

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SHRIVENHAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE MEMORIAL HALL, SHRIVENHAM, ON MONDAY 7 JANUARY 2008

PRESENT: Councillor R Bartle
Councillor Mrs C Dawson
Councillor Mrs S Day
Councillor K Downton
Councillor C Holman
Councillor S Howell
Councillor Mrs P Mullin
Councillor P Saunders (Chairman)
Councillor S Spencer
Councillor G Tidmarsh
Councillor B Watson

In attendance Mr D Pratt

APOLOGIES: There were none

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND REQUESTS:

Mrs Ware informed the meeting that after 22 months she had received a reply from Thames Valley Police regarding traffic on Station Road. Members were reminded that her original letter had been sent to the Parish Council who had forwarded it to the Police Force. The reply stated an assessment had been carried out which did not justify any further action. Cllr Tidmarsh enquired when the assessment was carried out whilst Cllr Spencer requested a copy of the reply and for this Council to ask about the assessment.

Mr McDonough distributed a draft plan for a possible retirement development on Townsend Road.

1468 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd December were approved and signed.

1469 MATTERS ARISING

Public comments: The Clerk reported that he had noticed policemen checking the vehicle in Church Walk but he had been informed that it was properly taxed and belonged to a local resident. Under these circumstances there was little the Parish Council could do.

1451/1440/1426/1409: Redundant school sign: Cllr Tidmarsh reported that the sign had been removed. Cllr Tidmarsh enquired whether any information regarding the Faringdon Road pinchpoint was available. The Clerk replied not at this time.

1451/1440/1436: Christmas Tree: Cllr Howell proposed that this be removed from future agendas items as the matter was no longer urgent.

1454 Street Cleaning: The Chairman reported that he had not received a reply to his letter to Environmental Health regarding the monitoring of cleaning vehicles attending the village.

1458 Street Cleaning: Mr Beaumont at Oxfordshire County Council had replied to the Clerk's email which stated a drainage engineer would be visiting the village to

assess the situation but repairs to potholes would not be carried out at this time as it was a bad time of year for this type of repair. Cllr Bartle had identified a blocked road drain on the corner of Vicarage Lane and Longcot Road. Cllr Watson had similarly identified the problem and the Clerk was instructed to contact Mr. Beaumont requesting attention and a plan of the road drainage system, with a copy to the County Councillor.

1463 Rubbish Bins: The Football Club's attention had been drawn to the new system of sorting recyclables but members' were informed that glass was not acceptable in these new bins. The Clerk will contact Hill's for further information and also contact the District Council for more recycling boxes purely for glass.

1464 High Street Shops Facades: No reply had been received from the properties identified at the previous meeting.

1466 Coppidthorne Meadow: The Clerk had not had an opportunity to contact the contractor over the Christmas period but hoped to be in a position to do so before the next meeting.

1467 High Street Tree: The District Council's arborist had confirmed that the tree should be removed but was currently not a danger to the public.

1470 ACCOUNTS

The Accounts paid in November and for payment were approved with the addition of.

Post Office	January	Stamps	£24.00	2538
Hill's Waste	Dec	Rubbish Collection	£86.34	2539

1471 BUDGET ESTIMATES 2008/09

Members were circulated with a draft comparison of expenditure for 06/07 and an estimate for 07/08 which after some discussion members adopted.

1472 PRECEPT 2008/2009

Members discussed a possible £2,000 increase over the previous year and it was generally agreed that with the amount of work carried out by this Council and reduction in grants from other bodies, it was necessary to make a modest increase. Cllr Bartle pointed out that the Police rate was usually well above inflation and Cllr Watson was of the opinion that a high level of service was required both in street cleaning terms and maintenance of the Memorial Hall. Cllr Howell noted that any increase in a commercial plan would be questioned as to "what are people obtaining from an increase". Both Cllr Saunders and Cllr Spencer agreed that the Hall maintenance, proposed Recreation Ground extension, additional hedge and tree works, and the High Street lime tree pollarding would severely strain Council's resources. On the proposition of Cllr Mrs Day, seconded by Cllr Mrs Dawson, it was unanimously resolved to increase the precept by £3,000 over last year's precept.

