



Gerrards Cross Parish Council

South Lodge, East Common, Gerrards Cross SL9 7AD
Clerk to the Council - Mrs Diana Hepburn-Park

These Minutes will be approved at the 2009 Annual Parish Meeting

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 16th April 2008
at the Colston Hall, Memorial Centre, Gerrards Cross.**

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Peter Chapman and was attended by 64 people including County, District and Parish Councillors, the Parish Clerk, Thames Valley Police and representatives from local organisations.

1 To appoint someone to take Minutes.

The Chairman proposed Mrs Diana Hepburn-Park, Clerk to the Council to take minutes.

This was agreed.

2 Apologies for absence

Were received from Councillor Peter Grimes & Lady Hurn,

3 The Statutory Notice convening the meeting was then read.

4 Minutes for the meeting held on 28th March 2007 approved.

The minutes were agreed as a true record, adopted and signed by the Chairman, Peter Chapman.

5 Approval for the 2006/7 accounts.

Councillor Nick Moss proposed the already published accounts for 2006/7 which had been approved by both internal and external auditors and he confirmed they were within the proposed budget. Seconded by Jennifer Woolveridge and agreed by the meeting.

6 Report from Peter Chapman, Chairman of the Council

Peter Chapman wanted to report only on matters not covered in his already circulated written report.

Parking

Thanks to neighbourhood policing there had been a dramatic change and the PCSOs have been working very hard to improve the situation. He understood that Bucks County Council would like South Bucks to become a Special Parking Area (SPA) but SBDC are ambiguous about it. A consultant's report yet to be published may not persuade the district council to go ahead with a SPA.

The local Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) was set up recently. Residents had identified their three top problems as burglary, parking and speeding.

Lighting

The lighting project last year installed some new lamp posts and it is hoped that residents notice the difference on the walking routes from the station.. This



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year's project will be to clear and remove debris from footpaths.

Conservation Area

In 2006 Harvey Parr looked at how the arrival of the railway in 1906 influenced the building of numerous houses of architectural merit in the following years. He has now sent a report to SBDC which might lead, after consultation, to an extension of the conservation area which at the moment just covers houses fronting the Common.

Tesco

The work to 1st June 2008 has been identified as the removal of the steel structure and creation of a bridge over the tunnel. Following on there will be the removal of 2000 cubic metres of infill leaving the site in about June/July and also construction material arriving.

Waste Strategy

The Parish Council will respond to the BCC core strategy which proposes two sites, Calvert and Wapseys Wood as locations for a Waste Management Site. The response will address not just incinerators but strategic issues including the capital cost and 24 year commitment, the rail link to Calvert, whereas Wapseys Wood has only road access. Residents were urged to put in their own responses to BCC.

7 Lynn Trigwell – Head of Community SBDC

SBDC with the Parish Council are organising the first multicultural event in Bucks, to celebrate different cultures with local groups and organisations.

It is to be held on the 29th June 2008 at the Memorial Centre in the style of a village fete. There will be a small stage and a central area for music and dance, creative workshops, a medieval re-enactment of a battle and African drumming. This will be linked to local schools and the local library will have story telling on the day.

8 Police Report Sgt. Dominic Williamson

The new team of PC Claire Woodcock, PCSOs Ceri Paul and Matt Bingham have settled in well and it is hoped you have noticed the difference. The parking was blitzed with a two week special enforcement and in the second week over 200 tickets were issued. The new NAG has had its first meeting and it is hoped it can look at local issues that need to be resolved.

Jennifer Woolveridge - How are clear up rates for burglary?

DW. At about 30% which is down on last year.

Colin Buchanan

Are CCTV cameras useful?

DW. There is a report to come out on CCTV but all tools are used to work together.

Peter Baldwin



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I am not as enthusiastic as other speakers and feel after the two weeks' purge things seem to have returned to the same as before and I rarely see any officers. DW The officers are out every day even if they only tackle just one road and I agree that there is still work to do. They are going to have a second blitz later in April using officers brought in from another division.

Shirley Moore

We appreciate what you have done for us but it has moved the cars further out and has had a knock-on effect causing other problems.

DW I agree and it is hoped that the NAG will be able to address these problems and look at alternatives for legal parking.

