeting was attended by police officers from both sides of the river. The meeting discussed the number of jumpers off Whitchurch Bridge. The police are taking details from people who are jumping off the bridge and reporting them to the Bridge Company.

PCSO Bell is compiling a list of vulnerable elderly people, so help can be offered when they may find it difficult to get out for food and supplies in bad weather, in particular elderly people who live on their own.

District Councillor report

District Cllr Slatter reported that she and Ann Ducker were both elected again this year. Cllr Ducker has been appointed as the leader of the district council and Cllr Slatter as chairman of the Planning Committee. The Bridge Company's application has been registered with SODC and has just been appointed a planning officer.

Community Sports Field progress

Progress has been slow. There has been prolonged negotiation between SODC planners and the Whitelock's solicitors. The provisional version of the Section 106 agreement is now to hand and a transfer document is with Parish solicitors. So things are moving at last!

Cllr Austin has submitted another grant application on to the Oxfordshire Big Society Fund. The costs of the car park will be approximately. £16,000. The committee hopes to pay for the car park by obtaining grants.

Community Sports Field Management

The new management committee has been set up. This includes a representative from the football club, the cricket club, the school, Cllr Oppenheimer and Cllr Austin, as well as three other parishioners who have a keen interest in the sports field. The management committee will be meeting on the 20th June.

The Council thanked Cllr Oppenheimer for her hard work.

Planning

| Application | Location | Details | Comments |
|--------------------|---|---|-------------------|
| P11/E0737 | Hartslock Lodge Hartslock Bridleway Whitchurch On Thames RG8 7QX | Remove existing summerhouse and provide a replacement one in new location. Remove existing carport and provide a replacement one in new location incorporating a lockable store. Remove Sheds "A" and "C". Repair existing garage roof and renew existing window and add french doors to the west elevation | No strong views |
| P11/E0649 | 26 Manor Road Whitchurch-on- Thames RG8 7EU | Erection of single storey front, side and rear extension and front entrance porch and formation of 2 parking space | No strong views |
| P11/E0743 | Whitchurch Bridge High Street Whitchurch-on- Thames RG8 7DF | Reconstruction of bridge involving partial demolition of Listed Building. | See further notes |

Further notes about E0743

This is a very large application which at the time of the meeting had been available for only a few days. Cllr Aldridge had been able to have a first look at it and made a preliminary report to the Council.

Even at this early stage the meeting was very concerned that pedestrian safety appeared to be ignored totally, despite the families of those pedestrians having to foot the bill for the rebuild program.

Cllr Aldridge has subsequently received the documentation for this application from SODC and has made a first written report to Council members.

There was general agreement that the implications of this application required that the Council should meet specifically to discuss its implications. The Parish Councillors from Pangbourne would be invited to join the meeting. The clerk was asked to arrange the date.

The application itself is available in full on the SODC web site.

Please note:

The time available is short, so if you wish your comments to the application to have maximum impact, the Council recommend that you stick strictly to items such as pedestrian safety which apply directly to the planning application as such.

Items such as traffic congestion in Goring or parking in our High Street can be left until this window closes on the 13th of June.

The simplest way to access full information the application is to go to our Village web site www.whitchurchonthames.com and on the home page click on "Application submitted for bridge rebuild" When that page appears you will find a link to the application on the SODC site.

The application is actually in two parts: P11/E0737 and P11/E0745LB

Environmental Group

Cllr Brooks asked whether the car park surface would be made from an environmentally friendly material. Cllr Oppenheimer confirmed this is a condition of SODCs planning approval.

Scottish and Southern Electric are due to lop the trees along Muddy Lane. WoTHABs have met with SSE and will continue to work with them to ensure the trees are cut back to a minimum.

There is a problem on Hillside where the refuse truck has had to drive over the verge to avoid the cars parked there. This has created a muddy mess. Agreed to talk to the residents to ask whether they can move their cars on Thursday mornings to ensure enough room for the refuse vehicle.

Drivers have been creating a number of unofficial passing places along Hardwick Rd, which is eroding the bank.

The Environmental Group will soon be organising a litter blitz in the village.

