

## PARISH ASSEMBLY 16 MAY 2008-05-20

PRESENT: Cllrs Tidmarsh (Chairman), Sarah Day, Peter Saunders, Bjorn Watson, District Councillor Elaine Ware, CPSO Pack (Thames Valley Police), Ian Jones (Village Plan Group), Mrs V Moss (Shrivenham United Charities), Mrs Disney (Shrivenham School), David Ions (Fete Committee), Helen Harding (News), Nigel Tucker (Cricket Club), Dr Crocket (Elm Tree Surgery & Tennis Club), John Lloyd VB Homes Trust & Gardening Club)

22 Parishioners

1. **Apologies:** Cllrs Bartle, Dawson, Downton, Holman, Howell, Mullin, Spencer, County Councillor Anda Fitzgerald O'Connor, Revd. Hancock, Alan Norris (Canal Trust), Football Club,

The Chairman welcomed everyone and apologised for the confusion concerning the start time for the meeting.

2. **Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2007 were approved as a true record.

3. **Matters arising**

The Clerk pointed out that the proposed 5 years business plan had been shelved pending the recommendations of the newly formed Village plan group

The Chairman expressed disappointment that the repairs requested for the Longcott Road surface had not been carried out.

4. **Report from Thames Valley Police:**

The Chairman allowed this presentation to be brought forward as PCSO Pack had to leave the meeting early. The report is attached at Appendix 1. CPSO Pack referred to the previous minutes where complaints had been made about the lack of evening policing. This situation had now been resolved with a number of patrols carried out between 10pm and midnight and between 3am and 4am. The question of speeding motorcycles was raised and CPSO Pack asked for registration numbers to be collected or to identify the riders. The Police were now using a mobile automatic plates recognition vehicle which was able to trace owners of vehicles at very short notice.

Those present endorsed a vote of thanks to CPSO Pack for the improvement to the Village Policing.

## **5 Annual Report of the Parish Council:**

Cllr Saunders, last years Chairman, gave the report on the years activities. He had enjoyed being Chairman for the past 5 years and paid tribute to his colleagues who had worked along side him. The West of Vale group consisting of 9 Parish Councils had set up a fund to fight the Swindon East expansion. The Council had contributed £2,000 part of which was to used to pay for a Barrister to attend the Examination in Public. The Barrister had given his services free, claiming expenses only. The Swindon Core strategy had not been formulated and he was hopeful that the group would be able to influence the decisions particularly with regard to establishing a buffer zone between the proposed expansion and the Oxfordshire border.

The Martens Road pavement seems to be no nearer to a satisfactory conclusion. The latest correspondence states that some work will be carried out at the end of the summer. Rail track continue to send heavy traffic along Fairthorne Way to access the railway at the bottom of Stainswick Lane. Despite a protracted correspondence, we have been unable to persuade them to use the southern side of the track.

During the year, we were authorised to remove illegal road signs. We will treat posters for local events with leniency but would appreciate information regarding other roadside signs etc.

We have had some success in persuading a number of High Street Businesses to smarten up their frontages.

The new Web site has proved popular and we must thank Simon Howell for his efforts in establishing this facility.

The Council gave £300 towards the Village Heritage Centre, which will be established, in the Memorial Hall.

The Station Road traffic problem has not been resolved, despite correspondence between the Thames Valley Police Traffic Dept and ourselves. It took a year for a reply to be received and then they had no knowledge of our traffic survey. A copy of the survey was sent to rectify the situation.

Street Cleaning has been very much to the fore and at last we have a schedule of when and where the District Council will sweep our roads. We will be able to monitor this service and alert the Cleansing dept should the sweeper not arrive on the scheduled day. The floods in July caused major traffic problems this needs planning for future occurrences and a stock of Diversion signs kept in the village. A number of concerned villages spent time diverting traffic onto the Lambourn Road. PCSO Pack was optimistic that this problem would be sorted out before the next serious diversion.

In answer to a question regarding re-planting the trees blown down in the storm, Cllr Saunders replied that the Vale Arborist would shortly be giving advice as to the best types of tree to replant.

