

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SHRIVENHAM PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE MEMORIAL HALL, SHRIVENHAM  
ON MONDAY 2nd MARCH 2009**

**PRESENT:** Councillor R Bartle  
Councillor Mrs. C Dawson  
Councillor Mrs S Day  
Councillor K Downton  
Councillor C Holman (Chairman)  
Councillor Mrs P Mullin  
Councillor P Saunders  
Councillor S Spencer  
Councillor G Tidmarsh

In attendance Mr D Pratt Clerk to the Council

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors S Howell, B Watson

**PUBLIC COMMENTS AND REQUESTS:**

Council were informed that the recent re-furbishment of the One Stop Shop had not included the repair to the Wall on Stainswick Lane. It was reported that the manager had stated that the "Wall is not our problem as it was damaged by heavy vehicles delivering materials to the Affordable Housing site". The Chairman assured the meeting that representations had been made to the owners, Tesco Ltd, prior to the re-furbishment and that it had been pointed out that the initial damage had been caused by their own delivery lorries. Council will continue to press Tesco to complete the "Re-furbishment".

Dr Crockett addressed the meeting with the concerns of residents close to the Schoolhouse where the Kebab van operates. He thanked the Council for opposing the licence and reminded the meeting that the effect of smell, noise and lighting on residents was intolerable. Several breaches of the licence had been noted, such as the Van taking up 3 car park spaces and trading prior to and after the permitted hours. Residents would support the Council in its efforts to change the street trading laws as they affect Shrivenham. The Chairman thanked the residents for attending and stated that correspondence from individual residents appeared to have a greater effect on the Licensing Officers than the concerns raised by the Parish Council. Cllr Spencer agreed drawing attention to the number of E-mails sent by Council raising the issues with the District Council. Cllr Saunders informed the meeting that he had written to the CEO requesting that the Street Trading Act be reviewed, as it had last been looked at in 1984. The point was raised that an appeal could have been lodged within 6 weeks of the Licence being granted but this had not been brought to the attention of Residents or the Council. It was suggested that the Council should take this point up as it was a clear breach of the rights. It was also pointed out that the current trading licence was in perpetuity and that only breaches of the licensing conditions could lead to the total ban of Trading. It was also proposed that the residents would form a petition to the District Council requesting a change to the Street Trading conditions. The Chairman summed up the mood of the meeting by saying that concerted effort was the way to achieve a satisfactory resolution.

Mr Brierwood thanked the Council for their efforts to combat Dog Fouling but there was still evidence deposited in the Sandy Lane area. Several other members of the Public confirmed that dog fouling was prevalent throughout the village. It was suggested that the District Council Dog Warden be requested to spend some time in the village to observe recalcitrant dog owners.

## **1766 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

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

## **1767 MATTERS ARISING**

**1756/1738/1720/1706/1691/1684 Road Signs.** Confirmation of receipt of mail.

**1756/1740 Council Publication Scheme.** There had been insufficient time to enter this information on the Web Site but it was hoped to carry out this task in the near future.

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

**1756/1750 Bollards opposite Co-op Shop.** This matter has been reported to the County Highways Dept but with no acknowledgement.

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

**1759 Grass Cutting.** The Canal Trust had written thanking the Council for agreeing to add the Canal Park to the grass cutting schedule.

**1749 Bus Stop Markings.** Cllr Tidmarsh drew members' attention to this minute from the previous meeting where Council had written to the County Council stating that the proposed bus stop road markings were inappropriate for the village and asking that no marking was carried out. Road Marking had been carried out outside the Barrington Arms and the Clerk was instructed to write to County Council requesting the markings be removed.

## **1768 MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 23<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY**

As several Councillors had not received the minutes by e-mail, copies were circulated at the meeting. The Chairman summarised the Minutes which were approved and signed. Councillors were appreciative of the speed at which the draft leaflet advertising the Housing were produced and thanks were expressed to Cllr Mrs Ware for her promptness in having the leaflets printed and distributed with the "News".

## **1769 ACCOUNTS**

The accounts and payments for February were approved.

## **1770 2008/2009 BUDGET.**

Councillors considered the Budget estimates against the year to date expenditure. The Clerk gave explanations for the differences between the figures which Councillors accepted.