Traffic & Pavements Advisory Group

The next meeting is on Saturday 28th May. The group will soon be carrying out their twice-yearly inspection of the roads and pavements.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm

WHITCHURCH SOCIETY EVENTS REPORT ON THE AGM HELD ON FRIDAY 20 MAY IN THE VILLAGE HALL

What can you do in an hour? Last week, Peter Worsley, Emeritus professor of geology at Reading University, enthralled his fellow villagers with his “layman’s guide” to the geology of Whitchurch – remarkably covering this huge subject in just such a time. The talk covered not only the “movers and shakers” in the study of geology in this area and the main sources of study but a thoroughly absorbing and comprehensive guide to what makes up our area of the planet, the materials beneath the vegetation that we see around us, how the materials are made up and the history of our planet revealed by them. Materials from Peter’s own garden and the nearby area were passed around for us all to handle and photographs of local sites clearly helped us to see what we otherwise miss - from looking down workman’s holes in the ground to the Rushall Farm RIGS (regionally important geographical site) with its stunning exposed chalk face. Not surprisingly when looking at the history of the Earth and the cycles of change inevitably we ended up at question time on the thorny topic of climate change.

The event was hosted by The Whitchurch Society as one of the village activities that we organise each year. The Whitchurch Society embraces all residents of the village. The organising committee, under the current chairmanship of Peter Smith, meets 4-6 times per year to plan a calendar of events for the benefit of the village. We warmly invite new members to join the committee as we welcome fresh ideas to expand and diversify the calendar of events for all sectors of our community. If you can spare some time to attend committee meetings and to assist with the organisation of local events such as old favourites: the Village Walks, the Garden Walk and the Art & Craft Exhibition or to suggest any new activities, then please do get in touch with us – through Secretary Ian Bruce, tel 0118 984 2653, email ian.bruce@btinternet.com or Chairman Peter Smith, tel 0118 984 3340, email peterbsmith@fsmail.net.

GARDEN WALK SUNDAY 19 JUNE

Note the later date this year and changed opening times – the latter to allow more viewing time.

Gardens will open from 1.30 to 4.30 pm. As in the past, with the generous agreement of Matilda and Neil King, tea and cakes will be served in The White House garden from 4 pm. Cost £3 adults, £1 children.

Matilda is happy for children to use the swimming pool provided they are supervised. The tennis court is also available if you bring your own racquets.

A list of open gardens will be published on the village notice boards and delivered to each household in the week beginning 6 June. A Garden Open notice will be displayed at each address.

**The Whitchurch Society
Summer Evening Walk
7.00 pm Thursday 23 June
To Boundary Farm, the Sun Inn,
Hod's Corner and Path Hill
- about 4 miles
Meet on the corner opposite
The Modern Artists' Gallery**

Walk led by Eric Hartley

Whitchurch & Goring Heath Twinning Association

Report on Visit by La Bouille May 7-9 2011

A party of 36 from our twin town of La Bouille arrived at 10am on the Saturday morning, having crossed the channel overnight by ferry. Hosts from Whitchurch and Whitchurch Hill entertained their guests for the day – punting in Oxford, cruise by electric boat at Streatley, shopping in Reading, following the ‘Inspector Barnaby’ trail in Dorchester, visiting the Beale Bird Park and taking trips to surrounding towns such as Henley. We were pleased to welcome new families to visit from France and also new English families to host and we hope they will want to join us on the return trip next year.

At 6pm a reception was held at Goring Heath Parish Hall for about 70 people, at which the two Presidents exchanged good wishes, the guests were welcomed by Peter Dragonetti, chairman of Goring Heath Parish Council, and Pearl Slatter, newly re-elected District Councillor, praised the work of the Association and proposed a toast to the Twinning. After this a hot dinner was served, after the English fashion – chicken curry, chilli con carne, chicken casserole, lasagne – with various cold desserts and cheese to follow.

Our Sunday excursion by coach and car was to Wiltshire, stopping first at Avebury for a tour of the largest stone circle in Europe. The bright and sunny weather held all day, and most importantly for the picnic, taken at tables or among the stones. After this we drove the short distance to Bowood House where there are connections with the Entente Cordiale and also Napoleon’s death mask and other memorabilia. The gardens, lake and temple were much appreciated by the adults and it was hard to drag the children away from the splendid play area with its pirate ship and challenging climbing equipment. Our last stop was Lacock, to see the National Trust village used for filming and to savour an English tea and cake.

Monday morning saw a frenzied dash for shopping – English tea, mints, cheese being favourites. It was a pity that all the shops had sold out of Wills & Kate mugs as they would have been snapped up – the wedding was a great hit in France and there were many references to our ‘local girl’ the Duchess of Cambridge!