9 Report from Peter Hardy, Peter Roberts BCC

Peter Hardy -Waste Strategy

Urged all to respond to BCC, as we start from a disadvantage, Veolia at Wapseys Wood meet the criteria but Calvert is a better site, not in the Green Belt, with rail access, less population and traffic. He thanked the Parish Council for their very professional response.

Peter Roberts – Parking

There have been huge problems and it is now moving outwards. SPA will help, and until it is introduced there will continue to be problems.

Roads

They are always at the top of the complaints list. The £3.5m to be spent in 2008/9 will not just fill pot holes but improve some road surfaces.

Tesco

I still have reservations on the safety of the tunnel. I will be meeting with Network Rail soon to discuss the matter.

Waste Strategy

Aviation will stop the incinerator at Waspey Wood, not just military but civilian aircraft, too, because of the minimum clearance required and an incinerator would be at least 240 feet in height.

10 Public Questions

Mr M Foote

Could Councillor Roberts please advise as to the latest position regarding the suggested hourly 305 bus service through Gerrards Cross centre.

Peter Roberts

They are talking to local residents and service providers soon.

Regarding the question of speed restrictions on Lower Road and the A413, some five years ago local residents presented a petition to the County Council seeking a reduction in the speed limit on both roads.

Chris Brown

The area 10 review will be starting in October 2008 and their petition will be supported.

Lady Hurn



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Asks that the Parish Council is more visible in its opposition to the incinerator as there are still residents that are unaware what is happening.

Peter Chapman

It was the Parish Council who convinced BCC to hold the meeting at the Memorial Centre which 120 local residents attended and the effort will continue.

Colin Buchanan

What is a SPA?

Peter Chapman

At the moment parking is a criminal offence. If South Bucks is designated a Special Parking Area (SPA) it will decriminalise parking and make it a civil matter. Civilian parking enforcement officers employed by the District Council and not police officers or PCSOs will impose penalty notices.

Councillor D Hollaway

The station car park could be considered for a second tier as at Beaconsfield station.

Peter Chapman

It was confirmed that the Council had already written to Network Rail on this subject.

Harvey Parr

Could a second tier be considered on the Station Road Car Park?

Peter Hardy

Yes it would be possible to consider it for a second tier.

Jean Viall

Footpath on the common parallel to the A40 needs work/repair and all the piles of holly and debris should be removed.

Jennifer Woolveridge

The piles of holly and other cuttings are left on the advice of the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers to provide habitats for insects and small mammals. Regarding the footpath please speak to me afterwards and we will try and address your concerns or put it in next year's budget.

Peter Chapman

If the holly were chipped and spread as a thick mulch nothing would grow through it.

Joan Wilson

Three months ago she came off her bike after hitting a pot hole that had been there some months. BCC will not consider any compensation.

Peter Chapman

There is a Highways on Call telephone number and I would ask you all to report any pot holes that you see direct to them. I appreciate the problem as I am a bike rider and at times have to swerve around pot holes. Please speak to Cllr Peter Roberts regarding your accident if you need support with your application to BCC.

Peter Hardy

Money for highways is very short and has been diverted to support Social Services and we need to lobby to get more funding.

Peter Baldwin



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We now have a first class street cleaning service and please could we encourage residents who have road signs on the border of their property to clean them so civic pride may return.

David Turner

The roads are very bad and positively dangerous. The patching is very poor and I think they are worse than other areas and a disgrace.

Isabel Buchanan

The road outside M & S is dangerous because of shoppers crossing the road. Could we not move the pedestrian crossing from outside Fishers to allow M&S customers to cross the road safely?

Shirley Moore

There is still racing down the A413. On Wednesday we have motorbikes, on Sunday we have the horse and traps.

Dominic Williamson.

I will contact the traffic section and ensure something is done.

Elizabeth Farley

With the new bus passes it would be very helpful if the Parish Council could produce a time table that is easy to use, in large print, just containing relevant Gerrards Cross information.

Harvey Parr.

I have concerns about Tesco's repair of the tunnel. We need a high speed rail network and if this comes through Gerrards Cross, which is likely, are we sure the tunnel will withstand high speed trains?

David Peters

Thanked Peter Chapman for the three years he had held the position of Chairman of the Council and all his hard work.

Date:

Signed: