

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SHRIVENHAM PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE MEMORIAL HALL, SHRIVENHAM
ON MONDAY 5th JANUARY 2009**

PRESENT:

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

In attendance Mr D Pratt Clerk to the Council

1737 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 1st December were approved and signed.

1738 MATTERS ARISING

1720/1706/1691/1675/1523/1512/1503 Station Road Traffic. The Chairman reported that a traffic survey would shortly take place over a 5 day period and that he was hopeful that white chevrons and a gateway wall would be provided by the Highways Authority.

1720/1706/1691/1684 Road Signs. Councillor Tidmarsh was concerned that the requested road signs had, as yet, not been installed.

1720/1710 COMPUTER. It was agreed that the staff would continue to familiarise themselves with the currently installed Vista system.

1732 KEBAB VAN. The Clerk confirmed that the only Byelaw affecting trading in the High Street was a District Council Byelaw prohibiting unlicensed traders.

1735 REFUSE COLLECTION , THE GREEN. The District Council Refuse Officer had visited The Green and seen the problem at first hand. As a first step, letters would be sent to residents requiring them not to put out rubbish for collection prior to Sunday evening. In the event that the letters have no effect, the Officer will review the situation regarding a central collection point.

1736 GREEN WASTE RECYCLING. The Clerk had been in contact with Mr Gay and an arrangement regarding the collection of leaves had been agreed.

1739 ACCOUNTS

The accounts and payments for December were approved.

1740 COUNCIL PUBLICATION SCHEME.

On the proposition of Cllr Spencer, seconded by Cllr Bartle, and with the addition of the Village Plan to the Web Site, the Draft Publication was unanimously approved.

1741 PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE.

On the proposition of Cllr Downton seconded by Cllr Spencer it was **resolved** to increase the Public Liability Insurance cover from £5 million to £10 million.

1742 HIGH STREET TRADING.

Cllr Saunders provided copies of the District Council's Paper on Street Trading. He explained the difference between prohibited and consent streets under the 1980 Act, adding that Councillors should take this information into consideration prior to making a decision. He believed that if the High Street were made a prohibited trading area, charities such as the Scouts would need to obtain a licence before carrying out events involving sale of goods. Questions were raised regarding the effect on a Greengrocer who had previously traded from the High street as well as the Kebab Van. Cllr Saunders replied that their existing licences would be rescinded. Cllr Spencer was concerned that making the High Street a prohibited area was a step too far, whilst Cllr Howell reminded members, of the opposition voiced from Residents and Businesses.

Cllr Saunders clarified that a prohibition order would effectively cover the High Street, Townsend Road and the side streets and could easily be re-classified to a consent order should future Councils wish to change the order. Cllr Howell was of the opinion that serious Traders unable to use the High Street would seek to use the Memorial Hall. On the proposition of Cllr Howell, seconded by Cllr Watson, it was **resolved** by a majority of 9 to 2 that the Council move to prohibit street trading on the High Street, Townsend Road and the side Streets.

1743 BBOWT MEMBERSHIP.

Council currently support BBOWT with annual group membership of £46.00. Councillors debated the merits of continuing membership bearing in mind the Trust's Tuckmill Nature Reserve on Pennyhooks Lane. Several councillors were unaware of the Nature Reserve and proposed that it should be brought to Parishioners attention through articles in the "News". Cllr Mrs Dawson proposed that information and a location Map be added to Village Web site. On the proposition of Cllr Spencer seconded by Cllr Tidmarsh it was **resolved** to continue with the annual subscription.

1744 PLASTIC BAG FREE ZONE

This item had been deferred from previous meetings awaiting the results of the Village Plan survey. The Survey results are still awaited but Councillors decided to debate the issue at the meeting. Cllr Spencer was of the opinion that this was a business decision. Cllr Bartle had found out that the Co-op were in favour of phasing out Plastic Bags and were encouraging shoppers to bring their own bags. Cllr Watson informed the meeting that the "One Stop Shop" gave out Plastic bags to carry away News Papers. Cllr Bartle proposed that information be sought from Villages where this project had been carried out successfully. Cllr Mrs Day was concerned that elderly shoppers would have difficulty in remembering to take their own shopping Bags. Cllr Saunders suggested that Paper Bags would be more environmentally friendly. Cllr Howell reminded members that grants could be available to encourage Traders to become Plastic Bag free but that this was not enforceable. The Chairman observed that in his experience over the past two years, more and more shoppers were taking their own bags. Cllr Spencer was in favour of people taking their own decisions. On the proposition of Cllr Tidmarsh, it was unanimously agreed to release the following statement; "that the Parish Council welcomes the increasing trend within the Village to reduce the use of Plastic Bags (for local shopping) and would encourage this trend to continue to further reduce such use".

1745 REQUEST FOR GRANT AID OXFORDSHIRE VICTIM SUPPORT

Cllr Saunders reminded members that the Council received many requests and that as the custodians of the Village Precept, they should be sure that these organisations were of benefit to the Village community. Cllr Bartle had family experience of this organisation and was not impressed with their operation. It was unanimously decided not to support this Charity.

1746 DISTRICT COUNCIL CORE STRATEGY MEETING

The following members were nominated to attend the above meeting on the 22nd January: Cllrs Holman, Saunders and Tidmarsh.

1747 PLANNING MATTERS

The following were considered during December:

16414	Longcot Road/ Park Avenue	Erect dwelling	In circulation
4775/2	22 Stainswick Lane	Rear Extension	In circulation

The following planning decisions were received:

20703	2 Curtis Road	Demolish garage and erect new + extension to form new kitchen	PERMITTED
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Cllr Mrs Day reported that steps had now been constructed on Longcot Road to give access to the new dwelling on Park Avenue. Having previously enquired with the enforcement officer she had been told that this entrance was purely for the provision of services. Cllr Spencer asked whether we should insist on double yellow lines to prevent parking on this dangerous bend. Cllr Saunders proposed that the enforcement officer be informed of the situation pointing out parking was taking place on this road by visitors to the property.

Cllr Saunders was concerned that the Planning Return slips sent by the Planning Subcommittee to the District Council were inadequate. He believed that the Committee should make a recommendation for refusal or permission in addition to their comment to Objection or Non Objection. Cllr Tidmarsh welcomed this information and would arrange for Cllr Saunders to make a presentation to the Planning Sub Committee.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1748 GRASS CUTTING TENDERS

The following were nominated to open the Grass Cutting Tenders on Thursday 22nd January at 10.30: Cllrs Saunders, Downton, and Tidmarsh.

1749 BUS STOP MARKINGS

Following a letter from the County Council regarding the proposal to road mark Bus Stops at Elm Tree Square, Councillors unanimously agreed to reject the proposal.

1750 BOLLARDS OPPOSITE THE CO-OP ON THE HIGH STREET

Cllr Spencer was concerned that the current mis-matched bollards protecting the thatched roofs of the cottages were not in keeping and requested that, bearing in mind this was a Conservation Area, the County be asked to provide more appropriate bollards.

1751 GRAFFITI

Cllr Howell reported that there had been a spate of graffiti on several local roads on the morning of New Year's Day. The matter is to be reported to the Police and to the County Council.

1752 BUGS ALLEY

Cllr Tidmarsh reported that there is a lack of illumination along this well used path between Manor Lane and the Church. It was agreed to report the matter to the County.

1753 AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Cllr Saunders had received a letter from a parishioner concerning the way the allocation of the houses was being undertaken by the District Council. There were a number of points in the letter which required answering. Cllr Holman proposed that an edited version of the letter be sent to the News but also felt the Housing Officer should be re-invited to address the next meeting of the Council to explain how the allocation had been decided. He was also of the opinion that as the housing had been over-subscribed that Council should look for additional sites for affordable housing in the near future. Cllr Dawson agreed stating that this was a long term issue and that the balance between the various types of housing had not been right.

The Meeting closed at 8.33 pm.