

## DRAFT

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SHRIVENHAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE MEMORIAL HALL, SHRIVENHAM, ON MONDAY 1st DECEMBER 2008

#### PRESENT:

Councillor Mrs S Day  
Councillor K Downton  
Councillor S Howell  
Councillor C Holman (Chairman)  
Councillor Mrs P Mullin  
Councillor S Spencer  
Councillor G Tidmarsh  
Councillor B Watson

In attendance Mr D Pratt Clerk to the Council

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors R Bartle , Mrs C Dawson, P Saunders

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS AND REQUESTS

Mr Maley informed the meeting that there had been a recent spate of burglaries in the village, two in the street where he resides. He urged Councillors to seek a higher level of policing and request TVP to take a greater interest in the village. The Chairman replied that the Council's concerns were similar and anyone who has been burgled or suspected an attempted burglary should report the matter directly to the Police. There was no reason to believe that Crime figures were down, as it was only reported crime that was decreasing. He proposed that our local policeman be invited to the next Council meeting.

Mr McDonough reported that several of the newly laid slabs across Pumphouse Green were loose. The Clerk had previously noted this and informed the Contractor.

The Chairman of Chestnut Trees Pre-school informed the meeting that the Pre-school celebrated 40 years next year. He requested that the Council and Trust consider ways in which this event could be celebrated. Additionally, the School were aware of Government grants available to build a sheltered area for outside play. This was a Trust matter and would be discussed under AOB at the Trust meeting.

#### 1719 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd November were approved and signed with the following amendment:

**1715: PLASTIC BAG FREE ZONE.** *3<sup>RD</sup> sentence to read: Cllr Mrs Day pointed out that some older villagers may forget to take re-cyclable bags when shopping and that plastic bags were the most convenient way to carry their shopping home.*

#### 1720 MATTERS ARISING

**1706/1691/1675/1523/1512/1503 Station Road Traffic.** A meeting had taken place that day and would be reported later in the meeting.

**1706/1691/1675/1662/1559 Floods.** Cllr Watson was continuing to pursue the problem on Vicarage Lane with the various authorities. He had received correspondence from the County giving details about the formation of Community Flood Groups. In his view this would not be beneficial as Village flooding was localised in small pockets. Councillors agreed with his view and the Chairman thanked him for the amount of work he had put into this problem.

**1706/1691/1684 Road Signs.** The Clerk confirmed that he had reported the road name signs and requested a Cul-de sac sign for Stainswick Lane.

**1706/1703 Days Ground.** The Clerk had recently telephoned the Estates department to report an unlit street lamp and reminded them about the litter problem.

**1710 COMPUTER.** The new computer had been installed but did not have the facility to install Windows XP. Cllr Spencer was of the opinion that this facility could be installed and undertook to investigate the issue.

**1711 TRANSPORT REPRESENTATIVE:** The Clerk confirmed that Mr Wade had accepted the role of Transport Representative and the County had been informed.

**1713 ALLOTMENTS.** The Clerk reported that a few potential allotment holders had been offered Plot 18a (previously earmarked as car parking space) but had declined the plot because of the infestation of Mare's Tail. Cllr Spencer reiterated that Mare's Tail was controllable provided the plot was dug regularly or sprayed with a weedkiller in July. Cllr Downton was not convinced and it was agreed to continue to offer the plot but to ensure that the plot was strimmed once regrowth had occurred in the spring.

#### **1721 ACCOUNTS**

The accounts and payments for November were approved

#### **1722 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ATTENDING MEETINGS ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL**

Cllr Downton had attended a NAG meeting at which he had learned that the Village was suffering from a drug problem which may have been imported from Lambourn, where the substance is used to treat horses. They also discussed the problems of speeding traffic which will be monitored by police over the next few months.

The Chairman had attended the Defence Academy local liaison committee at which concern had been expressed regarding traffic queues at the pinch point on Faringdon Road. The Chairman had explained that there are insufficient funds to reinstate the road and that in the opinion of the Parish Council it served a useful purpose. Cllr Mrs Day expressed the opinion that Defence Academy staff should stop using the High Street as a thoroughfare. The only reason she could see was that there were traffic queues at both ends of the college during the morning rush. There were also concerns regarding the Defence Academy's address using the county of Wiltshire rather than Oxfordshire and the Chairman will raise this at his next meeting.

The Chairman had attended a meeting with District Councillor Mrs Ware and representatives from the highways authority and the Police. Members were circulated with a memorandum from Mrs Ware detailing the result of that meeting.

#### **1723 INTERIM AUDIT REPORT**

Councillors accepted the recommendations but will seek an estimate to increase the Public Liability insurance to £10 million and to ensure that the appropriate entries in relation to the transfer of funds between accounts are correctly processed.

## **1724 ESTIMATES AND PRECEPT**

The estimates for income and expenditure were considered and on the proposition of Cllr Watson, seconded by Cllr Spencer, it was unanimously resolved to accept the estimates as presented and to hold the current precept at £42,000.

