

MINUTES OF BRIMSCOMBE & THRUPP
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
AT THE BRIMSCOMBE AND THRUPP SOCIAL CENTRE ON
TUESDAY 2nd MARCH 2010 AT 7.30PM



Present: Cllr W Harvey Chairman
 Cllr Mrs H Acock
 Cllr Mrs S Dalby
 Cllr A Grant
 Cllr R Martin
 Cllr G Russell
 Cllr Mrs N Russell
 Cllr Mrs J Trayler
 Cllr A Watson

In Attendance: District Councillor Whiteside

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from County Councillor Chas Fellows and District Councillors Mrs Young and Mrs Peters.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS IN ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA

There were none

3. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 2nd FEBRUARY 2010

The Minutes were confirmed and signed as a true record.

4. YEW TREE WAY PLAYING FIELD PROJECT.

(a) Cllr Mrs Trayler gave the following report:-

“ On Thursday February 18th, June Pritchard phoned to tell me that work should commence on Yew Tree Way field between the second and third week in March. She also told me she was going to ask Bill if he would send a Parish Newsletter before the work commenced advising residents and trusting that any disturbance would not cause a problem.

On Friday February 26th, I phoned Tony Hemming to get the latest news regarding the licence to start work on the field. He said he thought it would be a good idea for me to get in touch with Peter Mardon at Winterbothams who are acting for us. Mr Mardon told me that he had spoken to GCC that morning – nothing definite to report. However, he said he would get in touch again and some time later he phoned me back to say that this licence was to be granted later that day.

Regarding the services of Tony Hemming, I have kept in touch with him and believe this has not been a straightforward job. I think a letter of appreciation from the Parish Council would be very much appreciated.

I would like to say “thank you” for nominating me to attend the Royal Garden Party in July. My daughter, Elaine will be on holiday on July 20th so I asked Jim Clapham if he would like to go with me because he has done sterling work for the Yew Tree Way project. I am very pleased to say he said he would like to attend if we are lucky.”

Cllr Grant confirmed that a letter was in the process of being delivered to local residents with regards to the proposed works being undertaken at Yew Tree Way. It was also agreed that the Parish Council would cover expenses for June and Jim to attend the Royal Garden Party if they were successful.

The Works Licence was discussed and it was agreed that the Clerk would sign and return the Licence in order for the works to commence. District Councillor Whiteside advised that he had received a few enquiries as to how the community would be able to use the field once the works had been completed. The Chairman confirmed that the lease for the field had not been finalised at yet and this would be discussed further at the next meeting. The Clerk was requested to email a copy of the Heads of Agreement to all Councillors for comment. **ACTION: CLERK**

5. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS

- (a) District Councillor Mrs Peters tendered her apologies and submitted the following report:-

“My apologies for tonight as I shall be attending the Housing management Forum where the issues on Sheltered Housing Review will be discussed.

On Monday 22 February, I attended a presentation by GRCC on Emergency Planning. No doubt, by now you have had a chance to look at the Tool Kit and may even have formed a working group looking into emergency planning. If you need a contact for The Bourne (that is property east of Toadsmoor Road) I am willing to be nominated as I know most of the properties and some of the residents.

I have been asked to endorse Brimscombe Stores’ application for siting the Post Office on their premises. I presume it is your will that I do.”

- (b) District Councillor Whiteside gave no formal report but made comments on agenda items which are reflected in these Minutes.
- (c) District Councillor Mrs Young tendered her apologies and submitted the following report:-

“Apologies yet again, but as Housing Portfolio Holder I will be at the Special Meeting of Housing Management Forum to discuss the Sheltered Housing Review.

In essence there are three options:-

The first means there is no change to the service

The second is that some small schemes (less than 25 units) are linked with Residential scheme managers living on one site and also providing support to a second site less than 10 minutes away. Extra care at two additional sites and work to reach out into the community to assist older people who are not in a scheme but may need help

The third is floating assistance only.

It should be noted that the existing position is running at a loss of £250,000 per annum meaning that this money is not available to other social housing tenants. However more importantly the population is getting older and by 2025 over 50% of the population in the district will be over 60. In fact the Audit Commission has recently stated that unless Councils review their provision of care for older people there will be problems in the future and is therefore urging councils to undertake this type of review.

Many of you will have in the papers or heard on the radio, how much we value the work of residential scheme managers particularly in the recent bad weather.

The HMF meeting will give a steer to the Project Board on which option to pursue. Further work will then need to be done before Cabinet and Council at the end of the year.

I am also involved in work on the restrictive covenant which applies to the resale of Right to Buy properties in the AONB in order to protect these homes for local people and a paper will go to Cabinet in March.

Finally I will be taking a report to Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee in March to report on how we manage our housing stock and those difficult to maintain properties.

If you have any questions on the above I am more than happy to answer them.”

6. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

County Councillor Fellows tendered his apologies and did not submit a report.

