

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SHRIVENHAM PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE MEMORIAL HALL, SHRIVENHAM  
ON MONDAY 6<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2009**

**PRESENT:** Councillor R Bartle  
Councillor Mrs S Day  
Councillor K Downton  
Councillor C Holman (Chairman)  
Councillor S Howell  
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

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor Mrs C Dawson

**PUBLIC COMMENTS AND REQUESTS:**

Mr Dudley brought Council's attention to the state of the pavement between Colton Road and Rhymes House where the path becomes overgrown and tree branches cause people to walk in the road. Cllr Spencer agreed stating that the pavement used to run as far as Swanhill Farm but that it is now completely overgrown.

**1785 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March were approved and signed.

**1786 MATTERS ARISING**

**Public comments and Requests:** no reply from Tesco ref One Stop Shop.

**1767/1756/1740 Council Publication Scheme.** Now installed on the website.

**1767/1756/1747 Planning Matters, Longcot Road, pedestrian access and associated parking.** No further communication on this matter.

**1767/1756/1750 Bollards opposite Co-op Shop.** Confirmation of receipt of letter and it was noted that contractors were working there during the day.

**1767/1756/1752 Bugs Alley Lighting.** No further communication on this matter

**1767/1749 Bus Stop Markings.** The work has been carried out, although it is still possible to see the lettering.

**1781. Speed Reactive Sign.** The sign has been inspected and will have a new fuse fitted but, if this does not cure the fault, the manufacturer will be contacted by the County Council.

**1782 Highways.** The faults were reported to the County Highways Dept and confirmation of receipt received.

**1787 ACCOUNTS**

The accounts and payments for March were approved.

**1788 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ATTENDING MEETINGS ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL**

Cllr Saunders had attended the Western Vale Area Forum and warned that the Street Cleaning Grant may no longer be available if stringent cuts are carried out. Other grants may go before the Council Executive rather than being put before the Forum. He suggested that should the Forum be disbanded, the Parish Council consider writing to the District stating their displeasure at this proposed action.

## **1789 CHAIRMAN'S ANOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman had attended the recent Liaison Meeting at the Defence Academy and was pleased to report that the Academy would be changing their address from Wiltshire to Oxfordshire.

## **1790 COUNCIL EXPENDITURE**

Councillors were previously circulated with a report highlighting the recommended increase by the NALC for administrative staff. It was proposed by Cllr Spencer, seconded by Cllr Bartle, and **resolved** that the recommended increase of 2p per hour be implemented with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008. With regard to the pay for the Village Handyman, Cllr Saunders pointed out that the current hourly rate of £8.15 was the highest pay rate in the west of the Vale, the average pay was approx £6.00 per hour. Cllr Tidmarsh pointed out that the local government sector pay increase had been set at 1.75%. The Chairman proposed that in this period of restraint, a sub-committee be set up to look at all Council's expenditure and to review the Handyman's pay. The committee will be made up of Chairman, Vice Chairman and Councillors Day, Bartle and Howell.

## **1791 KEBAB VAN**

**The** Chairman apologised in advance that he would be unable to attend the Licensing committee meeting but Cllr Tidmarsh would attend in his place. Cllr Saunders and possibly Cllr Howell will also be attending the meeting to represent the Parish Council's views. The Chairman asked whether the District Council would be reviewing their street trading policy and Cllr Saunders replied that it would be reviewed during this year. He also pointed out that in the neighbouring Borough of Swindon, mobile catering vans were not allowed within 200 yards of a dwelling.

## **1792 AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

Cllr Mrs Day informed the meeting that following a telephone conversation with Mrs Nelson at the Vale Housing Association, she had been informed that the previously shared-ownership houses had not yet been advertised on a letting basis. Cllr Spencer believed that because of the change from shared ownership to rental, additional Government money was required and this would take some time. Cllr Saunders had been informed that this process would take approximately two weeks. The Chairman reported that his recent visit to Glebe Close had reinforced his view that the development was of good quality and layout, and an asset to the village.

## **1793 BUS SHELTER**

Cllr Downton was dismayed to see that a single sided shelter had been erected and that it faced the predominant south-westerly winds and would not give shelter. He had been led to believe that the shelter would be similar to the existing shelter at the Barrington Arms and that there had been no consultation prior to this shelter being erected. Cllr Bartle was concerned on safety grounds that there was now a gap between the newly laid base and the stocks. Cllr Spencer reminded the meeting that it was situated in a conservation area and he would have expected to see a more sympathetic design. The Clerk, had notified the County Council that the shelter was wrongly positioned, had been informed that the shelter would be reversed in the very near future. Cllr Bartle proposed that the County Council be informed of the dangers of the gap and be asked to rectify the situation.

## **1794 ADDITIONAL STREET LIGHTING, TOWNSEND ROAD**

A letter from a Parishioner had been sent to the County Council street lighting department requesting an additional light close to the allotments on Townsend Road. The County had replied that they did not have funds to carry out this work and had passed the request to the Parish Council. Cllr Mrs Mullin stated that she agreed with the request as she frequently had to walk in the road because of the poor lighting. The installation cost involved was £2373.95 + VAT but Councillors were of the opinion that as this was the first time a request had been made, they should await to see if there was further demand.

