

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SHRIVENHAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE MEMORIAL HALL, SHRIVENHAM, ON MONDAY 4<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 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 Clerk to the Council

**APOLOGIES:** There were none

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS AND REQUESTS:**

Joanna Lambert thanked the Council for supporting her “day of mourning for the vandalism of the Vale”. It was well attended. She stated that both The Times and The Financial Times had stated that there was a 20% addition to all electricity bills to subsidise electricity produced through renewable sources. The turbines need to turn 24 hours a day and when there is insufficient wind they are kept turning by drawing power from the national grid. She was also concerned that the area where the wind farm is situated could be claimed as a brown field site when the life of the turbines is over, which would encourage further development. The Chairman stated that this was unlikely and that an S106 contribution of £100,000 had been lodged with the District Council to ensure removal of the turbines at the end of the 25 years life.

Mrs Painter was concerned that the new fence at the Bowls Club was to be shielded by a hedge. The reason the old hedge had been taken out was that it had become invasive onto the Bowls Green. Cllr Downton reminded members that the District Council's arborist had recommended a beech hedge but that it was purely a recommendation. He thought that clematis planted alongside the fence would provide a softening effect. The Chairman informed Mrs Painter that the final decision was up to the Bowls Club.

### **1483 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> January were approved and signed subject to the following amendments:

Minute 1477 Cllr Tidmarsh objected to the sentence in the letter which stated that “some” change to “all” were exceeding the speed limit when in his opinion “all” change to “some” cars exceed the speed limit on that stretch of road.

### **1484 MATTERS ARISING**

**Public comments:** The Clerk confirmed he had written to the Police seeking further information regarding the traffic survey carried out and that Cllr Mrs Ware had also written on this matter.

**1469/1451 Pinch point.** There had been no reply to the Clerk's letter to the County Council and he informed members that his first letter had been dated 15<sup>th</sup> November. He had followed it up with a second letter at the beginning of January.

**1469/1454 Street Cleaning:** Cllr Howell reported sighting a cleaning machine and the Clerk informed Councillors that the machine had been in the village from 8.30 am to 9.15 am, during which time it had swept the high Street, which had previously been swept by the Handyman. The Chairman was awaiting a cleaning schedule from the district Council.

**1469/1458 Drainage Problems Councillors** Bartle and Watson had attended a meeting with Mark Roberts, Area Engineer for Thames Water. Cllr Watson explained that there was a low level area prone to flooding at the junction of Vicarage Lane and Longcot Road. The Area Engineer had produced a plan showing a culvert running close by along the Longcot Road to the floodwater lagoon. The Area Engineer would look at the culvert to see it was blocked. He had further stated that the July floods were one in a hundred years storm. Drains were normally installed to sustain that amount of water. Having discussed the matter fully with Mr Roberts, he was now sure that the Water Board were responsible for drainage and the County for exterior drain covers and gullies. Cllr Watson will check the capacity of these drains for the one in a hundred years storm effects.

**1469/1463 Rubbish Bins:** The Clerk had contacted Hill's and been informed that they do not provide a Glass Recycling service north of the M4. However, the District Council had provided 2 extra recycling bins for Hall use. Cllr Mrs Day pointed out that the Prince of Wales had recycling bins provided by Thamesdown Recycling. Cllr Spencer reminded members that there was a recycling facility on Martens Road car park and that in his opinion hirers should take glass and bottles to that facility. He also requested that it should be pointed out to Hill's that when we had changed one all purpose bin for a recycling bin, there had been no mention that glass could not be collected.

**1469/1464 High Street Shops Facades:** With regard to the One Stop Shop, Cllr Howell reported that a reply had been received stating there was an interior refurbishment taking place but no plans to repair the outside wall. The letter had also promised that the shop staff would clear the accumulated rubbish at the rear of the shop. Cllr Watson, who regularly passes the shop, would monitor the position regarding this rubbish.

**1469/1467 High Street Tree:** Members had noted that the tree had been felled but decided it would be inappropriate to replace it in the same position. Members would consider a suitable alternative site. The District Council's arborist had confirmed that the tree should be removed but was currently not a danger to the public.

#### **1473 Chairman's Announcements/Grass Cutting Tenders:**

Six tenders had been received:

Atlas	£15,959.00
White Horse Landscaping	£9,505.00
Enterprise (formerly Isis)	£5,905.99
Cabot	£9,946.28
Bawdens	£ 5,853.61
ISS	£14,660.00

The tendering sub-committee recommended awarding the contract to Messrs Bawdens.