## **1725 CEMETERY CHARGES**

On the proposition of Cllr Tidmarsh, seconded by Cllr Mrs Day, it was unanimously resolved not to increase the cemetery charges for the year 2010/2011 but to charge £200 for each plot, whether or not adjacent or purchased at the same time. The charge for a double dug plot remains at £250.

## **1726 PARISH ASSEMBLY DATE**

Councillors unanimously resolved to alter the provisional date for the Parish Assembly from Wed 20<sup>th</sup> May to Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30 pm.

## **1727 CHRISTMAS OFFICE HOURS**

It was unanimously resolved to close the office from Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> December until Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January.

## **1728 GRANT FUNDING - SOUTH AND VALE CARERS**

The Chairman declared an interest in this item. On the proposition of Cllr Mrs Day, seconded by Cllr Spencer, it was unanimously resolved to donate £50 under the powers of S137 to South and Vale Carers.

## **1729 GRANT FUNDING TO CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU, ABINGDON.**

It was generally agreed that the majority of parishioners look towards Swindon for advice rather than Abingdon, and on the proposition of Cllr Mrs Day, seconded by Cllr Tidmarsh, it was unanimously resolved not to provide funding.

## **1730 CANAL POCKET PARK**

A request was received to include the Pocket Park within the Council's annual grass cutting schedule. Councillors were unable to reach a decision without a quotation for this possible additional cost. Cllr Tidmarsh proposed that once this information was received, the Canal Group should be asked to make a contribution towards the cost.

## **1731 AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

District Councillor Mrs Ware was invited by the Chairman to address the meeting. She was pleased to report that there had been some reduction in the rentals and for the Shared Ownership scheme. It was anticipated that further reductions could be forthcoming once further discussions had taken place between the authority and Sovereign Housing.

Cllr Spencer was concerned that the shared ownership scheme could be under-subscribed and proposed that these properties be offered for renting. The Chairman was sure this was not possible as it was outside the rules of the Housing Corporation, which stated that a certain percentage had to be shared ownership. Cllr Mrs Day informed the meeting that 38 people had registered interest in the three-bedroomed property and that there had been 65 applicants for the seven shared ownership properties. The Chairman proposed that Council review the position regarding shared ownership/rental at the February meeting. He also proposed that Council organise an opening ceremony. Cllr Spencer suggested that a village-

wide invitation be extended for some time in the middle of January. Cllr Mrs Day did not believe this was a good idea as the interior of the houses were complete and she was sure the builders would not want muddy feet traipsing over newly laid carpets. Cllr Tidmarsh proposed that the Bishop of Reading be invited to open the estate as it had been Glebe land.

### **1732 PROPOSED KEBAB VAN**

Considerable opposition to this proposal had been communicated to Councillors and Cllr Saunders would represent the Parish Council at the Licensing Committee on 2<sup>nd</sup> December. The Chairman pointed out that a great portion of the opposition was presumptive and this would not be taken into account by the Licensing Committee. **Mention had been made in some of the letters to a bye-law and the Clerk undertook to investigate.**

### **1733 PLASTIC BAG FREE ZONE**

This item was deferred until the February meeting, as the village plan results were not available. It was pointed out that the grant available for this scheme finished on 11<sup>th</sup> December but Councillors were hopeful further grants would become available during the course of next year.

### **1734 PLANNING MATTERS**

The following were considered during November

011108	Land to the west of Stainswick Lane	Detailed application for 3 houses.	No objections
190802/-X	Land north of Sandy Lane	Approved matters 9 houses	No objections
20360	15 Manor Close	Erect 2 dwellings	In circulation
18087	21 Manor Lane	New door, windows, etc	In circulation

The following planning decisions were received:

13487	40 High Street	Conversion of store to outside WC and shower room	PERMIT
8379/5	Recreation Ground	Erect 2-bed dwelling	PERMIT
9806/3	18/24 Claypits Lane	Link to create 1 dwelling	PERMIT

Cllr Tidmarsh pointed out that an application for dormer windows to a house on Highworth Road no longer needed permission as this was deemed permitted development. However, the Swindon Planning Authority took a different view and it may be that the Vale's view may change in the future.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **1735 REFUSE COLLECTION, THE GREEN**

Cllr Watson enquired whether the District Council had looked into the problem of accumulated rubbish sacks on this small estate. The Clerk had been informed that the Waste Disposal Officer had been inspecting the site that day.

## 1736 GREEN WASTE RECYCLING

Cllr Downton and Cllr Saunders had not identified a suitable composting site but it was understood that Mr Gay would provide a service of collection. Cllr Mrs Day was concerned that this had been the original understanding but in the past there had been collection problems. Cllr Downton had been informed that Messrs Shrevenham Fencing would collect the re-cycling bags and deliver to a suitable site at a cost of £10 per collection. **The Clerk undertook to contact Mr Gay and discuss the matter further.**

The Chairman thanked Councillors and Staff for their hard work during the year and wished them a good Christmas.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm