

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SHRIVENHAM PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE MEMORIAL HALL, SHRIVENHAM  
ON TUESDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2009**

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

In attendance Mr D Pratt Clerk to the Council

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors R Bartle, P Saunders, B Watson

The Chairman requested that the best wishes of the Council be sent to Cllr. Watson after recent operation.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS AND REQUESTS:**

Mr Lloyd brought Council's attention to an episode on the Recreation Ground on Saturday evening 2<sup>nd</sup> May when a Van knocked a Gas Meter Box causing a leak. The Tenant of the house was evacuated and the emergency services called. In his opinion the Van was probably driven by persons attending a social function at the Football Club and that the Football Club should apologise to the Tenant. He also questioned when the fencing along the access track would be completed. The Chairman was concerned that when the fence was completed it should protect this Gas Box. Mr Lloyd asked the Council to ensure that the Football Club were aware that there should be no parking for social events. Cllr. Mrs Day replied that she would contact the Football Club and confirm that the only vehicles to use the access track were for maintenance and deliveries.

**1805**

**ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN:** Cllr Holman vacated the Chair in favour of Cllr Tidmarsh, On the proposition of Cllr Downton seconded by Cllr Mrs Day, Cllr Holman was unanimously re-elected as Chairman for the ensuing year.

**ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN:** On the proposition of Cllr Howell seconded by Cllr Mrs Day, Cllr Tidmarsh was unanimously re-elected as Vice Chairman for the ensuing year.

**ELECTION OF COUNCILLOR WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR FINANCIAL MATTERS:** On the proposition of Cllr. Tidmarsh seconded by Cllr. Howell, Cllr Mrs Day was unanimously re-elected.

**ELECTION OF COUNCILLOR WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS:** On the proposition of Cllr Mrs Dawson seconded by Cllr Tidmarsh, Cllr Downton was unanimously re-elected.

**ELECTION OF PLANNING SUB COMMITTEE:** On the proposition of Cllr. Downton seconded by Cllr. Howell, the following were elected, Cllrs. Holman, Tidmarsh, Bartle, Day and Watson.

**ELECTION OF MAY DAY SUB COMMITTEE:** On the proposition of Cllr Tidmarsh seconded by Cllr Mrs Day, the following were elected, Cllrs Bartle, Dawson and Downton.

**ELECTION OF COUNCILLORS TO SERVE ON THE VILLAGE PLAN GROUP:** On the proposition of Cllr Mrs Day, seconded by Cllr Downton, the following were elected, Cllrs. Dawson, Howell, Mullin and Watson.

## 1806 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

## 1807 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> April 2009 were approved and signed.

## 1808 MATTERS ARISING

Under Public Comments, the Clerk confirmed reporting the pavement state of Swanhill to the Highways authority.

**1786/1767/1756/1747 Planning Matters Longcot Road.** No further communication.

**1786/1758/1752 Bugs Alley Lighting:** The Clerk reported that County Lighting department had acknowledged the request and were investigating the matter.

**1795 BUS SHELTER:** The Clerk confirmed that the County Transport department had been informed of the matter. Cllr Tidmarsh suggested that the Bus Shelter outside the Barrington Arms be exchanged with the new shelter on Elm Tree Square. This would give a greater degree shelter to Bus users, whilst the one sided shelter would be in a more sheltered position. Cllr Spencer was doubtful that the County would agree to excavate two shelters and suggested that railings be installed to protect passengers from falling into the gap between the Bus Peninsula and the Stocks raised area. Cllr Mullin believed an appropriate fill would be a better course of action providing a level area to the Stocks retaining wall.

**1794 REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL LIGHTING TOWNSEND ROAD:** Cllr Downton proposed that the Trees along the Allotment perimeter be pruned back in the Autumn to allow better light penetration from the existing street lamps.

