

Whiteley Parish Council

Recreation and General Purposes Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the above Committee held at Meadowside Leisure Centre, Whiteley on Wednesday 20th May 2009 at 7.55pm.

Parish Council Committee members present: Pat Thew (Chairman), Al Menzies (Vice-Chairman), Colin Bielckus, Lesley Dennis, Mike Evans, Kairen Goves

Parish Councillors: Vivian Achwal, David Jenkins, Brenda Hatch, one member of the public, Parish Clerk Nicki Oliver

1. **To appoint a Chairman for the ensuing year:** Pat Thew appointed.
2. **To appoint a Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year:** Al Menzies appointed.
3. **To receive apologies for absence:** none.
4. **To receive declarations of interest regarding agenda items:** none.
5. **To adjourn meeting to allow participation by members of the public:** it was questioned whether Whiteley residents miss out on WCC outreach services. It was noted that boundary issues will always cause some perceived 'unfairness' in the delivery of local government services.
6. **Meeting resumed to consider the following agenda items:**

6.1 To receive feedback from the Annual Parish Assembly 12th May. **All agreed it was a good event, 200 chairs were hired in for the event and all used; 250 plates were rapidly handed out by the caterer. The performances by the schools were excellent. The suggestion that the Mayor be asked to attend next year to be pursued.**

6.2 To receive an update on provision of primary school places in Whiteley (Chairman) **An email has been received from HCC Ian Lawson advising how this year's reception children have been allocated school places. Email attached to minutes. It was noted that 25 in catchment area children have been refused places at Whiteley Primary School for September 2009. This agenda item to be referred to the SD&P Committee for further action.**

6.3 To receive update on Area K issues (Cllr P Thew) **Bluebell Way residents have enough members to set up their own management company; there will be a change of managing agent for Area K which may affect the current working relationship between members and the management contractor.**

6.4 To receive update on project for new sculpture benches (Cllr P Thew) **Following the presentations at the Parish Assembly the voting is continuing at the schools to choose the preferred artist. A meeting has been arranged for 3rd June with the schools to progress the project.**

6.5 To receive an update on proposal to prepare a management plan for the conservation area (Chairman) *defer until September*

6.6 To receive an update from the Skatepark User Forum (James Wade) **WCC to be chased for response to request for painting the ramps. Action Clerk**

6.7 To receive update on Children's Centre (Cllr B Hatch) **remove this item from future agendas as the Children's Centre is now fully functioning with an independent governing body.**

6.8 To note any outstanding play area repairs and landscape maintenance issues **A response to requests for improvements made following a meeting of the Chairman with WCC David Taylor and Dave Savage to be pursued. Action Clerk/Chairman.**

Grass cutting to play areas is too infrequent, areas are unusable due to excessive cut grass, particularly the Saffron Way play area. WCC to be requested to cut more frequently and to remove existing cuttings. Action Clerk.

6.9 To agree key objectives for this committee for 2009/10 **The following objectives were agreed:**

- **To monitor the landscaping contract**
- **To maintain the map boards**
- **To complete the sculpture bench project**
- **To promote climate change: opportunities and initiatives**

6.10 To identify any unmanaged risks within this committee's remit: **no risks identified at present.**

7. Review effectiveness of communication, development of links with other community organisations and support for local democracy through making information more widely available: The Parish Assembly provided a good opportunity to build links with local groups, (all of whom were invited) Whiteley Primary School and Henry Cort Community College whilst also promoting the work of the Parish Council. The sculpture bench project was introduced at the Assembly and the ideas of two local artists explained. Residents were asked to vote for their preferred artist.

8. Recent correspondence/ reports from meetings attended of relevance to this committee: report from meeting held between Chairman and WCC David Taylor and Dave Savage on 28th April circulated prior to meeting. Email from HCC Ian Lawson regarding school places appended to minutes.

Meeting closed 8.55pm

Email from Ian Lawson 15th May 2009

Whiteley Primary school was oversubscribed with a total of 132 on-time applications. Of these, 126 were from in-catchment families (110 first preferences and 16 second preferences - although 11 of the second preference applicants were allocated a place at their first preference school). On 29 January 2009, 90 places were offered in accordance with the admission criteria.

Therefore 25 in-catchment applications were refused. All of the refused in-catchment applicants have been accommodated in primary/infant schools south of Whiteley: Seven were allocated places at their second preference school (4 at Sarisbury Infant, 2 at St Johns and 1 at St Judes). The remaining 18 children were allocated places by the LA at St Johns, Titchfield Common.

There were two late applications (received after the closing date and before 9 January 2009), both for in-catchment families. These were also refused and allocated places by the LA at St Johns.

Prior to the appeal on 21 April, three of the successful families declined their offer of a place and these were offered to in-catchment children at the top of the waiting list.

On 21 April 09, 4 families appealed to an independent appeal panel. All four were unsuccessful.

I hope this is of assistance.

So far as the "Bunney" site is concerned, the decision that we would not pursue this site was based on the difficulties, and excessive costs, of building a school there in isolation. We are aware that this may be a site offered by the North Whiteley developers and will assess the implications as and when proposals come forward.

Ian