Whitchurch-on-Thames Habitat Study Group

Hardwick Meadow Walk, Sunday July 3rd.

Please note: this is a week later than was stated in the previous Bulletin.

It will be a new opportunity to visit the stunning flower-rich riverside hay meadow at Hardwick Estate just before hay-making. Guided walks and challenges for children. There will be guided walks for all and challenges for children.

Explorers' Day for families, Sunday July 17th, 11am-3pm.

This popular event will be held again at Chalkhills this year. Activities and games - designed to appeal particularly to 5-11 year olds - picnic lunch and exploring in the lovely surroundings of the woods and fields at this unspoilt site. Last year's activities, included a bug hunt walk, find the leaf, fun with soil, wildlife bingo and a snail race.

Thames Path National Trails Walk, Sunday August 21st

Discover the interesting flora and fauna along the Thames Path to Goring with a botanist as our guide. Meet in Whitchurch outside Greyhound at 10.30am and walk to Goring stopping at the BBOWT reserve at Hartslock for an in-depth look at the late summer flowers and insects before continuing on to finish at lunchtime in Goring.

For more details about these events contact our Secretary John Bradon on 0118 9841574 or john@jbradon.co.uk, and look out for posters in the village. See also WoTHABS webpage on oxnet: <http://www.oxnet.org.uk/wothabs>

[Gill Goodwin](#)



Whitchurch Pre-School

Our Visit to Rushall Farm

We had a great trip to Rushall Farm, many of the children were able to view lambs being born as well as feeding and handling some of them. It was a very special opportunity for the children to see how a working farm runs, as well as the fun scenic tractor ride.

Our Garden

The garden is a special little corner of our play area, we are helping nurture an array of vegetables, watching them grow and watering them, as well as having a lovely display of spring bulbs.

If you would like to find out more about our lovely Pre-School,

please contact Annette on 0118 984 4516

www.whitchurchpreschool.org

Whitchurch Village Fete

Saturday 3rd September 2011

2.00pm - 5.00pm

**Whitchurch Cricket Ground, Eastfield Lane,
Whitchurch on Thames, RG8 7EJ**

**Entertainment, Games and Side Stalls,
Granny's Attic,
Quality Gift and Craft Stalls,
Beer Tent, Tea and Cake Stall, Ice Creams,
B-B-Q and much, much more.....**

Grand Draw

Prizes include Nintendo Wii, Nintendo Dsi, Cash prizes & many, many more!

If you would like to join us with a stall, donate items for Granny's Attic or purchase tickets for the Grand Draw, please contact **Helen Bowsher** at [**helenbowsher@hotmail.co.uk**](mailto:helenbowsher@hotmail.co.uk) or Tel: **0118 9841826**

*Fete organised by the parent committee of
Whitchurch Pre-school Group*

With thanks to our Sponsors

BP Technology Centre

OWL

There has been some success in OWL's battle to save Woodcote Library from closure, though the campaign is far from being won.

On March 24th, Keith Mitchell, the leader of Oxfordshire County Council, published a personal statement to the effect that all previous proposals have been 'torn up' and that the Council will now produce material for a consultation to take place between mid May and the end of September. A copy of the statement is on the OWL board at the library.

There will, however, have to be a cut in funding for libraries, which may mean a reduction in opening hours, loss of staff, and use of volunteers for some tasks. The community may also have to fund some activities. Meanwhile the Committee is in discussion with Rick Holroyd of Langtree School, who fully supports the campaign, and the library staff. So there is a great deal of work still to be done, and we still need your support in the form of letters, and your participation in our fund-raising events.

Our next event will be a coffee shop on June 18th, when there will be card making for children (Fathers' Day) and crafts, as well as excellent home-made cakes. There is a separate report by Gina Balarin on the March 19th coffee shop – it really was an amazing morning.

Express your appreciation of Woodcote Library by e-mail:
Keith.Mitchell and/or John.Jackson @Oxfordshire.gov.uk

GORING HEATH AND WHITCHURCH GARDENING SHOW

Saturday 9th April was a glorious sunny day worthy of high summer as well as time for the Spring Show.

Once more we had 30 people submitting more than 180 entries in flowers, vegetables, arts, crafts, baking and photography. New for this spring was a section for eggs, which attracted good competition for eggs in every size and colour. We intend to make this a regular spring event.

