

D R A F T

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SHRIVENHAM PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE MEMORIAL HALL, SHRIVENHAM, ON MONDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER 2008**

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

In attendance Mr D Pratt Clerk to the Council

APOLOGIES: Councillors K Downton, P Saunders

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND REQUESTS

RECREATION GROUND PARKING

Mr Hyde asked whether cars should be parked on the Recreation Ground close to the Children's Play Area and said that children could be injured by vehicles entering the ground at speed or by manoeuvring to park. Cllr Mrs Day replied that other than the Village Fete, there should be no parking on the Rec and that letters had been written to the Football Club requiring them to ensure that this practice did not continue. Recently, the Trust had requested a meeting with the Football Club to discuss this matter and other items of concern. Cllr Watson confirmed there were issues concerning parking and noise.

Mr Lloyd speaking on behalf of the Tenants on the Recreation Ground Houses expressed concern that despite a long history of correspondence regarding the state of the track and assurances that the Football Club had been asked to carry out repairs, little had been done to rectify the situation. Tarmac had been spread in some holes during the past 2 months but with insufficient fall to provide drainage, consequently further holes had appeared. The Tenants were also concerned about noise, bad language, intimidation, drunkenness and urinating in public. He pointed out that some residents were elderly and that he felt that this Trust should control the unsavoury aspects of the Club. He suggested that fencing be erected between the two houses by the Play Area to stop vehicles parking. He was not sure how vehicles could be prevented from entering the Rec via the new road without interfering with residents' access. Cllr Mrs Day assured Mr Lloyd that these points would be taken up as soon as a meeting was arranged with the Chairman and Presidents of the Football Club. Mr Lloyd thanked the councillors and asked for a formal response to his letter of the 28th July.

HIGH STREET PAVEMENT

Mr McDonough reported that the pavement had been repaired outside 70/71 High Street but that the pavement edging had not been replaced.

ALLOTMENTS

Mr Lloyd enquired about the "new car park " at the Martens Road entrance. The Chairman explained that Council had been advised that the pernicious weed MaresTail was virtually impossible to eradicate without continuous cutting. It had therefore been decided to strim the plot and use it as a small Car Park for Allotment holders. Cllr Mrs Dawson reminded members that there were issues with vehicles accessing Martens Close and by encouraging vehicles to use the Northern end of the Allotments, the situation could become worse.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th July were approved and signed with the exception of 1667 **Village Roads and Pavements**, which was amended to finish after the word "puddle".

1675 MATTERS ARISING

1662/1523/1512/1503 Station Road Traffic. The Clerk explained that the full circle had been completed and that despite over 2 years of correspondence, the matter was back with County Highways. A meeting was to be arranged between, Lee Turner, Chris Hulme Thames Valley Police and representatives from this Council.

1662/1542 Speed Reactive sign. The sign is now in full operation.

1662/1547 Shrivenham United Charities. The Clerk reported that Mrs Moss had delivered a copy of the United Charities charter which stated that the Parish Council were the Authority for nominating Trustees. Cllr Tidmarsh volunteered to discuss the matter with the Chairman of the Trust, Revd Richard Hancock.

1662/1548 Sand Hill telephone box. No reply

1662/1559 Flood Contingency Plans. Cllr Watson explained that though there had been a problem with the blocked gully, the main reason for flooding is the over topping of the Manhole in the road. According to the Thames Water Engineer, the flow of water has increased because rainwater from dwellings has been diverted illegally into the foul sewer. The Chairman was sure that all villagers shared the concern of the Council over this flooding and the effect on the property on Vicarage Lane. This area is not considered at risk of flooding and he hoped that that problem would be resolved in the near future. Cllr Watson will seek a meeting with the Thames Water Engineer.

1667 Allotments. Cllr. Howell was concerned that allowing the plot by Martens Road to be used as a Car Park would allow other plots to be used inappropriately. Cllr Spencer was of the opinion that "Mares Tail" could be managed if treated with weed killer. He proposed that the Council ensure the plot is cultivated and offered, perhaps on a reduced rent to the next person on the waiting list. Cllr Howell agreed adding that the plot had been most productive. It was agreed that Cllrs Spencer and Bartle would look at this matter.

As Cllrs Downton and Bartle had not been able to meet during the summer recess, it was hoped they would report back to the next Council Meeting.

1668 Four Parishes Meeting. Bourton PC had replied that in their opinion the consortium of local villages was sufficient to keep Parish Councils in touch with each other. In the absence of replies from the other parishes, it was agreed not to hold further Four Parishes meetings until necessary.

1669 Bouncy Castles. Cllr Tidmarsh informed members that the case referred at the last meeting had been won on appeal. Cllr Bartle agreed and re-assured members that the May Day Celebrations would be properly policed to prevent very young children from using the Bouncy Castle.

1670 Village Stocks. Councillor Watson reported back on his findings regarding a disabled access to the seat in the Stocks area. There were two options, a ramp on the north side, or alter the existing steps from two to three. He estimated the cost to be in the region of £500. Cllr Tidmarsh preferred a ramp whilst Cllr Spencer questioned the necessity of an access. It was agreed to leave a decision until such time as the proposed new bus shelter has been installed.

1676 ACCOUNTS

Cheques paid in July and for payment in September were approved. Cllr Mrs Mullin queried the purchase of the photocopier, stating it could be cheaper to rent a machine with an in built maintenance contract. Cllr Holman replied that the photocopier was proving to be a costly maintenance item and that South West copiers had provided this nearly-new machine at a good price.

1677 HEALTH AND SAFETY

Cllr Bartle introduced this item stating that Cllr Watson and he had looked at the Local Council model for Risk Assessment and had tailored it to fit this Council's requirements. The paper in front of Councillors had been reduced to essential headings and provided a format for the staff to check that inspections were regularly undertaken. Cllrs accepted the Risk Analysis with a vote of thanks to Cllrs Bartle and Watson and the Chairman and Clerk signed the Summary,. **The Chairman instructed the Clerk to find information regarding training for Councillors on this issue and other current topics.**

Cllr Mrs Dawson enquired about the Council's public liability insurance and whether it would cover outside events. The Clerk replied that The Trust's insurance covered all public events in the Hall and Recreation Ground and the Council's insurance covered all council sponsored events.

1678 ELM TREE SQUARE BUS STOP

Cllr Tidmarsh, together with Cllrs Downton and Saunders, had met with County Council officers and the Stagecoach Manager to discuss a proposal to move the bus stop and install a bus shelter. Stagecoach and the County Officers were on a tour of Route 66, looking at the safety of passengers stepping from a pavement into the new low-floor buses. The position at the Barrington Arms is that the pavement will be raised and drainage issues addressed. With regard to Elm Tree Square, it was agreed that a possible solution was to enlarge the paved area by the stocks and move the bus stop to this position. A bus shelter could then be sited at right angles to the main pavement area. The Clerk reported that he had met at short notice a County Council officer at Elm Tree Square, who had explained that their engineer was concerned about the parking space of the disabled and that he would prefer to see it moved to the west of the proposed bus stop. A further meeting involving Councillors is to be arranged shortly.

1679 GREEN WASTE

The Clerk explained that the hedge cuttings produced by the village handyman were placed in builders' bags awaiting collection by a local farmer. This method was not totally reliable and he asked Councillors for their assistance. **Cllr Spencer proposed that three bunkers be erected in the allotments for this purpose** but Mrs Mullin did not believe that hedge cuttings were good for producing compost. Cllr Tidmarsh questioned whether the normal brown wheelie bins could provide the answer. The Clerk replied that he had discussed the matter with the District Council who had informed him that Parish Councils were not entitled to this service. However, they have provided information regarding the company used by them for green waste composting. This company do not collect and the District Council are also unable to collect green waste. The Chairman believed that composting on site was the best method but Cllr Tidmarsh pointed out that bunkers could be quite expensive. **Cllr Howell wondered whether this facility could be sited on the plot which had been proposed as a car park. The Chairman proposed that Messrs Downton and Bartle look at this opportunity when they carry out their review of allotment policy.**

The Chairman proposed that the unofficial accesses to the allotments be closed on a regular basis to be entered in the Council's calendar and again Councillors Bartle and Watson will look at this issue.

1680 VILLAGE PLAN GROUP

Cllr Howell had nothing to report.

1681 GRANT FOR OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

The Clerk informed members that the association had five clients in the village and that a £50 grant had been made in the past. After some discussion it was proposed by Cllr Day, seconded by Cllr Bartle and **unanimously resolved to make a grant of £50 to the Oxfordshire Association for the Blind under the Statutory Powers of Section 137.**

1682

PLANNING MATTERS

The following were considered during July and August:

164141	Longcot Road	Erect a dwelling	No objections
15386/1	6 Marten's Close	Extension of	No objections

		conservatory	
17114/1	8 Stainswick Lane	2 storey extension	No objections
20596	2 Townsend Road	2 storey extension	No objections
20599	2 Cowleaze Close	Rear extension	No objections
20248	10 Townsend Road	Timber office	In circulation
8667/1	13 Friars Close	Extension	In circulation
8315/5	Fat Dog	Extension	In circulation

The following planning decisions were received:

5740/2	2 Sandy lane	Erect 2 storey house and garage	PERMIT
18552/1	Co Operative Store	Erect illuminated sign	PERMIT
15386/1	6 Marten's Close	2 storey rear extension and conservatory.	PERMIT
17114/1	8 Stainswick Lane	Demolish garage and erect new 2 storey extension	PERMIT
16414/1	Land to rear and south of Park Avenue	Erect new dwelling and access	Withdrawn
20599	2 Cowleaze Close	Single storey extension	PERMIT

Further to Minute 1673, the Chairman proposed to call a meeting of the sub committee at which Cllr Saunders would give a short presentation on planning matters and the committee would elect a new Chairman.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1683 Pump House Green Pathway

The Clerk reported that the Village Handyman considered the paving slabs to be dangerous. The Chairman had also seen the path and agreed. As the Clerk considered this to be an urgent matter, he had asked for an estimate from Shrivenham Fencing to take up the slabs, remove tree roots as necessary and relay slabs on sharp sand. An estimate had been received in the sum of £320. Cllr Howell proposed that two other estimates be provided and Cllr Spencer proposed that a 3" concrete base be laid once the slabs had been taken out. The Clerk was instructed to obtain three estimates once Cllr Watson had drawn up a specification.

1684 Road Signs

Cllr Spencer had observed that the various village signs and road name signs required cleaning and asked who would be responsible. Whilst the Chairman realised both the County and the District were responsible for various signs, he suggested that Councillors pick out the worst signs and clean them. Cllr Spencer proposed that we approach County Highways to enquire whether they have a road sign cleaning program before undertaking the task ourselves.

1685 High Street Litter

Cllr Mrs Day reported that staff from the hairdressing salon Steventon Reeves were smoking outside the next door barber shop, leaving discarded cigarette butts. The Chairman confirmed this as they have also used the rear of the block to smoke cigarettes. The Clerk was instructed to write to the proprietors drawing their attention to the Litter Act and the ban on smoking adjacent to other premises.

1686 District Council Matters

Cllr Mrs Mullin had been informed that South Oxfordshire and Vale District Council were amalgamating certain services and sharing a CEO. She was concerned that this could affect street cleaning and rubbish collection.

1687 Town Status

Cllr Tidmarsh enquired whether there was any further information regarding a town status for Shrivenham. The Clerk replied that he had contacted ORCC who had stated that there was no advantage and that it was fairly difficult operation. Cllr Spencer understood that Lechlade had found great benefits in becoming a town and the Chairman volunteered to contact Lechlade Town Council for further information.

1688 Swindon Expansion

Cllr Mrs Mullin enquired whether the District Councillors had written to Swindon with their objections to the expansion. The Chairman thought not as the District Council had written voicing their concerns. Cllr Watson added that the consortium of local Parish Councils had also made a separate submission.

1689 Red Rubber Bands

Councillors' attention was brought to the rubber bands discarded by postmen throughout the village. Various suggestions were made regarding dealing with them, including returning them to the main post office. Cllr Spencer was of the opinion that the rubber bands were biodegradable.

The meeting finished at 8.32 pm