

D R A F T

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SHRIVENHAM PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE MEMORIAL HALL, SHRIVENHAM, ON MONDAY 3rd NOVEMBER 2008**

PRESENT:

Councillor Mrs C Dawson
Councillor Mrs S Day
Councillor K Downton
Councillor S Howell
Councillor C Holman (Chairman)
Councillor Mrs P Mullin
Councillors P Saunders
Councillor S Spencer
Councillor B Watson

In attendance Mr D Pratt Clerk to the Council

APOLOGIES: Councillors R Bartle, G Tidmarsh

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND REQUESTS

Mr Jones on behalf of the Village Heritage Centre thanked Council for their support and invited them to inspect the Centre. The Chairman thanked Mr Jones for the invitation and suggested that Councillors could visit the centre prior to the December meeting at 6.50pm.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: At the invitation of Council, Officers of the District Council's Housing Department made a presentation concerning the allocation of Affordable Housing. A number of handouts were passed among Councillors who were pleased to learn that the allocation system favoured those families with strong local connections. Councillors questioned how shared ownership would be allocated and were assured that similar criteria were used. Houses that remained unoccupied under the shared ownership scheme would be allocated for renting. In reply to a question regarding eligibility of Military personnel stationed at the Defence Academy, Lynn Staplehorn replied that under government regulations, military personnel have to prove a residency of between 5 and 8 years. The Chairman thanked them for their attendance at the meeting.

1705 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th October were approved and signed

1706 MATTERS ARISING

1691/1675/1523/1512/1503 Station Road Traffic. This meeting has not taken place, as it has proved difficult to gather all parties together. Early December will seem to be the next possible date.

1691/1675/1662/1559 Floods. Cllr Watson reported that he had now received a response from Thames Water which indicated that the foul water drainage was not adequate to carry the additional flood water generated from the rain water run off generated from new building in the village. He felt that Thames Water should be able to trace which houses are illegally connected and that the District Council Enforcement officers have a duty to see that rain water is piped to either storm water drains or soak aways. The existing drain was unable to cope with water from moderate storms. He would shortly be meeting an occupant of Vicarage Lane to help resolve any further difficulties regarding the installation of a non-return valve. In the long term Thames Water are planning to run a £500 million drainage improvement scheme which may have some impact on Shrivenham but not for at least 10 years. The Chairman thanked Cllr Watson for carrying out the task in such a conscientious manner.

1691/1683 Pump House Green Pathway. Two tenders have been received, Shrivenham Fencing £1,270 and Don Payne General Building Services £1,570. The Tendering Committee had recommended Shrivenham Fencing.

1691/1684 Road Signs. Cllr Saunders reported that both a Sandy Lane and a Vicarage Lane sign had been wrenched from the ground and should be reported to the District Council. Cllr Watson informed the meeting that a number of large vehicles had mistakenly taken Stainswick Lane having been wrongly directed by their satellite navigation system to Stainswick Farm. He requested that a cul-de-sac sign be placed at the junction of Stainswick Lane and Fairthorne Way.

1692 Accounts. Tiscali had been contacted regarding a better price for Broadband connection and had offered a price of approximately £14 per month.

1700 Village Map. The Clerk reported that Cllr Tidmarsh had supplied a stylised village map prepared some years ago by Prof Belk. Copies would be available to anyone who required directions around the village.

1703 Days Ground. The Clerk confirmed that he had re-sent an e-mail regarding the state of the footpath to the Defence Academy.

1707 ACCOUNTS

The accounts were approved with the addition of

SISIS	Oct	Bowling Green Mowing Machine	3172.50	Chq 100086
Stoy Hayward	Oct	Internal Audit	470.00	Chq 100087

1708 EXTERNAL AUDIT

Councillors were circulated with a copy of the External Audit report. It was proposed by Cllr Saunders seconded by Cllr Mrs Day and **resolved** to accept the report with the exception of the increased level of Fidelity Guarantee. The current level of £56,000 was considered sufficient.

1709 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman had attended an open day at the Defence Academy and had found the new buildings most impressive. He understood that the open day programme would be extended in the near future.

1710 COMPUTER SYSTEM

Councillors were informed that the older of the two computers was showing signs of age and there were dangers that records could be lost. A quotation had been received for an IBM system but Cllr Howell felt that there were more up-to-date machines available at similar prices. Cllr Spencer undertook to look into the matter and provide quotations. Cllrs agreed that the Chairman be able to approve a purchase of new equipment provided it did not exceed £400.

1711 PARISH TRANSPORT REPRESENTATIVE

The OALC had asked for the Parish Council to provide one point of contact on Transport issues rather than having to contact the Clerk or the existing Parish Transport Representative. Having consulted with Mr Wade, Shrivenham's current Transport Representative and realising that few Councillors were regular bus users it was agreed that Mr Wade be retained in this capacity.

1712 GREEN WASTE DISPOSAL

Councillors were informed that Messrs Bawdens were charging £10 per bag to collect fallen leaves. This was considered far too expensive and it was agreed that Cllrs Downton and Saunders would look at various sites to use as a compost area. Cllr Watson was of the opinion that any site would have to be well managed, particularly with regard to illegal dumping of non-compostable material

1713 ALLOTMENTS

Copies of the revised allotment agreement were circulated and Cllr Howell queried the criteria for disposing of safe material. Cllr Spencer replied that there were more stringent tests applied to chemicals and, that provided a proprietary brand of weed killer was used there should not be a problem. The question of allotment rents was discussed, as they had not been increased for 3 years. On the proposition of Cllr Spencer seconded by Cllr Downton it was unanimously **resolved** to increase rents by 10% to 11 pence per square metre and the late payment fee increased to 15 pence per square metre.

1714 VILLAGE PLAN GROUP

Cllr Watson informed the meeting that the door-to-door delivery had been successful but because of half term, the collection date had been extended by one week. He was hopeful that there would be a 50% response once the collectors had finished calling.

1715 PLASTIC BAG FREE ZONE

A grant of £1000 was available to encourage villages to become plastic bag free zones. The Chairman was sure that the majority of shoppers now carried their own bags but felt it would be difficult to implement this scheme. Cllr Mrs Day pointed out that many older people went shopping on a regular basis for small amounts and that plastic bags were the most convenient way to carry their shopping home. Cllr Howell proposed that this subject be deferred until the village plan questionnaire had been analysed which would perhaps give an indication whether the scheme would be popular.

1716 PLANNING MATTERS

The following were considered during October

9806/3 LB	18-24 Claypits Lane	Link buildings together and erect bathroom and new back door	No objections
20703	2 Curtis Road	Demolish garage and erect a new garage and kitchen extension	No objections

The following planning decisions were received:

6015/5	13 Vicarage Lane	Demolish existing side extension and erect new 2 storey extension	Permit
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ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1717 Village Handyman

The Clerk read a letter of appreciation from Mrs Moss for the good work carried out by the Village Handyman for the Marten's Trust.

1718 NSPCC

The Clerk read a letter of appreciation from the NSPCC thanking the Council for hiring the hall for their Autumn Fayre. They raised £1,400 during the course of the event.

The meeting finished at 8.35pm.