There were also new faces amongst both judges and competitors. We were delighted to meet them all and pleased to see new names on the winners' list.

BEST IN SHOW were Robert Willows' glorious tulips.

The Betty Hayter Cup and the Whitchurch Hill Trophy for most points overall were both convincingly won by Dave Sexon.

Ros Heath won the **Baking and Preserves Cup**.

Tricia Clapp won the **Arts and Craft Trophy**.

Robert Willows and Tricia Clapp share the **Photography Cup** – a triumph for Uphill and Downhill talent!

The Children's Cup went to Iona Willows.

Gill Painter won the new "**Egg Cup**" (pardon the pun!)

This year Prizes were given by Theresa Elsome and Kate Giles; two founders of the Show who have now retired from active duty. We hope they were able to enjoy a more restful afternoon this time.

Our judges are all accredited experts and we follow the rules, but above all, this was an opportunity to get together, have a good time and celebrate Spring in our wonderful villages.

Now that we are putting the Show Schedule on the Whitchurch website you can soon see what you might enter for at the August/Summer Show, in the comfort of your own home. Thanks to those of you who downloaded Entry forms this time – and used them!

Our next Show is on Saturday August 27th at Goring Heath Parish Hall.



South Chiltern Choral Society

Summer Serenade (and Strums)

For their summer concert the South Chiltern Choral Society directed by Gwyn Arch will be taking a trip down memory lane, when they will be singing some of the best-known and much-loved standards from the Thirties and Forties. These songs, which have stood the test of time, include Anything Goes, Somewhere Over the Rainbow, Night and Day, Begin the Beguine and many other familiar melodies.

The Society is delighted to be sharing the concert with the Tetra Guitar Quartet, a distinguished and exciting ensemble, described by Time Out as “a far cry from the usual”. Formed in 1988, they quickly gained an enviable reputation for innovation and virtuosity and have played at many of the world’s top venues and broadcast on Radios 2, 3 & 4. They have recorded a wide range of music, from Vivaldi’s Four Seasons, to West Side Story, Fiddler on the Roof and The Threepenny Opera and. of their latest recording, the BBC Music Magazine wrote “This party-piece disc achieves the impossible”. All four members of the ensemble are past winners of the Julian Bream Prize and Honorary Associates of the Royal Academy of Music.

There is also the opportunity to picnic in the grounds between the two performances, so why not put the date in your diary now?!

Date: Saturday. 9th July

Time: 5 pm & 8 pm

Venue: Highdown School, Emmer Green RG4 8LR

Further information on the choir website:

southchilternchoralsociety.org.uk



CALLING ALL OLD MOLES

.....of the red blazer variety!
MOULSFORD PREP SCHOOL is celebrating its 50th Anniversary in September this year with a gala reception and dinner for all Old Boys (post A Level), Governors and present and former members of staff. For more information please go to www.old.moulsford.com.

Basildon Primary School's 'Traditional English Garden Party'

Summer Fete takes place between 11am and 3pm
on Saturday 9th July 2011
at Basildon Primary School.

>>

Whitchurch Cricket Club

At the time of writing we are all experiencing a glorious Spring- let's hope that it continues. I can't think of a better way of enjoying the weather than playing cricket! So, why not join Whitchurch Cricket Club at the Ground in Eastfield Lane from 7pm every Thursday for a gentle net?

We play friendly non league matches most Saturdays and Sundays and always welcome new players. Feel free to call me on 07768 215 334 if you require any further information.

David Mattimoe
Club Secretary

DIARY DATES

Contributions welcome for this column if anyone knows of a date that would be of interest to the village.

June

- Thursday 16th Pang.Heritage visit to Caversham
Court gardens
Sunday 19th Garden Walks
Thursday 23rd Summer Evening Walk

July

- Sunday 3rd WotHabs walk at Hardwick
Sunday 17th WotHabs Explorers Day

August

- Sunday 23rd Whitchurch & Goring Heath
Summer garden show

September

- Sunday 3rd Whitchurch Village Fete

THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE BULLETIN

will be published in July 2011.

Please send your contributions **preferably by e-mail to**
Sarah.pongo@talktalk.net by 7th July 2011

Views of individual contributors
are the views of those contributors,
and are not necessarily the views of the Parish Council, or the
editor.