## **1771 REVIEW OF INTERNAL AUDIT PROCEDURES.**

Councillors were reminded that their existing internal audit arrangements were in the hands of Auditing Solutions, a company with a great deal of experience in Local Government Auditing. The relationship with both the Clerks and Councillors was good but not over familiar. With regard to the audit planning, consultations took place to find convenient dates as well as asking for particular items in the auditing agendas to be carefully looked at. The scope of the audit was more than adequate and Councillors had found no fault with the bi-annual audit reports. On the proposition of Cllr Mrs Day, seconded by Cllr Bartle, it was unanimously resolved to accept the review of the internal audit arrangements. The Clerk was instructed to seek estimates for future internal auditing in order to make comparisons and enable Council to be sure of best value.

## **1772 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ATTENDING MEETINGS ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL**

Cllr Saunders, together with District Councillors Mrs Ware, had met with Cllr Greenough and Swindon Borough Council officers to discuss ways of ameliorating the effect of the eastward expansion of Swindon. He had been informed that any development was delayed by at least six years and that both Cllr Greenough and the officers were sympathetic to the idea of providing strategic gaps at the eastern edge of the development and the boundary with Oxfordshire. It had been proposed that parkland; lakes and woodland planting would provide the best type of buffer zone structure. Cllr Saunders was hopeful of organising a further meeting with the Borough Council Officers and the Vale Planning Officer. He was also hopeful that the Borough Planning Officer would visit the Parish Council to discuss the development. He reminded members of the exhibition to be held in April at Bourton Village Hall. Cllr Holman suggested that it would be best to wait until after the Bourton meeting before contacting the Borough Planning Officer to attend a meeting.

#### **1773 CHAIRMAN'S ANOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman announced that he would be attending the next College Liaison meeting at which he would endeavour to persuade College officials that the College was in fact situated in the County of Oxfordshire and not Wiltshire.

#### **1774 ALLOTMENT CONDITIONS**

On the proposition of Cllr Downton, seconded by Cllr Mrs Day, it was unanimously resolved to change item 9 on the Schedule of Allotment Conditions to read as follows:

*The tenant shall not erect any building on the allotment garden except for the purpose of keeping hens or rabbits and then not without the written consent of the Council.*

#### **1775 GRITTING BINS**

Following the heavy falls of snow, Councillors considered the provision of bins and grit for spreading around the hall and other areas. Preliminary investigations had revealed that the annual expenditure would be in the regions of £200 which Councillors felt, for a rare occurrence, was an unnecessary expense. There was some discussion about who would be responsible should a person slip on a newly cleared pavement. Cllr Spencer reminded members that Lt Gen Graham had offered the services of the College for the use of the village and it was proposed that an approach should be made to the General for help in the event of another serious snow fall.

#### **1776 SPRING CLEAN OXFORDSHIRE**

Councillors agreed to use Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March, 10 - 12 noon as their contribution towards the annual county spring clean. The approach roads to the village would be the main thrust of their efforts.

#### **1777 CEMETERY ENTRANCE**

Cllr Downton informed members that the pebbles spread at the cemetery entrance were moving downhill to the entrance of Coppidthorne Meadow. The membrane had been exposed in places and a succession of vehicles using that area as a turning space was worsening the situation. In his opinion the options were to employ a contractor to move the shingle or to replace the surface with tarmac. Cllr Tidmarsh proposed that estimates be obtained for tarmacing but Cllr Mrs Dawson proposed that Councillors form a work party on Sat 14<sup>th</sup> March to move the shingle back. The members fully supported the latter proposal.

#### **1778 PLANNING MATTERS**

There were no matters considered during February.

The following planning decisions were received:

20760	18 Townsend Road	Freestanding open front garage	PERMIT
4775/2	28 Stainswick Lane	Groundfloor rear extension & roof light to south elevation	PERMIT

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**1779 Community Policing Awards.** Councillors declined to nominate anyone for this award as it is felt Shrivenham does not have an adequate policing presence.

**1780 Drinking Water Quality.** Councillors were circulated with a copy letter to Thames Water complaining at the quality of drinking water. Councillors received the letter.

**1781 Speed Reactive sign.** Councillors were concerned that although the fault had been reported prior to Christmas the equipment had not been repaired.

**1782 Highways.** It was requested that the following faults be reported to the County Highways: 30 mph signs on Townsend Road together with a large number of potholes.

**1783 Active Gardens Scheme** Cllr Tidmarsh brought members' attention to this scheme whereby elderly residents who were finding difficulty in gardening would allow able bodied residents to tend their garden.

**1784 Dog fouling on allotments.** Cllr Mrs Mullin informed members that some dog owners were allowing their dogs to run free on the allotments and to foul the ground. Cllr Downton was requested to look into the matter and to make recommendations at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm