

D R A F T

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

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

In attendance Mr D Pratt Clerk to the Council

APOLOGIES: Councillor Mrs C Dawson

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND REQUESTS

Mr McDonough, a regular attender at Council meetings, stated that the letter in the News concerning the right of way on the Recreation Ground was in his opinion entirely inaccurate. He urged Councillors to write a letter to the News repudiating that letter.

1661 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th June were approved and signed.

1662 MATTERS ARISING

1541/1523/1512/1503 Station Road Traffic. No reply to date.

1523/1512/1506 Bus Shelter. Dealt with later in the Minutes.

1525 Vicarage Lane Flooding. Dealt with later in the Minutes.

1542 Speed Reactive sign. The Clerk informed Council that he had reported the fault.

1546 VAT Registration. The Chairman and Cllr Howell will attempt during the summer break to investigate pros and cons of registering for VAT.

1547 Shrivenham United Charities. No reply

1548 Sand Hill telephone box. No reply

1552 Coppidthorne Meadow. The Clerk reported that the picnic benches and seats had been installed.

1554 Affordable Housing. Cllr Tidmarsh reminded members that the preferred name for the development was Glebe Place, not Glebe Close as recorded in the Minutes.

1559 Flood Contingency Plans. The Clerk reported that there had been correspondence between various authorities and he hoped to set up a meeting in the near future. The Chairman and Cllr Watson would represent the Parish Council.

1663 ACCOUNTS

Cheques paid in June and for payment in July were approved.

1664 GOVERNMENT STOCKS

The Council hold Treasury Stock to a value of £4,311.57. The interest paid is 2.75% per annum. On the proposition of Cllr Spencer, seconded by Cllr Downton, it was unanimously resolved to transfer the capital to the Bank of Ireland deposit account.

1665 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The Annual Accounts had been received and were considered. On the proposition of Cllr Spencer, seconded by Cllr Tidmarsh, it was unanimously resolved to accept the accounts prepared by DCK Beavers.

1666 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ATTENDING MEETINGS ON BEHALF OF COUNCIL

Water Resources. Cllr Saunders had attended this recent meeting about the proposed reservoir near Abingdon. Thames Water required this additional facility to provide water supplies for the additional housing required by the Government. The reservoir would serve the new developments in Swindon and parts of the south east. The Secretary of State will consider the proposals but Cllr Saunders believed the District Council would oppose the plans. Cllr Tidmarsh enquired whether any contingency had been made should the decrease in housing demand continue. Cllr Saunders replied that this had not been a factor quoted at the meeting. Cllr Holman enquired how long the reservoir would take to build and was told the proposed start date was 2012 and completion in 2020. Cllr Spencer failed to see how the District Council could oppose a plan from a private utility when it had been proved that additional water storage facilities were required.

NAG Meeting. Cllr Mrs Mullin had attended the meeting and felt there was little of value in the presentation. Key issues, such as speeding, anti-social behaviour and criminal damage had been identified. A request had been made for minutes of the meeting and the next meeting would be 23rd September.

1667 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Allotments. The Chairman and Cllr Downton, together with Mr D Allen, had inspected the allotments. In the main, allotment plots were well cared for but there were a few where little had been done this season. One complaint had been made regarding an entrance to the allotments from the Green. The work carried out was neat and tidy and as the householder had an allotment, it was felt that the gate could stay. Cllr Spencer warned that there could be a future problem regarding Rights of Way and suggested that the entrance be blocked once a year to prove ownership. Cllr Bartle agreed, stating that in the Army it was common place to shut roads for 24 hours where they crossed MOD property. Cllr Tidmarsh pointed out that this was an annual practice at the Methodist church. Mr Avery's allotment had been identified as one of the best kept on the site but he too enjoyed an entrance onto the allotments from his garden.

Their attention had been brought to a plot adjacent to Marten's Road, which appeared to be beyond redemption. They proposed that the area be strimmed and used as a car park. Members endorsed the proposal. In places, the grass cutting had not been carried out to the standard but this was excusable in that rubbish had been dumped against the Bowls Club fence. There was also a quantity of scrap metal at the Townsend Road end of the allotments. All the rubbish had been removed and members were informed that the grass cutting had improved. The Chairman proposed that a policy be formulated for the allotments based partly on the Council's Risk Assessments. Cllrs Downton and Bartle will report back at the September meeting.

Village Roads and Pavements. Together with Cllr Watson, he had met Mr Brian Short, the County Council's area engineer. Marten's Road pavement was, in the opinion of Mr Short, 'acceptable'. There was little he could promise except that the area would be sprayed several times with a weed killer. He had also pointed out that upstands over 25mm were considered non dangerous and the County were confident of success in any compensation claims made against them. The High Street pavement, particularly where water ponds outside the VB homes properties, had been inspected but in the absence of rain no effective conclusion had been reached. Cllr Holman suggested that Cllr Howell would take a photograph of the puddle when he next took his daughter to school at Elm Tree Square.

Vicarage Lane Flooding. Cllr Watson had further discussions with Thames Water and had been informed that the problem was with the gully which was the responsibility of the County Council. This had been reported to Mr Short.

1668 FOUR PARISHES MEETING

It had been sometime since a four parishes meeting had been called. Other Parish Councils were seeking decisions from their Councils whether we should continue with this type of forum. Some members thought there was little merit in continuing whilst Cllr Saunders believed that the Consortium of Villages to fight the Swindon eastward development had largely replaced the four Parishes Forum. Councillors decided to wait until feedback had been received from the three parishes.

1669 BOUNCY CASTLES

Cllr Bartle had been horrified at the small children who had been allowed by their parents to use the giant bouncing slide at the last May Day celebration. A recent press report had highlighted a case where a mother hosting a children’s party had been made liable to pay compensation for an accident on a bouncy castle. He assured members that the May Day Committee would preclude children under five from using the giant bouncy slide and there would also be a height restriction to preclude older, heavier children from using this equipment.

1670 VILLAGE STOCKS

A request had been received to modify the steps at the stocks to allow less able people to access and use the bench. Cllr Watson volunteered to inspect the area and provide a recommendation for the next meeting.

1671 VILLAGE PLAN GROUP

The last meeting had been held some two weeks ago and had been called to consider the draft questionnaire. There were considerable modifications and the Group had agreed to leave distribution until September, when the Scout group would be at full strength and able to deliver the questionnaires.

1672 AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Members noted that the building work continued to progress and was on target for completion this year.

1673

PLANNING MATTERS

The following were considered during June

5740/2	2 Sandy Lane	Erect new dwelling	No objections but concern regarding parking
18552/1	Co-operative Store	Illuminated sign	No Objections

The following planning decisions were received:

4639/2	8A Stallpits Road	Erection of 2 storey extension	No Objections
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Cllr Watson reminded members of the Planning Sub-Committee that they were reaching the time when a new Chairman needed to be voted in. The Chairman undertook to organise a date.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1674 Shoe Recycling.

Council had been contacted by the European Recycling Company to site a bin in the Marten’s Road car park. Collections were made weekly and the condition of the shoes was of no importance as they would be repaired for use in developing countries. It was generally felt that this would complement the Salvation Army clothing bin and members agreed to allow the bin and review its performance in six months.

The meeting finished at 8.40 pm

