

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR EYNSHAM**  
**held on Tuesday 21 April 2009 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Eynsham**

**Present:** G Beach (Chairman), 10 Parish Councillors, PC Richard Connor, Mrs A Cross & Mr G Watson (Playing Fields Managers), Mr R Mitchell (Eynsham Charities), District Cllrs Mrs Stevens, Ms Pike & Mr Andrews, Mr Hamilton (Headteacher Bartholomew School), Mrs Lee – (Parish Clerk) & 19 members of the public.

**Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed all those present to the Annual Parish Meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies received from Mr Paul and Mrs Verity Hughes, County Cllr C Mathew, Kenny Bowerman (Fire Officer) Mr M How (OCC Youth worker), Mr & Mrs Hull- Lewis, Ms A Cox (Eynsham Primary School Governor) & Mr D Rossiter.

**2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting** – The minutes of the meeting of 22 April 2008 were agreed.

**3. Matters Arising from the previous Minutes** – There were no matters arising.

**4. Notification of any other business.**

- Rats – the meeting was advised that rats were still a problem in parts of the village – the District Councillors agreed to investigate further and discuss with officers at WODC.
- Mr Green – advised of questions he wished to ask the District Councillors.
- Mr Sampson advised he wished to discuss the possibility of a project with young people looking at drug & alcohol issues
- Mr Brown advised he wished to discuss police matters & CCTV.

**5. Police Report** – The following questions were asked –

- With regard to the percentages in the report – PC Connor advised that these relate to whole of Thames Valley area and not just Eynsham.
- Holiday cover – the meeting was advised that there was no replacement cover during holidays

The meeting thanked the police for their continued presence and work in the village.

**6. Fire Service Report**

Fire Officer Mr Kenny Bowerman was unable to attend the meeting he had sent a verbal report - The station is still a couple short of its full quota of fire fighters and we do sometimes struggle to find a crew during the week day time so if anybody knows of any one that is interested and would like to join us then please get in contact with us. Last year we were called to approx 200 incidents ranging from fires to car crashes to rescuing animals. Our special appliance is still being used to back up the brigade when there are

larger fires in Oxfordshire We are still offering free home risk visits to everybody that needs them in the village and surrounding villages to give advice about keeping safe in your home and the fitting of smoke detectors so if anyone would like this service please ring the station We also give talks and visits to the station to various village organisations e g brownies, scouts, schools so again please ring for details.

## 7 **Parish Council Chairman's Report –**

The following questions were asked –

- Were OCC looking into traffic issues on A40 – the Chair advised that OCC are going to monitor the flows at the traffic lights and the results will be discussed at the traffic advisory meeting in July. It was pointed out that there was a need to monitor the lengths of queues back to Oxford on a daily basis and this will be part of the monitoring scheme. There are those both in favour and against the traffic lights and it is hoped that the monitoring report will help to show the effect that they have on the village. District Cllr Andrews has asked WODC to look at economic issues re the A40 and will report back to traffic advisory.
- Parking regulations – these are now a WODC responsibility – community enforcement officers will be employed by WODC once Government regulations are fully sorted. These officers will also be looking at other issues such as fly posting/placing of A board's etc enforcement and all traffic wardens will have the opportunity to take up these positions if they wish – it is hoped to have them in place by the autumn.
- Issue of traffic enforcement – any issues with lorries on pavements or other traffic blocking the pavements etc will still be an issue for the police and should be reported directly to them.

8. **Eynsham On Line Statistics 2008/9** – thanks were offered to Ms Stonham for all her work – she requested any feedback on the website.

9. **Financial Report for 2008/9** – there were no questions.

10. **County Councillor's Report** - there were no questions.

## 11 **District Councillors' Report**

- **Recycling centres** - is WODC considering the opportunity for selling goods at recycling centres? This question will be passed on to OCC as they manage Dix Pits, however a community project in Eynsham carries out swap shops and the next one will be in September.
- **Food waste** – next year WODC need to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill due to landfill tax and the fact that valuable resources should not be sent to landfill. As a result green waste and kitchen waste will be collected weekly, residual waste fortnightly and other recycling weekly. There will be an anaerobic digester at Cassington and WODC have sited recycling etc sites in locations where as little travelling as possible is needed by the refuse lorries.
- **Recycling** – will householders sort their recyclables? This has still to be decided – all recycling is sorted if it is not sorted on the lorry it is sorted at Ardley recycling

centre. Cllr Stevens will let PC have a report for public information regarding where the recycling goes.

- **Flooding** – it was pointed out that the River Evenlode is not mentioned in any of the flood reports – Cassington & Eynsham. This is included in an appendix to the flood reports which is available via WODC. The meeting was advised that a flood group has been formed with OCC, WODC, EPC & EA and local people affected to look at the way forward. Dr Wright questioned when the EA were planning to update the flood maps– East Eynsham area – it was suggested that Dr Wright contact Mr King at WODC to discuss this.
- **Planning** – the PC has submitted suggested revisions to the WODC core strategy of the Local Development Framework with regard to the possibility of housing to the west of Eynsham and the District Councillors encouraged all residents to write to WODC with their comments.
- Mr Green asked why the **community tax** had gone up by 4.9% - Cllr Ms Pike advised that this is a third of charge for a similar property in Oxford City and that the rise in council tax is small and the services on offer are wide ranging.
- **Abingdon & Witney College** – it was asked how WODC could afford to support this project – it was advised that they had indicated their willingness to help any short fall using capital reserves – as yet no amount has been discussed. WODC capital monies can be invested in this way with no risk while the interest rates are so low and offer no return to the council - capital revenue cannot be used for day to day running of services but they can use rental income for running day to day services.
- **Icelandic bank** – it was asked who advised WODC to invest in Iceland – the meeting was advised that the necessary claims have been made and WODC are still waiting to see what the outcome will be.
- **Chief Executive** – it was asked how WODC could afford to have a part time chief executive and district councillors advised that this was a 6 month trial sharing the chief executive with Cotswold Council. As a shared resource there are benefits of reduced cost & increased learning from each other.

12. **Eynsham Primary School Governors' Report** - tabled. There were no questions.

13. **Bartholomew School Report** – tabled.

Mr Hamilton thanked all who had been involved in the school's 50<sup>th</sup> year celebrations. He stressed that he was always interested in comments with regard to the possible use of the school playing fields and also in any feedback from the village re pupils behaviour etc – it is vital that the school and community work together to the best of the village.

He was asked –

- What is the **relationship between adult education, the youth centre and the school** – Mr Hamilton advised that adult education is hosted by the school and run by OCC; the youth centre works with the school but there is no formal relationship.
- **Exclusion** – there is a strict code of conduct within school which enables the staff to work in a safe & caring environment and they work with children to positively modify behaviour where ever possible.

Thank were offered to Mr Hamilton and his staff for their continued good work.

**14. Eynsham Youth Centre** - there were no questions

**15. Eynsham Charities** – Mr Mitchell advised that the funds of the Educational Charity were diminishing and if anyone wished to make a donation they would be welcomed. There were no questions.

**16. Playing Fields Managers' Report** – Mr Watson advised that the committee is short of a treasurer – if anyone was interested please let him know.

**17. Eynsham Village Hall Management Committee Report** - Dr Wright advised that deposits for out of village bookings were being increased. He was asked - **Public liability insurance** – is hirers' public liability insurance covered with any booking – it was advised that this is the responsibility of the hirer.

**18. Allotments Association Report** - there were no questions.

**19. Any other business**

**Young People & Drugs & Alcohol** - Mr Sampson is a drug & alcohol counsellor and is meeting with the youth centre to discuss the possibility of working together. He asked if there would be any objection to this in the village and how would he obtain funding – WODC expressed an interest this and he will discuss with Cllr Ms F Pike. The details will also be passed on to OCC via Cllr Mathew.

**CCTV** – Mr Brown would like CCTV cameras in the village – Cllr Andrews confirmed that it would be worth while looking at the results in Carterton, Chipping Norton etc but that an increased police presence in the village should help to reduce crime figures.

Mrs Richards advised that there is now an **Eynsham Carers Group** which meets in the Baptist Hall – for further details please contact her. In addition the History Group are looking for a photo of cows being driven through the village.

**The meeting finished at 8.52pm** and the Chairman thanked everyone present for their attendance.

Signed:

Dated: