

Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council

MINUTES OF MEETING	: 15 th December 2008
TIME OF MEETING	: 7.30 p m
VENUE OF MEETING	: Church Hall
TYPE OF MEETING	: ORDINARY
PRESENT	: MR D JOPSON (DJ)
	: MRS D MURDOCH (DCM)
	: MR A HAIGHTON (AH)
	: MRS FLISS DAVIS (FD)
CHAired BY	: MR D SULLIVAN (DS)
IN ATTENDANCE	: MR D BAKER (DB)
ALSO PRESENT	RUPERT CONDER TREVOR WHEELER

1. Apologies

1.1 Councillor Debbie Miller.

2. Public participation

2.1 None.

3. Actions arising from the previous meeting

3.1

Councillors agreed to submit a letter to Martin Wiltshire HCC highways expressing the parish council's dissatisfaction with the lack of progress to address concerns on the safer route to school. – DB to action - Completed.
Councillors agreed to make a donation of £100 to HCYBA – DB to action - Completed
Councillors agreed to make a donation of £20 to RBL – DB to action – Awaiting invoice to process.
The clerk was asked to write to the Environment Agency requesting the Netherton arm of the river Swift needed riverbed clearance. – DB to action – Closed – Environment Agency denied responsibility.
Councillor Debbie Miller had recently identified a new source of grant funding (Leader Fund) administered by SEEDA through the North Wessex Downs local action group. It was agreed that Debbie would get further details for the next parish council meeting –

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DM to action – Carried forward..
It was agreed to set up a working party made up of Councillors Debbie Miller, Fliss Davis and David Baker (Clerk) to review the requirements of the new model publication scheme and to report back findings at the December parish council meeting. – DM, FD & DB to action - Completed.
Councillor David Jopson would continue to manage the update work on the parish website – DJ to action – In progress
Following a discussion of the initial budget papers, amendments were made to the 2009/10 project list and priorities a revised budget plan was to be produced for final decision at the December parish council meeting. – DB to action. - Completed
Councillors agreed that a letter should be sent to HCC highways department to request clarification of responsibility for the Dene Green lay-by – DB to action – Closed – HCC denied responsibility.
2 quotations to be obtained for the repairs to Dene Green lay-by. – DS & DM to action - Completed
It was noted that 2 metal manhole covers were missing outside the rear and side of the pavilion. Councillor David Sullivan agreed to have these replaced – DS to action - Completed.

4. Approval of minutes of the previous meeting

- 4.1 The minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 17th November 2008 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

5. Declarations of Interest

- 5.1 None.

Note: Standing Orders were suspended.

6 Tesco's planning application and AGAS reports

- 6.1 Rupert Conder presented his monthly reports on recent events relating to the Tesco planning application at the Andover old airport site and the AGAS project.
6.2 Please see Appendix 1 for full report details.

Note: Standing orders were re-instated

7 Safer Route to School – update and review

- 7.1 Councillor David Sullivan introduced a discussion on the Safer Route to School and expressed his personal concerns that the existing route would always suffer from some safety drawbacks given the limitations imposed by the design of A343 and its junction with the Ibthorpe road. David put forward an alternative approach for consideration that would involve a feasibility study into a new footway. It would start at the bridge opposite the church hall, enter the field opposite and then cross the river Swift on a line that followed the rear of the gardens to the south side of Ibthorpe road. It would emerge in front of the George and Dragon public house at one of best viewpoints for a single road crossing over the A343 on route to the primary school. After further discussion, councillors were unable to reach any consensus on the proposal and no action was taken.

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8 Correspondence and Councillor Reports

8.1 The list of correspondence received during the month was read and passed to the relevant councillor.

8.2 A copy of the service level agreement on the Speed Indicator Device (SID) was received from TVBC and contracts were received from Hatherden Parish Council.

RESOLVED: Councillors agreed to accept the SID contract and Councillors David Sullivan and Alan Houghton were authorised to sign on behalf of Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council.

8.3 A contract for the sale and purchase of the Upton telephone box had been received from BT.

RESOLVED: Councillors agreed to accept the BT contract and Councillor David Sullivan was re authorised to sign on behalf of Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council.

8.4 Planning applications:

RESOLVED: Councillors agreed the following actions would be taken:

08/02763/TREEN	22 Nov 08	Cedar – fell Southside, Horseshoe Lane, Ibthorpe Mrs Caroline Peill – No comment
08/02712/FULLN	26 Nov 08	Erection of a detached single storey double garage and studio with store room and wc and amended access Rose Cottage, Upton, Andover Hampshire Mr and Mrs Adrian Dobson – No comment
08/02825/TREEN	27 Nov 08	Remove 1 cherry tree Swift House, Church Street, Hurstbourne Tarrant Mr John Hoare – No comment
08/02880/TELN	13 Dec 08	Erection of replacement 25 metre antenna and installation of equipment cabinet Old Tollgate Farm, The Hill, Hurstbourne Tarrant Mr Ben Ferguson – No comment

Councillors' reports:

- 8.5 Councillor Fliss Davis reported that Upton had held a successful winter party with about 40 villagers attending the evening. The next event planned for the new year would be a children's outing to Intec funded by the School House Trust Fund. The Crown public house still remained closed to business.
- 8.6 Councillor Alan Houghton had nothing to report.
- 8.7 Councillor Dinah Murdoch reported that the junior football team was having a successful season – winning matches and with plenty of player and parental support for coaching sessions.
- 8.8 Councillor David Sullivan had nothing to report.
- 8.9 Councillor David Jopson reported that the current village website hurstbournetarrant.net was to be closed down following maintenance problems and replaced by a new site hbt.org.uk. It was expected that the new site would be available early in January 2009 – **DJ to action.**

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Part 2 – Confidential business. – note: press and public were excluded

9 Freedom of Information Act 2000

A brief report was presented by David Baker and Councillor Fliss Davis on the work completed by the working party. The statutory guidance and information had been reviewed and a Hurstbourne Tarrant publication scheme with supporting documentation had been drawn up for the approval of the meeting.

RESOLVED: Councillors agreed that the following documents and policies would be adopted by the parish council:

Approved the Hurstbourne Tarrant publication scheme and supporting documentation

Approved a schedule of charges for the publication of information

Approved and signed new policy documents:

- Equality and Diversity
- Health and Safety
- Information Security
- Access to information

Approved a new records retention guide

Approved a new code of practice for handling complaints

Approved an allotment guide and Tenancy Agreement.

10 Finalise the budget for 2009/10 and setting of the precept

- 10.1 David Baker presented an updated budget plan based on the discussions and changes agreed at the last parish meeting. The tax base was confirmed at 370 dwellings for 2009/10. The latest valuation of the Unit Trust share holding was £15,038. The church hall rewiring project has been put on hold and the item withdrawn from the 2009/10 budget plan. The planned income to be earned from bank interest and unit trust dividends was reduced from £1,000 to £500 in light of lower interest rates being declared. The sum of these changes resulted in a budget based on a precept of £8,750 with planned deficit of £1,780 in 2009/10. It was agreed to carry forward the final budget approval and setting of the precept to the January parish meeting. This would allow further assessment of the likely costs and funding of the Dene Green lay-by repairs where initial repair estimates had exceeded original expectations

RESOLVED: Councillors agreed that the clerk would write to TVBC and HCC to investigate if any grant funding sources could be identified to help cover part of the cost of repairs to Dene Green lay-by. – **DB to action.**

RESOLVED: Councillors agreed that the 2009/10 budget and the setting of the precept for 2009/10 would be placed on the agenda of the January parish council meeting for final approval. – **DB to action.**

11 Next meeting and forward plan update

- 11.1 The next Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday 19th January 2009 in the **Church Hall** at 7.30 p.m.
- 11.2 Agenda items agreed for 19 Jan 2008
- Q3 2008/09 financial report

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- Final approval of 2009/10 budget and precept
- Annual reviews of regular contracts, fees and charges and investments

12 Disbursements – 15th December 2008.

The following cheques were presented for signature:

Number	Payee	Amount
621	D R Baker	£ 300.00
622	H CYBA	£ 100.00
623	A S Waite	£ 292.58
624	R Vella	£ 175.00
625	P G Anthony	£ 45.00
626	Church Hall	£ 140.00

Total authorised: **£1,052.58**

Meeting closed 9.20 p.m.

Signed.....

Chairman

Date:.....

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Appendix 1.

ACTION GROUP AGAINST SPEEDING THROUGH HURSTBOURNE TARRANT (AGAS)

REPORT TO THE PARISH COUNCIL IN DECEMBER 2008

1. **Andover Airfield Planning Development number 07/01951/OUTN.** Several HBT residents attended the TVBC Planning Control Committee meeting at The Lights on 1st December at which the Goodmans Planning Application was to be considered. This application had previously been rejected by the Northern Area Planning Committee (NAPC) on 1st September. Further negotiations have gone on and, with the change in the financial climate, the rise in unemployment was accorded a far greater impact than at the NAPC hearing.

- 5.1. TVBC, HCC and Highways Authority experts on traffic, noise, landscape and law gave their opinions, which had been disagreed with by other experts consulted by those opposed to the application. The feeling of the meeting was generally expressed that Goodmans had gone further than they need have in making concessions, which are more onerous than for any other comparable development. It was felt that the increases in noise, light and health damaging pollutants, and traffic and the damage to the environment had been mitigated by measures covered in the section 106 agreement as far as is reasonable, leaving only slight and acceptable increases.
- 5.2. Although it was acknowledged that some residents living close to the site would be badly affected by the development, the meeting expressed the opinion that the interests of the majority should override such considerations. From letters in the Andover Advertiser it is noticeable how strongly this issue has divided opinion.
- 5.3. It was stated that in addition to the NAPC refusal to grant planning permission, 32 of the local Parish Councils and over 8,000 individual statements were opposed to the application. Speakers for and against the Application were questioned by the Committee and following a discussion period in which assurances were given that the tough restrictions of the Section 106 agreement would be upheld by TVBC, taking enforcement action if necessary, the vote was taken, resulting in 13 voting in favour of granting planning permission with 4 voting against.

Negotiation between TVBC and Goodmans will continue to iron out the details before formal planning consent is granted. It is probable that the STOP campaign will appeal against the decision and the Application may be sent for judicial review.

Following the granting of formal planning permission, it is understood that the remodeling of the 100-acre roundabout will have to be completed to enable it to cope with the increased traffic before work on the site itself can be started.

HBT's main concern has been addressed as we have achieved a ban on HCVs (HGVs over 7½ tons), which are going to/from the site, from using the A343. However it is likely that, as there will not be a monitoring camera in HBT, it may be necessary to monitor HCV traffic ourselves from

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time to time and to report any infringements of the ban. It is still felt that the Megashed is not the right development for this site and will provide neither the forecast number nor the high quality jobs that this area needs.

There will undoubtedly be an increase in traffic as a result of this development, but, as was pointed out during the meeting by the Highways Authority, had a multi-skill business park been developed on the site instead, we could have expected an even greater increase in the number of vehicles. Additionally, when the site is operational, it is claimed that it should provide employment to a large number of the residents of the 5,000 new homes being built in and around Andover, who would then travel to the West of Andover rather through HBT to Newbury or beyond. A proper business park would probably have employed even more, but that is not what is being offered by the developers.

2. Traffic Calming Project. At the parish council meeting on Monday 17 November, councillors resolved to submit a letter to Martin Wiltshire HCC highways expressing the parish council's dissatisfaction with the lack of progress to address concerns on the safer route to school. This was particularly important, following several recent 'near miss' incidents, it was felt urgent action was required and a road safety audit should be carried out as an immediate priority.

It was most encouraging to hear the support for our road safety campaign voiced by Cllr Mrs Pat West (HCC) and Cllr Pam Mutton (TVBC) and their direct encouragement and advice to contact the Road Safety Officer at HCC (Mr E Sage). Clearly a number of parishioners and councillors would like to be present when the road safety audit is carried out.

Road safety, especially for our schoolchildren, is paramount and we cannot risk any delay. It is accepted that the problem in HBT is complex, but with sufficient will and funding it could be solved. Expert advice will be needed. The Road Safety Officer may be able to recommend a solution which has not yet been considered.

