

Wye with Hinxhill Parish Council

MINUTES

Public Liaison and Communications Committee Meeting Thursday 27 November 2007 Methodist Church Hall

Present: Cllrs D Thake (Chairman), D de Saxe, J Clifford and P Morris (members) and Cllr J Woodford.

In Attendance: Jenny Oram (Clerk) and two members of the public.

The meeting commenced at 8.25 pm

399. To receive Apologies:

Apologies were accepted from Cllr B Roberts (on holiday) and Cllr E Roberts (unwell)

400. To receive Declarations of Interest

None.

401. To approve the Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 27 September 2007

The Minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

402. Matters arising from the Minutes not covered by the Agenda

A meeting with the Benefice regarding the Parish Council's burial ground will take place on Monday 7 January 2008. Cllrs de Saxe, B Roberts and D Thake will attend.

403. Public Liaison: Imperial College London

Site submission Imperial College has submitted a site for possible development to Ashford Borough Council. It is numbered 08 on the site map. The site is 13.6 hectares (33.6 acres) comprising the former horticultural buildings and Occupation Road to the south (50% occupied by tenants), Orchard Cottages (to remain), pasture in the centre and the ADAS offices to the north (15% occupied). They say that the demand for horticultural and agricultural facilities has diminished and they want to consolidate their functions within their core buildings on the main campus and release unsuitable premises whose maintenance and upkeep is a burden.

The suggestion is for a mixed use scheme involving continued employment use and sustainable living. There would be:

- A landscaped public open space which would complement the gateway in and out of the village and enhance the living and working environment
- 75 residential units (or more if required)
- 5,000 – 7,000 square metres of employment space (or more if required)

It was agreed that the Clerk should liaise with Ann Sutherland as Chair of Wye Business Association to arrange a joint meeting with Imperial College, Damian Green and WBA. It was suggested that the meeting should be with Nigel Buck, Head of Estates at ICL.

Clerk

Long-term strategy:

Ashford Borough Council continues to maintain that it is crucial that a high quality, knowledge-based presence should be retained in the Borough at Wye. The Parish Council supports this aspiration and is pressing ABC to put some guidance in place within the Local Development Framework to facilitate its realisation. The Parish Council will actively seek to maintain dialogue with ICL. Although it is no longer active in Wye on the academic front, ICL is nevertheless a major landowner within the parish.

404. Public Liaison: other institutions of learning

David de Saxe will contact the new Vice-Chancellor of the University of Kent again regarding a meeting. The Parish Council will contact Christchurch Canterbury University for further information/discussions. It was agreed that it is important to keep abreast of the intentions of these institutions with regard to their use of ICL's Wye Campus.

Clerk

The Chairman closed the meeting to allow Dr Mike Copland to speak, and thereafter re-opened it.

405. Public Liaison: to consider a recent communication regarding Phoenix Wye College

According to Dr Copland Phoenix Wye College represents the personal vision of an ex student called Len Budd. At a recent meeting with Mr Budd Mike Copland and other ex-College academics expressed the view that his vision is unrealistic and undeliverable. It was agreed that no action is required by the Parish Council.

406. Public Liaison: to receive a report on the meeting (to discuss the recent Crown Bonfire event) held on Wednesday 21 November

The participants at the meeting on 21 November agreed that a public event should be held early in 2008 to encourage the setting up of a working group of villagers to organize the event next year. Cllr Thake thanked David Traske, Christine Woodman, Richard Boden and the tractor driver for their hard work in making this year's event possible.

407. Public Liaison: Wye Business Association – to receive an update

Ann Sutherland, the Chair of Wye Business Association, has welcomed the suggestion that there should be an official link with the Parish Council via a designated councilor. Cllr Thake has offered to undertake this role. When WBA's has agenda items of interest to the Parish Council then Cllr Thake will be invited to attend the meetings.

408. Public Liaison: Village Hall Management Committee – to receive an update

Cllr Thake will convene a meeting comprising Neighbourhood Watch, Wye Village Hall and Recreation Ground Charity, the Primary School and the Parish Council to discuss security issues in the area of the village hall and school.

409. Communications: to note website progress and agree any further steps

Copies of the Agreement between KCC and the parish council had been given to Cllrs Thake, de Saxe and P Morris in advance of the meeting. Several queries were raised, including sub-paragraph 3.1.2 which mentions only 10 Mb of web space being made available for the parish. The Clerk was asked to clarify this. The Committee agreed to recommend that the Parish Council signs the contract (which should be circulated to all councilors in advance of the next parish council meeting) and that links should be established to the kentparishes website on both wyeweb and, if possible, on wye.org.

Clerk

PC

410. AOB.

Christmas Street Party – Parish Council stall

The clerk summarised the requirements as follows:

- Volunteers are needed to help erect the marquee at 4.00pm
- Councillors will be needed to man the stall from 6pm and then help take the marquee down.
- Cllr Woodford will contact Perry Court for drinks
- The clerk will organise snacks and the treasure hunt competition and co-ordinate general arrangements.

411. To consider the next financial year's budget for public liaison and communications issues

It was agreed that the Public Liaison and Communications committee should recommend the following to the Parish Council:

- The annual parish meeting and report should have their own budget heading next year.
- The amount budgeted for publicity (including public meetings) should be increased as this area of activity is expanding.

412. Date of next meeting

Thursday 24 January 2008

The meeting concluded at 9.30pm