

SUNNINGHILL & ASCOT PARISH COUNCIL
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MINUTES of a meeting of **Sunninghill & Ascot Parish Council** held at the Ascot Day Centre, Bagshot Road, Sunninghill, Ascot on **Tuesday, 30 March 2010** at 7pm.

Members present: Councillors M Hunter (Chairman), J Yong (Vice-Chairman), P Chivers, G Clark, A Darling, P Deason, Mrs M Duffield, R Ellison, Mrs B Hilton, D Hilton, Mrs C Lester, Mrs S McKechnie, Mrs B Story.

In attendance: Mr D L Lupton (Clerk to the Council) and Mrs M Lucas (Head of Legal Services & Monitoring Officer, The Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead) – items 3708 to 3721, inclusive.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Mrs T Chivers and Mrs S Jones.

3708 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman asked for any Declarations of Interest in accordance with the adopted Code of Conduct. None were declared.

3709 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 23 February 2010 were approved and signed as a correct record.

3710 FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

3711 PUBLIC ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was not adjourned as there were no members of the public present.

3712 CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING

The Chairman introduced Mrs Maria Lucas, the recently appointed Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer, RBWM, who had asked to attend the meeting to introduce herself and to explain her role. She concentrated on her duties as Monitoring Officer, including her role as an adviser to the Borough's Standards Committee. She explained the need for a Council to abide by its Code of Conduct and said that predetermination of issues by individual Councillors contravened the Code. Since local assessments had been introduced in 2008, there had been eleven complaints, within the Borough, against Councillors and only two of these had required investigation by the Assessment Sub Committee. The Chairman thanked Mrs Lucas for taking the time to attend the meeting and explain some of her duties.

3713 PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

Planning, 2 & 23 March- Councillor Mrs B Hilton referred to the Minutes of the meeting held on 23 March and highlighted the opposition from residents to the applications made by Tesco for premises in Ascot High Street. Also, all Councillors had been invited to attend a meeting with a property developer on the evening of Tuesday 13 April.

Leisure & Cultural- 16 March- presented by Councillor Mrs S McKechnie

Finance & Personnel- 16 March- presented by Councillor M Hunter

3714 CONSERVATION STATUS, SUNNINGHILL

Further to item 3669 of the Minutes of the previous meeting, Councillor P Deason reported that he had sent his Planning Briefing Document to the Head of Planning & Development, RBWM on 3 March.

3715 SUNNINGHILL ROAD- PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Councillor Yong reported that Councillor Mrs L Yong was currently trying to arrange a meeting with the interested parties. Councillor D Hilton was also active, through the Neighbourhood Action Group, in this matter, notably on the issue of speeding, and would liaise with Councillor Mrs Yong. He said that he had invited Mr Tony Carr, Traffic & Road Safety Manager, RBWM, to the next NAG meeting to see what action could be taken. The Clerk pointed out that Mr Carr would be giving a short presentation to the Annual Assembly on 4 May and that this would be a good opportunity for asking questions of him.

3716 ALLENS FIELD/ SOUTH ASCOT VILLAGE GREEN

There was nothing further to report.

3717 NORTH ASCOT CYCLE ROUTE- OUTLINE CONSULTATION

Councillor D Hilton and Borough Councillor McBride had spoken with RBWM Officers and Ascot Racecourse on this matter and had obtained a risk assessment for the particular area. It seemed that the number of accidents did not warrant the proposed expenditure on a cycle route and the matter was being considered further.

3718 SALT BINS, SUNNINGHILL

Further to item 3674 of the Minutes of the previous meeting, the Chairman reported on perceived difficulties, particularly as to potential liability, if the Parish Council was to involve itself in salting activities. Mrs Lucas agreed that such issues were relevant under current legislation and said that she would contact the Clerk, as soon as possible, with her opinion.

3719 FINANCE:

Cheque Payment List

Approval was given for Month 12 (17/03/2010). The Clerk highlighted a payment for computer and other equipment that was being purchased in anticipation of the forthcoming change, imposed by RBWM, to paperless planning applications.

3720 PLAYBUILDER PROJECT- CHEAPSIDE PLAY PARK

Councillor Mrs McKechnie reported that there had been a handover meeting, on site, on 26 March and that some snagging issues, including the entrance area owned by the Village Hall, had been identified and agreed. These would be rectified by the contractor by 1 April, in readiness for the re-opening of the Park on Good Friday, 2 April. The Clerk would ensure that the re-opening was publicised on the Parish Council and Ascot Matters websites. It was further reported that the new play equipment had been inspected by RoSPA which had issued a certificate. It was anticipated that the Blythewood project would commence shortly, with completion expected by 30 June.

3721 PARISH PLAN (including Parish Project)

Councillor Mrs B Hilton confirmed that the Victorian Fayre, 2010, would be held on Sunday 21 November and that initial planning had already commenced, with a further meeting to be held on 31 March. The Chairman reminded the meeting that any ideas as to possible new projects for the period 2010/12 should be put forward as soon as possible- item 3677 of the Minutes of the previous meeting refers.

3722 ITEMS RAISED AND ACTIONED

The Clerk reported on a complaint received in connection with the recent roadworks in Ascot High Street. Councillor D Hilton was aware of the problems and was following these up.

3723 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATIONS ACT 1984

Correspondence from the Principal Traffic Engineer, RBWM, regarding the proposed introduction of a 20mph zone in Kennel Avenue, The Burlings and part of Burleigh Road, Ascot, was discussed and noted. There was no objection.

3724 THAMES VALLEY POLICE- COMMUNITY POLICING AWARDS

The Parish Council had been invited to submit nominations by 16 April. It was agreed that PCSO Diprose should, again, be nominated.

3725 CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

The Chairman referred to item 3699 (a) of the Minutes of the Finance & Personnel Committee meeting held on 16 March and asked Council to confirm, formally, the appointment of Mrs Elizabeth Yates as Clerk to the Council, with effect from 1 April 2010, in succession to Mr David Lupton who would retire, after a handover period, on 30 April 2010. This was agreed.

3726 OTHER BUSINESS

a) Policing of the Parish

Councillor Yong had noted recent publicity regarding a move for Police to be more visible but had not seen any evidence of this happening. Councillor D Hilton said that Police visibility had been identified as a priority at the NAG Open Meeting on 25 March. The Annual Assembly on 4 May would be an opportunity to raise this matter with the Police.

b) Unlicensed Taxis

Councillor Darling if a response had been received from RBWM on the use of unlicensed taxis -item 3683 of the Minutes of the previous meeting refers. After discussion, it was agreed that the practice of some vehicles not displaying taxi plates was potentially dangerous and unacceptable. Councillor D Hilton would raise this with RBWM.

Post Meeting Note: Councillor Hilton has received the following response from RBWM- “ The rules regarding dispensation are quite simple- if the vehicle is being used in its contract/chauffeur mode, the plate does not need to be on display. However, the Dispensation Certificate (that we issue) must be in the vehicle and so must the Licence Plate. If the vehicle is engaged in normal business ie cash work, the plate must be displayed on the rear of the vehicle, as usual, so that members of the fare paying public can clearly see that it is a licensed vehicle”

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.15pm

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Councillor M Hunter, Chairman.