**1800 RUBBISH COLLECTION** Two further quotes had been received plus a re-costed estimate from Hills.

Biffa	£1,150.00
Grundon	£1,061.10
Hills	£1,015.00

Council unanimously decided to continue the collection with Messrs Hills.

**1801 POT HOLES** The unfilled potholes at the junction of Station and Townsend Roads had not as yet been dealt with. Cllr Tidmarsh stated that this was a mark of the inefficiency of the system where 2 visits were required to carry out repairs to adjacent holes. Several Councillors reported further potholes along Highworth Road. Cllr Howell enquired whether the role of the Parish Council could be to co-ordinate road fault reports and ask the County to visit the area on a regular basis to carry out the repairs.

## 1809 ACCOUNTS

The Accounts and payments for April were approved.

## 1810 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ATTENDING MEETINGS ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL

Cllr Tidmarsh had attended the District Licensing Committee to represent the Council's views on the Kebab Van. He spoke in favour of rescinding the trading licence as did several villagers. A petition from residents in the immediate area of the trading site was presented to the Committee. The Trader was represented at the hearing and denied the observed breaches of the licence however it was reported that the Trader had not wanted to trade on the High Street but would rather trade where he would not upset residents. The Licence had been revoked and the trader had ceased operation in the

village. The Chairman thanked Cllr Tidmarsh for attending the hearing. He added that he had been informed that the District Council would formulate a policy regarding street trading throughout the Vale.

#### **1811 INTERNAL AUDITORS REPORT**

Councillors accepted the report.

#### **1812 GRANT REQUEST FROM THE VISCOUNTESS BARRINGTON'S MEMORIAL HALL AND RECREATION GROUND TRUST.**

Cllr Mrs Day, Chairman of the Trust, explained that the additional expenses incurred during the past year in carrying out roof repairs and the replacement Chestnut Tree programme had run the Trust short of funds. Cllr Howell was at a loss to understand why the money could not be taken from the Trust's deposit account. It was explained that maintenance expenditure was not allowable under Charity Commission rules. Councillors considered that certain items could be considered as capital expenditure and on the proposition of Cllr Howell seconded by Cllr Downton a majority **resolved** to make a grant of £4,498.00 to the Trust under the powers to support Village Halls.

#### **1813 REQUEST TO COMMEMORATE THE CENTENARY OF THE NORTH BERKS FOOTBALL LEAGUE.**

After considering the request, Councillors agreed to dedicate one of the new Lime trees on the Recreation Ground and send a letter of congratulation to the League.

#### **1814 AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

Cllr. Mrs Day outlined the state of play with regard to the occupancy of the houses now transferred from the shared ownership scheme. Thirty nine applications had been made to occupy two, 2 bedroom properties and all the one bed roomed flats were now occupied. She was aware of several examples of people with a Shrivenham connection who were seeking accommodation in the village. She was also aware that several people were under the misapprehension that the Parish Council were the body to allocate the Housing Stock. Cllr Tidmarsh stated that it should be made clear through "The News" that the Parish Council has no sway in the allocation of houses and that the District Council Housing Officer is the correct person to contact on any matter concerned with Affordable Housing.

A communication had been received from Sovereign Housing suggesting possible dates for the official opening of Glebe Close and it was decided to contact the Bishop of Reading to find a convenient date for the official opening.

#### **1815 PARISH ASSEMBLY**

Councillors agreed to meet at 7pm to set out the Large Hall as the Small Hall was in use by the Rainbow Guides. All other arrangements were in hand and most participants had replied favourably.

#### **1816 MAY DAY COMMITTEE**

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April were received and approved. A communication had been received from the Oxford Playhouse offering the Play "One Small Step" on a shared door takings of 70% to the Playhouse and 30% to the Council. Cllr. Spencer proposed that this would be an agreeable split after the cost of the Hall hire was taken out. Members agreed to take the production for a performance on July 17<sup>th</sup>.

#### **1817 VILLAGE PLAN GROUP.**

In absence of Cllr Watson, Cllr Howell explained that sub groups had been formed to put together aims and aspirations gleaned from the questionnaire. They were almost at the final stage of preparing the draft plan with a target date of the Village Fete 29<sup>th</sup> August. This would be followed by a Public Meeting in September with the final draft presented to the Council soon after.

## 1818 SWINDON EASTWARD EXPANSION

On the previous Friday, several Councillors had visited a public Exhibition in Bourton Village Hall hosted by Swindon Borough Council. The Chairman had met with the District Council Planning Officer Nick Burroughs and District Cllr, Mrs E Ware. Disappointment had been expressed at the lack of the "strategic gaps" agreed previously and at the housing development shown as being built close to the County border. It appeared that the flood plains caused the moving of developments onto areas supposedly not affected by flood waters. A further worrying complication was that the Environment Agency were said to oppose tree planting on flood plains. In the full report it stated that there was requirement to protect landscapes and villages but this was not carried out in the diagrams exhibited. The Chairman also alerted Councillors to Swindon's insistence that any strategic Gap planting should be on the Oxfordshire side of the border at our expense. *(At a subsequent meeting SBC agreed to consider funding Oxfordshire CC/VWHDC to do this from infrastructure monies.)* There was no improvement to the A420 to allow for increased traffic as a great deal of reliance was being made of the proposed rapid transit system. Cllr Tidmarsh expressed concern that there were three access points to the A420 shown on the transport plan and the position of the Primary schools was such that children would have long distances to travel to and from school. He was also concerned that the exhibition had been manned by people with little knowledge of the proposals. Cllr Mrs Mullin agreed as her question regarding why there was an indication of an access point to the north could not be answered satisfactorily. The Chairman understood that new regulations regarding building with permeable surfaces to allow drainage were now in force. Cllr Howell had enquired how traffic would be dispersed around Swindon to prevent traffic jams and had been told most traffic would be directed along the A 419. He had also enquired where the 30,000 new residents would find employment and had been told that around 5000 jobs would be available on the development and that it was unlikely that phase 3 would be developed in the near future. Members were disappointed with the exhibition.

## 1819 PLANNING MATTERS:

No applications had been received during April.

Decisions.

20360/4      Land adjoining 15 Manor Close      Erect 2 Dwellings Permit

## A O B

**1820 STAFFING.** Cllr Spencer enquired what percentage of Mrs Thacker-Pugsley's was taken up with Council business when her wages were paid for by the Trust? The Clerk explained that that the majority of her time was taken up with Trust matters but that a certain amount of flexibility was inevitable to allow the office to run efficiently and handle the many enquiries made for both Trust and Council. This was a reciprocal process as Mrs Athawes handled Trust matters when Mrs Thacker-Pugsley was not present in the afternoons.

**1821 CHAPELWICK CLOSE PARKING.** Cllr Downton had noted that several cars now parked on the wide grass verge on the corner of the Close were causing problems for the grass cutting.

**1822 WHITE HORSE CYCLE CHALLENGE.** Cllr Tidmarsh had noted that the recent charity event had attracted a large number of competitors and that parking around the village had caused problems to some residents. He asked if the event had outgrown the village and perhaps could be located elsewhere. Cllr. Spencer was under the impression that the event was good for village trade and certainly a good booking for the Hall. Cllr Howell suggested that should the event be held next year, parking on the Recreation Ground should be stewarded in a similar manner to that adopted by the Football Club recently.

**1823 STREET LIGHTING.** Apart from one letter against the proposed reduced street lighting there had been no other communications for or against the proposal. Several Councillors were aware of

comments from residents but insufficient for Council to form a view. Cllr Mrs Dawson reported that there had been a power failure recently along Damson Trees which had caused distress to several residents. There was a call to add this to the Parish Assembly Agenda but it was decided to have a clip board for comments,

The meeting closed at 8.45pm