1473 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman drew members' attention to the annual grass cutting tenders due in by the 16th January. Cllrs Day, Tidmarsh and Downton volunteered to be present at the tender opening.

1474 BOWLS CLUB HEDGE

Members were circulated with a proposal to remove the hedge between the car park and the Bowls Club and replace it with a concrete fence. Members were concerned that another “green asset” could possibly be taken away and requested that the District Council arborist give an opinion as to whether there was a better way to stop roots and shoots spreading on to the Bowling Green.

1475 HIGH STREET GREENGROCERS VAN

A letter had been received from Elm Tree Surgery drawing Council’s attention to the greengrocer’s van on the High Street every Tuesday. Whilst the surgery appreciated the availability of fresh produce, in the current position parking spaces for the elderly and infirm were being obstructed. The Clerk reported that he had made contact with both the County and the District Councils neither of whom could claim any authority over this matter. Cllr Saunders believed a street trading licence was required and requested that the District Councillor present make enquiries with the Licensing department.

1476 VILLAGE DINNER

Some members volunteered to assist with the seating plan on Thursday 10th January in order to ensure a suitable mix of diners. Members agreed to a request to distribute a leaflet at the dinner giving information regarding the Heritage society. Councillors were requested to be in attendance on Saturday 12th January at 10.30 am in order to set up the Hall.

1477 PARKING ON HIGHWORTH ROAD

A letter with supporting photographs had been submitted to illustrate the dangerous parking during home matches for Shrivenham Football Club. Cllr Howell reported that he had noticed at least one vehicle entering the Recreation Ground to park. Cllr Bartle was of the opinion that the Club should supply stewards in order to direct vehicles to safer parking areas. Cllr Tidmarsh objected to the sentence in the letter which stated that some cars were exceeding the speed limit when in his opinion all cars exceed the speed limit on that stretch of road. Cllr Howell believed it was a duty of the Club to provide stewards and pointed out that at the Village Fete cones were employed to ensure clear entrances to houses along Highworth Road. The Clerk was instructed to write to the Football Club with regard to this matter.

1478 HIGH STREET LIME TREES POLLARDING

An estimate in the sum of £825 had been received and was accepted for the pollarding of all the High Street lime trees plus the felling and stump grinding of the tree on Elm Tree Square.

1479 AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Cllr Holman had been in touch with Sovereign Housing and had been assured that the District Council’s solicitors were carrying out a final check on the agreement and that as soon as a start date was agreed he would inform members. He further informed members that possible occupants of this development would need to demonstrate a close affiliation to the village. Cllr Mrs Dawson had noted that other villages had written a tight specification in order to ensure that only people with a very close connection would be allowed to occupy the houses. Cllr Holman would enquire as to how this specification would be put into operation and proposed that once site works were commenced Council should invite possible occupants to join the housing list. Cllr Mrs Day pointed out that currently a “bidding system” was in operation to ensure locally connected people were first on the Housing List. Cllr Mrs

Dawson agreed stating that as in other villages with a similar development, the primary criteria insisted an indisputable village connection.

1480 PLANNING MATTERS

The following applications were considered:

20360	15 Manor Close	Erect dwelling	No objections
5532/8	Pennyhooks Farm	Partial demolition of detached barn and rebuild with 2-storey	Objection as the proposal was in open countryside

The following results of planning applications were received

19762/2	Silver Birch house, Northford Close	Revised detached garage scheme	Permit
20248/1	10 Townsend Road	Erect timber office/study	Permit
11340/80	JSCSC	Replace portacabins at swimming pool with permanent changing rooms	Permit
20212	10 Manor Lane	1 st floor bathroom extension above existing ground floor kitchen	Permit

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1481 MARTENS ROAD CAR PARK

Cllr Spencer reported that the access granted to the new housing development exceeded the specifications previously agreed with the resultant loss of parking spaces against the Bowls Club car park. The Clerk was instructed to write to the developer.

1482 VILLAGE PLAN

Councillors welcomed the news from Cllr Howell that a grant submission had been made to ORCC.

The meeting closed at 8.30.