With regard to the overgrown hedge and trees, which were also mentioned in the letter, Cllr Downton will inspect and arrange to have any work carried out prior to the next meeting.

#### **1795 TIMED STREET LIGHTING**

The County Street Lighting dept had written seeking the views of Council regarding switching off street lights between the hours of 12.30 am and 5.30 am. There would be a cost saving and a Carbon Footprint saving. Council were asked whether to switch off all the lights or to nominate those lights which they believe would be suitable. A number of views were expressed regarding security versus light pollution and whether Council should have a village-wide consultation. Cllr Tidmarsh pointed out that Longcot had decided not to install street lighting and the Chairman stated that timers were cheap to install and could easily be deactivated. Cllr Tidmarsh suggested that villagers might be consulted before reaching a decision. Cllr Bartle was of the opinion that taking a census of people attending the Parish Assembly would not be a representative vote. Cllr Mrs Mullin was concerned that elderly people would not venture out once street lights were turned off. Councillors agreed to bring villagers' attention to this matter in the Parish Jottings, giving the various options such as: a complete switch off, every other lamp, or certain areas being blacked out.

#### **1796 VILLAGE CLOCK**

The Chairman declared an interest in this item as he is a member of the Parochial Church Council. Council had received a request regarding the refurbishment of the clock face whilst scaffolding was erected on the church tower to enable work to be carried out on the weather vane. Smiths of Derby, the company who installed the clock and carry out the annual maintenance, had tendered a price of £1,955 + VAT to remove the hands, clean down the dial surface, apply two coats of paint, re-gild the roman numerals and hands and, dismantle and clean the dial motion works. The clock was installed in 1898 and was converted to electric drive in 1973. Council have the power to maintain the clock, and as Smiths of Derby are a church clock specialist, on the proposition of Cllr Saunders, seconded by Cllr Spencer, it was unanimously **resolved** to accept the estimate and commission the work.

#### **1797 DOG FOULING**

Cllr Downton had been requested to investigate the reported problem of dogs fouling the allotments, but on several visits he had not found any evidence. Cllr Howell informed the meeting that Sandy Lane still had a problem with dogs but that the District Council had been made aware of the problem dog owner. He suggested that publicity be given to the in the Parish News. Cllr Mrs Day had found similar "evidence" on Stainswick Lane. Cllr Tidmarsh informed members that Watchfield had considered banning dogs on their Recreation Ground but Cllr Howell pointed out that our Recreation Ground was reasonably free of dog faeces and that the main problem was on the village streets. The Chairman reminded members that it was an offence not to keep a dog on a lead in public places. Cllr Bartle stated that there was always a problem with policing matters of this kind. Cllr Spencer proposed that a government law be brought in to make it an offence to walk a dog without carrying a bag for dog faeces collection. The Chairman proposed that this item be given sufficient publicity in the Parish News.

#### **1798 PARISH ASSEMBLY**

A draft agenda was circulated to Councillors and, with the addition of the Bowls Club, the agenda was approved.

#### **1799 PLANNING MATTERS**

Cllr Tidmarsh informed members that an application had been received to convert existing farm buildings on the Longcot Road into a dwelling. Cllr Saunders replied that there were many precedents for this type of development and as long as it was within the footprint of existing buildings, and of a similar character, then it was likely that planning consent would be given.

The following planning applications were received:

4775/3	28 Stainswick Lane	Conservatory and side window	No Objections
2081	Savernake Brake, Longcot Road	Convert farm building into dwelling	No Objections

The following decision was received:

20771	1 Forrest Close	Erect two storey extension	PERMIT
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## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

**1800 Rubbish collection.** The Clerk informed members that the cost of Hills rubbish collection would rise as from 1<sup>st</sup> April as the landfill tax levy was increasing by £40 per tonne. Members instructed the Clerk to obtain prices from other waste disposal companies.

**1801 Pot holes.** Cllr Tidmarsh reported that whilst some repairs have been affected on the road at the triangle on Townsend/Station Road, there were still a number which had not been attended to.

**1802 Precept.** Cllr Bartle enquired as to why the village precept appeared to have been reduced by 3.6% and was informed that this was because of a number of new houses now in occupation decreased the amount of precept per household.

**1803 District Amalgamation.** Cllr Bartle had noted that South Oxfordshire District Council had amalgamated certain services with the Vale and enquired whether the District Council had a mandate to carry out this merger and whether a consultation process had been carried out. The Chairman reminded members that 40 Councils, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April, had disappeared and that in Wiltshire there were now only two authorities – Wiltshire County Council and Swindon Borough Council. Cllr Saunders believed that most Councils would become unitary in the future. He pointed out that the local amalgamation was purely for services and was not a single unitary authority. Cllr Bartle was concerned to hear this news, stating that the village would be further sidelined.

**1804 Allotments.** Cllr Downton had been informed of two allotments where Heras fencing had been erected to act as fruit cages. He could see no reason why these temporary structures should not be allowed.

The meeting ended at 8.45 pm.