There was some concern regarding traffic generated by the Affordable housing development on Stainswick Lane. The Chairman assured the meeting that he would shortly be meeting the site manager when this would be raised.

## **6 Council Financial Report:**

Cllr Mrs Day presented the unaudited statement of Income and Expenditure highlighting areas where there were overspends. In the light of new legislation, the amount of Parish Council work in recent years has more than doubled. Such items as Health and Safety and Risk assessments have increased the time spent in Administration. A similar picture emerges with the lighter touch Audit arrangements, which now require two Audits. A Parishioner questioned why this year's precept had risen by seven and a half per cent, the highest increase after Faringdon in the Vale. He also questioned whether the Trust would repay the money granted to them by the Parish Council to meet Staff Pay. Cllr Saunders agreed there was a need to inform Parishioners why increases were required and stated that this year, additional trees required felling and the proposed Recreation Ground extension would cost around £80,000 of which the Parish Council would need to pay a minimum of £10,000. Cllr. Mrs Day stated that the repayment to the Parish Council was a matter for the Council to decide.

## **7. Report of the Planning Sub-committee.**

Attached at appendix.2

Mr Allen enquired whether the Barrington Arms site could be developed for Sheltered Housing. The Building was deserted and deteriorating and he understood there were financial problems with the owning company. PCSO Pack had been informed that there was a permanent Caretaker on site it was also noted that the Village Plan Group (VPG) would be considering sheltered housing in the future.

## **8. May Day Sub Committee:**

In the absence of Richard Bartle, a report was read by Mrs Edna Day attached at Appendix 3

There were no questions but the meeting were most appreciative of the Committee's efforts.

## **9 Report of the Viscountess Barrington's Memorial Hall and Recreation ground Trust;**

The report is attached at Appendix.4

Questions were asked about remounting Pictures in the Small hall, Cllr Mrs Day answered that this would be receiving attention once the Heritage centre had made decisions regarding a permanent exhibition.

The need for the Recreation Ground extension was raised and answered by explaining that there was a shortage of space for games and other activities. It would safeguard the land against further development.

**10 Report from the Village Plan group.**

In the absence of the Chairman, the report was presented by Mr Ian Jones and is attached at Appendix 5.

**11 Report from County Councillor**

In the absence of the County Councillor, the report was read by Cllr. Peter Saunders and is attached as Appendix 6.

**12 Report of District Councillors Mrs. Elaine Ware.**

The report is attached as Appendix 7.

There were a number of complaints regarding the loud Music played at the Prince of Wales Public House during the May Day Bank Holiday weekend. Cllr Saunders pointed out that anyone could contact the vale Environmental Health Officer to have sound levels measured. Should the Noise be beyond safety levels, the Officer can order the Music to cease.

**13 Shrivenham united Charities.**

Report attached at Appendix 8

**14 Shrivenham School**

Report attached at Appendix.9

In reply to a question regarding staffing the Nursery and after school Clubs, Mrs Disney replied that the Watchfield Play Group would be running the enterprise.

**15 Shrivenham Fete Committee**

Report attached at Appendix 10

Mrs Day asked the Fete Committee to extend the Christmas Street Lighting to the eastern end of the village.

**16 The News.**

Report attached at Appendix 11.

**17 Shrivenham Cricket Club**

Report attached at Appendix 12.

### **18 Shrivenham Tennis club**

Report attached at Appendix 13

### **19 Elm Tree Surgery**

Report attached at appendix 14.

Government policy was leaning towards larger Surgeries which the PCT would be required to fund and build. Dr Crockett reminded the meeting that the out of hours service was provided by the PCT not the Surgery.

### **20 Viscountess Barrington's HomesTrust.**

The report is attached at Appendix 15

Mr Jones asked how badly the Trust had been affected by paying the Recreation Ground Trust to close the existing Access road. Mr Lloyd replied that they were unable to refurbish 2 properties.

### **21 AOB**

Mr Bantoft enquired about the proposed Bus Shelter on Elm Tree Square and was assured that the Council were only exploring the possibility. Should the Council agree to erect a Shelter, it would need careful siting.

A vote of thanks was given to PCSO Pack for her work in the community and to the Parish Council for organising the meeting