

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON OCTOBER 25th, 2016

Prior to the official meeting, Dick Pears announced that contracts have been exchanged for the sale of the Mason Arms to Justin Salisbury. Following the spontaneous applause that welcomed this good news, DP said that the new owner was looking for a gardener.

Present were Nicky Brooks, Mark Walker, Eileen Mawle, Alan Wilson, Martin Wilson and Simon Stace. 30 members of the public attended including Peter Emery (WODC) and Charles Mathew (OCC). Apologies were received from Ed James.

There were no Declarations of Interest.

The minutes for the September meeting were signed as being a true record of proceedings.

MATTERS ARISING

Conservation area. The chair gave a brief résumé of the outcome of the Public Meeting held on 6th October and stated that it was time for the PC to make a decision. Before this occurred however, a few points were made: A Conservation Area makes it easier for WODC to refuse a Planning Application; a Neighbourhood Plan is as strong a way, if not more so, of protecting against development and finally in the emerging WODC Local Plan development is precluded in this village. At this point a vote was taken on the motion: 'Do we wish to proceed with applying for Conservation Area Status?' It was duly seconded and the result was 4:2 in favour of proceeding. Each councillor was given a copy of the draft application and asked for their comments before 12th November.

At this point all but one member of the public departed.

Insurance. The reason for the increase in the annual premium on the hall is partly that the tax has increased by 4% but mostly as a result of a claim we made concerning the damage to a gas pipe which meant we lost the no claims bonus.

CORRESPONDENCE Audit, The Annual Return including the certificate of completion which has now been received, was approved and accepted by council. A cheque was drawn for £240 to pay the auditor.

Letter from BT saying they have launched a consultation on 72 public telephone boxes in West Oxfordshire and ours is one of them. They are asking for representations to be made as they are considering removing the service. We think it beneficial to keep the service as the mobile signal in that part of the village is poor.

Letter from Citizens Advice Bureau asking for a donation but we decline as we feel we must clear our VH loan first.

PLANNING APPLICATION

There were no objections to the Planning Application to alter and erect a two storey extension at 7 and 8 High Cogges.

AOB:

As reported several times recently, we are still concerned about the deteriorating state of the road from High Cogges to South Leigh, also a crack that has appeared in the relatively new surface at the lay-by just past College Farm. Will contact OCC again.

The hedge to the side of the village hall is in need of trimming; estimates will be obtained.