There are five main issues that need urgent attention:

1. Many of the mothers of schoolchildren who use the Safe Routes to School crossing of the A343 have complained that it is highly dangerous. This was discussed with Martin Wiltshire in July, but as yet nothing has happened. In my opinion, the kerb on the South East side (next to Four Winds) needs to be pushed out at least a foot to give the pedestrians better visibility. The kerb on the other side of the road could be reduced in compensation. This would also make the traffic slow down further as there would be a longer bend to negotiate.
2. The junction of the A343 and Upton Lane on the North West side, where Andrew and Maggie Russell are concerned about vehicles hitting their shop.
3. The footpath in Upton Road which allows vehicles to drive on it; which could be prevented by raising the kerb or putting bollards along the pavement. Consultation and expert advice is needed. It should also be noted that vehicles have been driven on the pavement as far as Bridge Cottage, so bollards may also be needed further along; but we must be conscious of the occasional wide-load vehicles (such as combine harvesters) which use this road.
4. Removal of the hatching in the centre of the A343 Newbury Road to the sides of the road to "reduce" the width of the carriageway, thereby slowing traffic, and to give greater separation from traffic for pedestrians and better visibility for residents on the North West side exiting their drives.

5. A more defined boundary to the built-up area of the village on Newbury Road where children cross the road to get to the bus stop (opposite the bus shelter). They have to wait on a very narrow strip which is mainly grass beside the road with vehicles accelerating past them going in excess of 50 mph. The boundary could be enhanced by a more modern village sign (replacing the old one), "gates", 30 mph roundels on the road, rumble strips etc.

Following the positive support given to our campaign, particularly following Helen Levy's narrow escape reported last month, there has been an exchange of emails initiated by David Baker, which, Cllr Robin Hughes, County Councillor for Andover North, has passed on explaining our concerns and asking for additional resources so that the matter can be dealt with without any

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further delays. He added that "I have no doubt that you will also share the concerns of the parish council who quite properly state on behalf of their community, that it is the parish council's position that we are not prepared to wait for a serious accident or fatality to occur before funding and action is taken."

5.4. HCC has confirmed that funding for implementing low cost measures, which were discussed earlier in the year, such as the provision of an additional timber bollard at the existing crossing point, amendments to hatched road markings where appropriate is not an issue. The investigation of Traffic management matters in Hurstbourne Tarrant remains within the 08/09 TM programme.

Kevin Fuller, Director of the Highways & Transportation Area (West), wrote that he has been following the correspondence and is very aware of the genuine concern from the community in Hurstbourne Tarrant to see these these traffic issues investigated and measures completed and is committed to undertake these. The funding is available and he appreciates the wish to get this done quickly, in a planned way and that it is always our intention. However, the nature of traffic management and safety related traffic issues is such that he always needs to prioritise resources and it has been necessary to divert resources to attend to road safety matters following tragic accidents with fatalities. Unfortunately this has a knock on impact and means that the measures at Hurstbourne Tarrant will be delayed more than we all would wish, he is sorry about this and will carry out the investigation and measures as soon as he is able and will let us know the timing.

He has sent another email to Cllr Robin Hughes to stating that "the work is included in this years agreed traffic management programme and I am planning for it to be underway within this timeframe with my available resources, as said in previous mails I have needed to adjust priorities but am still in a position to sort out the issues in Hurstbourne Tarrant.

The time frame for this work has always been for this financial year ie from April 1st 2008 to March 31 2009, we already have a clear idea of what the Parish are looking for and several of these items can be readily accommodated, our technical appraisal is however needed to consider the changes to the centre line hatching and build out provision and this is work scheduled for early January 2009. The physical works on the ground for all of these items are of a minor nature and should be readily executed on site."

Our suggestions for the design for a more defined village boundary are still being considered.

3. Speed Limit Reminder Device. TVBC will chase up the painting and supply of the post in lbthorpe. As some of the local residents were not happy about the proposed siting of the post on the Andover hill, TVBC will resurvey the area to find a suitable position which will be acceptable to the residents. Due to the Christmas Break, the schedule for the SLR to be in HBT has slipped and we will next get it during the week commencing 5th January.