**1475 Greengrocer's Van.** Cllr Watson had acted as the Parish Council's representative and had informed the trader that a Street Trading Licence would be required as soon as possible. He had noted that four spaces were being occupied but this had reduced to two. There was still some concern that the Greengrocers van was parked in another area of the High Street. Cllr Watson had been contacted by a concerned parishioner who believed it was unfair for a street trader to set up selling green grocery which would adversely affect the Co-Op shop. The Clerk informed members that there had been three letters of support for the stallholder.

**1481 Martens Road Car Park:** Following the report from Cllr Spencer the Clerk had written to Mr McCabe, the site owner, pointing out that there was insufficient space for car parking. No reply had been received.

#### **1485 ACCOUNTS**

The Accounts paid in December and for payment were approved with the addition of the following:

Post Office	February	100 x 2 <sup>nd</sup> class stamps	£24.00	2552
R M Hobbs	Feb	Bowls Club Fence	£3,705.00	2553
<i>Cheque 2551 was voided because of a mistake and replaced by the following:</i>				
Mrs J Brady	January	Table decorations	£48.00	2554

#### **1486 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Cllr Saunders had met with the Cyberbus organisers and been informed that the bus at 27 years old was beyond repair. A replacement secondhand bus which would last for ten years would cost £100,000 including equipment. In his and a number of other councillors' opinion this was an asset for young people and it would be a pity to lose this mobile facility. He proposed that the Parish Council write to both the District Council and the County Council bringing their attention to this opportunity. Cllr Howell would investigate a supply of equipment.

#### **1487 2009 BURIAL CHARGES**

The Burial Charges with effect from 1 January 2009 will be as follows:

##### **Part 1: EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS OF BURIAL IN EARTHEN GRAVES**

For the exclusive right for a period not exceeding 100 years of burial in a single earthen grave 8 ft by 4 ft:	£200.00
Double dug or with adjacent plot:	£250.00
For the exclusive right of burial of cremated remains in the Garden of Remembrance	£ 35.00

##### **Part 2: INTERMENTS**

For the interment in a grave or vault in respect of which an exclusive right of burial has been purchased:

i) Of the body of a still-born child, or a child whose age at the time of death did not exceed one month:	No charge
ii) Of the body of a child whose age at the time of death exceeded one month but did	£ 90.00

not exceed twelve years:	
iii) Of the body of a person above the age of twelve years:	£115.00
For the interment of cremated remains in a grave or ashes plot in respect of which an exclusive right of burial has been purchased:	£ 75.00

### **Part 3: MONUMENTS, GRAVESTONES, TABLETS AND MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS**

For the right to erect or place on a grave or vault in respect of which an exclusive right of burial has been purchased:

i(a) A headstone not exceeding two ft in height:	£ 75.00
i(b) A headstone exceeding two ft in height:	£ 85.00
ii(a) A vase or memorial not exceeding 1 ft 6 in:	£ 55.00
ii(b) A vase or memorial exceeding 1 ft 6 in:	£ 75.00
iii(a) A memorial slab flush with the surrounding area:	£ 95.00
iii(b) Kerbstone edging not exceeding 4" in height:	£115.00

#### **1488 REQUEST FOR GRANT RIDER CHESHIRE VOLUNTEERS**

Councillors considered a request from this charity but in line with previous policy declined to fund a non-village charity.

#### **1489 STATION ROAD TRAFFIC**

A meeting had been arranged with the police later in the week and Cllr Bartle would attend to represent the Parish Council.

#### **1490 VILLAGE DINNER ACCOUNTS**

The accounts as presented were accepted although Cllr Mrs Dawson informed members that there was one bill outstanding. The Chairman congratulated the May Day committee for their work in organising the event. Some councillors reported that most people seemed to enjoy the Fair Trade wines but there had been some complaints. Cllr Holman praised the caterers. Cllr Spencer requested that the sound and hearing loop system be used at the next event. The Chairman requested that a letter be sent to the May Day committee thanking them for the event and drawing their attention to the various comments.

#### **1491 OTTC Production,**

Members attention was drawn to the OTTC production on 9<sup>th</sup> April of "Ain't Misbehavin". Councillors were urged to publicise the event preferably selling tickets to friends and neighbours.

