



# Whiteley Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of the above Council held at Meadowside Leisure Centre, Whiteley on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2010 at 7.15pm.

**Councillors present:** Mike Evans (Chairman), David Jenkins (Vice Chairman), Vivian Achwal, Colin Bielckus, Roland Diffey, Kairen Goves, Brenda Hatch, Brian Hughes, Lydia Newman, Al Menzies, Pat Thew.

Winchester City Council Director of Operations Steve Tilbury, Winchester City Council Head of Landscape and Open Spaces Damian Offer.

County Councillor Freddie Allgood, fourteen members of the public.

- 1. To receive apologies for absence** PCSO Owen Reeves.
- 2. To receive declarations of interest regarding agenda items** None.
- 3. To adjourn meeting to allow participation by members of the public.**

The Chairman introduced Winchester City Council (WCC) Director of Operations Steve Tilbury who explained that when development at Whiteley began some 20 years ago the builders contributed a sum of money to WCC to cover the costs of maintaining the recreation and sports ground and play areas. The purpose of the sum being to pay for maintenance until such a time as there are sufficient residents to raise tax locally to fund the costs.

The fund is almost exhausted and Winchester City Council has no choice but to raise maintenance costs locally. This can either be through WCC retaining control of the areas and charging residents a special expense in addition to the Council Tax or for the Parish Council to take responsibility and add the amount to the Parish Precept.

If WCC retains control Whiteley will be the only parish that does not run its own facilities. WCC believes the best option for Whiteley residents is for the Parish Council to take ownership and control of the facilities. The cost to residents is likely to be similar although WCC's overheads will be higher.

The current grounds contract is due to end in October 2011 and this would be a good point to transfer control if agreed by the Parish Council.

Steve Tilbury pointed out that if he asked other parishes whether they wished WCC to run their facilities they would refuse believing local control to be more effective and responsive to residents' needs.

Several members of the public living in Area K felt they were being asked to pay twice as they are already subject to a management charge. Steve Tilbury agreed it appeared unfair but WCC is unable to remove the agreement made between property owners and the developer to pay management fees made when the houses were purchased.

It was asked where the money has gone, Damian Offer advised it has been spent on running costs as anticipated.

Resident Pat Wright noted that Whiteley has more play parks than other parishes which were planned by WCC. Steve Tilbury said that if the Parish Council takes responsibility it can decide how many play parks to retain and how they are maintained.

Resident Vic Hatch asked how the landscaped areas not transferred to the Parish Council would be funded. Steve Tilbury advised the cost of these areas would be met by the district wide budget as in other parishes.

Resident Sudhaka Achwal asked whether the Parish Council has sufficient experience to manage the open spaces. Steve Tilbury advised that parish councils have plenty of experience carrying out this type of work.

Resident Pat Wright said the negativity of some members of the public was disappointing and that thousands of parish councils up and down the land successfully run their own facilities, Whiteley as a Quality Parish Council should seize the opportunity for the Parish Council to take control.

The Chairman thanked Steve Tilbury and Damian Offer for attending the meeting and advised that councillors would debate the issue once all the financial information had been received.

Seven members of the public left the meeting at this point. The Chairman invited any other questions from the public.

Resident Vic Hatch commented on the number of committee meetings held on one evening which he feels is too many. The Chairman noted his comments.

Resident Geoff Rogers advised Vivian Achwal that the burger van is still trading in Parkway. Cllr Achwal to pursue.

Resident Pat Wright repeated a previous request for bollards to be repaired or removed. Cllr David Jenkins noted he had seen a bollard protect a pedestrian from an accident recently and that bollards should be repaired and replaced.

**3.1 Report from Meon Valley Safer Neighbourhood Team and to receive any concerns from residents** No report this month, PCSO Reeves invited members to contact him if there are any local concerns.

**3.2 Report from County Councillor** Report circulated prior to meeting.

**3.3 Reports from District Councillors** Report circulated at meeting

**3.4 Chairman's announcements** None.

**4 Meeting resumed considering the following agenda items:**

4.1 To approve and sign the minutes of Full Council meeting 1<sup>st</sup> November 2010  
**Minutes approved and signed.**

4.2 To receive a report and recommendations from the Strategic Development and Policy Committee (Chairman)

4.2.1 To receive minutes of meeting held 17<sup>th</sup> November 2010 **Minutes received.**

The Chairman confirmed that he had not, as previously stated in the minutes, spoken at the LDF Cabinet earlier in the day as the concerns raised in his presentation on 6 October remained unanswered (copy of presentation on PC website). These related to questions of viability. The first of these was housing numbers and the amount of land available for development. WCC has recently suggested increasing the number to 3500 dwellings when a viability study undertaken by the consortium a couple of years ago indicated that the site could only accommodate 2500 dwellings. The second concerned the mixture and type of housing proposed as WCC has indicated that 40% of the development would be affordable of which 70% of these would be social rented. The Parish Council has concerns that this mix of housing would fail to deliver the much needed infrastructure that had been promised.

4.3 To receive a report and recommendations from the Recreation and GP Committee (Cllr Thew)

4.3.1 To receive minutes of meeting held 17<sup>th</sup> November 2010 **Minutes received.**

**Cllr Menzies attended Winchester Leaders' Meeting on Climate Change, Peak Oil and Energy Security. A copy of the report is available from the Clerk on request.**

4.4 To receive a report and recommendations from the Planning Committee (Cllr Jenkins)

4.4.1 To receive minutes of meeting held 17<sup>th</sup> November 2010 **Minutes received.**

4.5 To receive a report and recommendations from the Transport and Highways Committee (Cllr Goves)

4.5.1 To receive minutes of meeting held 17<sup>th</sup> November 2010 **Minutes received**

4.5.2 Proposal to adopt Whiteley Highways Strategy Paper November 2010 **Refer to next meeting, some minor amendments to circulate.**

4.6 To receive a report and recommendations from the Finance Committee (Cllr Bielckus) (Note meeting due to be held on 17<sup>th</sup> November postponed.) **No report this month.**

4.7 Report from the Whiteley Voice Working Party (Cllr Goves/Cllr Menzies)  
**Deadline for copy for the next edition is 5<sup>th</sup> January.**

4.8 Report on the Parish Council website (Clerk) **There were 237 visits in the past month and 330 page views.**

4.9 Reports from Councillors/Clerk on recent meetings attended. **Cllr Hatch will forward minutes of the last Older Peoples' Forum**

**5. Recent correspondence** List circulated prior to meeting.

**6. Accounts for payment** It was resolved to pay the following accounts:

**Accounts for payment December 2010**

No	Chq no	Recipient	Amount	Notes *reimburse Clerk
1	653	CAB	£200.00	Agreed grant
2	654	Revenue and Customs	£584.90	Employee and employer's tax and NI contributions
3	655	Brian Hughes	£26.20	Travelling expenses
4	656	Al Menzies	£18.00	Travelling expenses
5	657	Leisure and Community Partnership Ltd	£68.44	Room hire
6	658	Allspeed	£111.16	Sign for bench
7	659	Viking	£20.50	Postage
8	659	Viking	£44.28	Stationery
9	660	Print Cartridge Direct	£5.99	Ink for printer
10	660	HCC	£79.90	Print replacement Parish map
11	660	Easily	£22.03	Disk space for website
12	660	Nicki Oliver	£631.64	*Clerk's salary December
13	660	Home as office	£21.92	*Clerk's expenses December
14	660	Telephone and internet	£30.00	*Clerk's expenses December
15	661	HCC	£237.22	Employee and employer's pension contributions
		<b>Total</b>	<b>£2,102.18</b>	

Meeting closed 9.45pm

Signed.....

Date.....