7. CANAL / PORT REGENERATION

Cllr Grant gave an overview of the Western Canals Consultative Group Meeting he recently attended which included the clearance of Griffin Mill Lock. Paul Coupe gave an update on the Canal Development brief for Brimscombe Port. 6 Developers were interested in the brief, one developer was keen for a joint commercial scheme which could include a Marina but at least 100 boats in the Marina would be needed to make it viable. Cllr Mrs Dalby enquired as to when the Parish Council would get a say on the development brief? Cllr Whiteside advised that he had seen the development brief and had made some comments. A second draft has now been distributed with some of the changes Cllr Whiteside requested, however the Parish Council had still not had an input in the brief. Cllr Whiteside confirmed that David Hagg was not aware that the Parish Council had no input in the development brief even though this had been requested

through Mr Coupe. Cllr Grant confirmed that the area would now be developed by the “Canal Trust” rather than Stroud District Council which would avoid having to go to a European Tender. Cllr Russell advised that he had contacted David Hagg and he was happy to meet with members of the Parish Council to discuss further. It was agreed that Cllr Whiteside would send a copy of the Development Brief to everyone and the members should send their comments to Cllr Russell who would collate and create a document that the Parish Council could present to David Hagg. Cllr Russell would like the Parish Council to be seen as a positive player in the regeneration / development of Brimscombe Port. Cllr Whiteside advised that he would like to attend the meeting arranged with Mr Hagg. **ACTION: ALL / GR**

The Parish Council discussed the proposal put forward by Peter Gilbert for additional housing within the Parish under the Core Strategy. It was agreed that with possible new housing within the Port and potential development within industrial buildings should be adequate to meet our quota. Cllr Whiteside distributed a list of possible places within the Parish that could potentially be sites for additional housing which could amount to around 1000 new homes. Cllr Whiteside advised that this was a consultation and the Parish Council should take a positive approach but this amount of possible new homes was totally inappropriate. The Parish Council felt that brownfield development should be offered as potential housing sites and to try and save as much green space as possible. Cllr Grant advised that the Parishioners could complete an online survey “Your District Your Future”.

8. FINANCE

(a) Accounts for payment. The following accounts were presented for payment:

Clerk (Salary/Office/Expenses)	537.97
Handyman (Salary)	247.13
Income Tax & NI Contributions	179.08
Grand Village fete (Donation)	200.00
Help a Hedgehog Hospital (Donation)	50.00
Thrupp Primary School (Donation)	150.00
Petra Christian Fellowship (Donation)	250.00
Stroud & District Citizens Advice Bureau (Donation)	200.00
Time and Place (Donation)	50.00

Total Invoices for payment: £1,864.18

The accounts were approved for payment.

- (b) To consider reappointing an Internal Auditor. Cllr Mrs Trayler advised that she did not wish to continue with this role. This was discussed and Cllr Mrs Russell was appointed as Internal Auditor.
- (c) To consider appointing an Independent Internal Auditor. The Council agreed to reappoint Iain A Selkirk as its Independent Internal Auditor for the year ending 31st March 2010.

9. PLANNING

- (a) Applications and decisions by Stroud District Council. A schedule of Parish Council recommendations and decisions by Stroud District Council had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Council discussed the details.

The Chairman enquired as to the planning permission given for Lypiatt Manor as a wall had been removed that may have not been agreed on the permission. The Clerk advised that she would look up the permission and advise. **ACTION: CLERK**

10. PARISH PLAN

Cllr Russell enquired as to the whereabouts of the paperwork for the Parish Plan. Cllr Mrs Dalby advised that she held the majority of it and would forward to Cllr Russell in order that Cllr Russell could prepare a brief to send to possible candidates for the project.

ACTION: SD / GR

Cllr Russell left the meeting at this point

11. BRIMSCOMBE POST OFFICE

District Councillor Whiteside confirmed that the current Postmaster had been granted a temporary contract by the Post Office. The Post Office did not feel that it was a viable business as a stand alone and they had been negotiating with the Newsagent to take on the contract. If the Newsagent did agree to run the Post Office within their premises it would not offer a Pensions service as the Post Office would require a large deposit. It was suggested that maybe the Neighbourhood Warden and Community Agent could assist residents affected by the withdrawal of Pensions over the Counter at the Post Office to ascertain alternative options. Cllr Mrs Acock advised that she would enquire as to whether this service would come under the Neighbourhood Wardens remit. Cllr Mrs Dalby advised that she could place an article in the Parish Newsletter advertising this service. **ACTION: HA / SD**

12. MISCELLANEOUS

- (a) To discuss the Youth Shelter. The removal from the Football Club land and placement somewhere else in the Parish was discussed. It was agreed that Cllr Watson would speak to Chris Short on this point as he was involved in the Working Party to purchase the Youth Shelter. **ACTION: AW**

13. COUNCILLORS REPORTS

- (a) Cllr Grant confirmed that he had reviewed the GRCC Emergency Parish Plan and felt it was not suitable for the Parish as it was a major scheme and not designed for smaller Parishes.

- (b) Cllr Grant provided the Clerk with a list of possible sites for new Grit Bins within the Parish. The Clerk confirmed she would forward to Highways for comment.

ACTION: CLERK

- (c) The Chairman and Cllr Grant advised that they had cut back the shrubbery on the spare land near Yew Tree Way.
- (d) Cllr Mrs Dalby advised that residents in Bourne Lane are looking to set up a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and would be holding a meeting on the 11th March to discuss further.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 6th April 2010 at 7.30pm at Brimscombe and Thrupp Social Centre.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS
THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.45PM**