#### **1492 PARISH COUNCIL OR TOWN COUNCIL**

Councillors were informed that Lechlade had changed from a Parish to a Town Council and as these settlements were of similar size would this Council benefit from a change in status. Members asked for further information before taking a decision.

#### **1493 PLANNING MATTERS**

The following applications were considered:

20400	6 Townsend Road	2 storey rear extension	No Objections
3752/8	Barrington Arms	New extension and improvements to rear elevation	No objections
4982/1	18 Chapelwick Close	Extension	No objections

Correspondence had been received from the owner of Pennyhooks Farmhouse pointing out that the garage rebuilding was not an increase in size. A discussion took place on this matter and members were agreed that any development in open countryside should be opposed.

Cllr Holman informed members that once legal terms had been agreed at the end of February it was hoped that the Affordable Housing would go ahead in April. Hedge work would be carried out before the end of March, the bird nesting season.

The following results of planning applications were received

8379/4	Recreation Ground	Erect four houses	Permit
19762/2	Silver Birch House Northford Close	Detached garage	Permit
20360	Land adjoining 15 Manor close	Erect detached dwelling & garage	Withdrawn
3752/9	Barrington Arms	Demolish outbuildings, erect two storey extension etc	Permit
V14/07	Shrivenham School	Alteration to outbuildings to provide external play area etc.	Permit

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### 1494 Swindon Expansion

Cllr Watson had taken time to read the EIP report recently sent to the Government Minister and gave Council a brief summary. The Panel were mindful to recommend that 12,000 houses be built in Swindon East which would become part of the SW strategy to 2026. Swindon Borough council had objected to a grand total of 34,000 houses for the Borough as there was an objective to build 9,000 houses in the Southern area. A flood risk assessment would be carried out but in his opinion this would not affect the overall numbers of houses to be built. Concerns had been expressed with regard to the current water supply but the report stated that a new reservoir should be built. On the Transport infrastructure, substantial improvements would be required particularly at the 419/420 junctions where a flyover would be required. A new road linking the development to Common Head was also to be considered.

Cllr Watson proposed that the Swindon Expansion be kept as a standard Agenda item as this report would not be available for public comment until after the Secretary of State had made his views known.

Cllr Bartle was disappointed that despite the consortium of villages paying for an Hydrologists' report, it had not been presented. Cllr Saunders agreed pointing out that there plenty of instances where houses had been built on flood plains. Cllr Watson reminded members that the Environment Agency were sympathetic to the flooding issue. Cllr Holman thought it was a nonsense to assume substantial building could take place on a flood plain. Prior to this report, approximately 800 houses per year were built, the new plan called for double that amount. Cllr Watson informed the meeting that the developers were pushing for more than 12,000 houses and that the consortium should be trying to introduce the idea of a Buffer Zone. Cllr Saunders agreed that we could object on principle but in his opinion, the consortium should be negotiating a large Buffer Zone. Cllr Watson reminded councillors that South Marston was

to be kept as a separate Village and not part of the expansion. Cllr Tidmarsh had experienced the consequences of flood plain build in Lechlade where a recent development was continually under water. The Clerk reminded members that the Great Western Community Forest was a cross border body and could perhaps be persuaded to take the lead in the creation of a buffer Zone.

**1495 Commemorative Board:** Cllr Spencer suggested that an Oak board recording the names of past Chairman be purchased and displayed in the Hall. There was general agreement to the suggestion provided the newly formed Heritage Centre from Council records, could research back as far as possible.

**1496 Armed Forces Housing:** Cllr Bartle was anxious that members of the Armed Forces would be eligible for housing, particularly Affordable Housing. In some areas, there was positive discrimination against providing housing for retiring members of the Forces. He approved the tight specification for potential occupiers who must have a Shrivenham connection, but would this include ex armed forces members who perhaps moved away from the Village many years previously. The Chairman stated that the District Council had a policy favouring ex service men and women when it came to housing. Cllr Mrs Day pointed out that potential occupiers must be on the Housing list and that families are classified by their needs. Cllr. Saunders will discuss the matter with the District Council Housing Officer and Cllr. Bartle will compose a letter of support.

**1497 Tree Felling.** Members had their attention drawn to the Tree felling which had taken place behind a property on Station Road. There was some concern that permission would be required and the Clerk was instructed to contact the District Arborist.

**1498 Village Plan** Cllrs welcomed the news from Cllr Howells that the Village Plan Group had been awarded a grant of £2,160 from ORCC to assist in preparing the Village Plan.

The meeting closed at 9pm