

**DRAFT      MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SHRIVENHAM PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE MEMORIAL HALL, SHRIVENHAM  
ON MONDAY 6<sup>th</sup> JULY 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 B Watson

In attendance Mrs S Athawes, Assistant Clerk

**APOLOGIES:**

Councillors Mrs C Dawson and G Tidmarsh

**1846    DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

**1847    MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 1st June 2009 were approved and signed.

**1848    MATTERS ARISING**

**1826/1808/1786/1767/1756/1747 Planning Matters Longcot Road.** The view of the Highways Authority had been sought but on the day of their inspection there were no passing cars and therefore no evidence of any hazard to oncoming traffic.

**1826/1795 Bus Shelter** had been turned round but some parishioners were still dissatisfied with it.

**1829 Dog Bins.** The Vale Waste Disposal officer had toured the Village with Mrs Morrison and updated her with the findings.

**1849    ACCOUNTS**

The Accounts and payments for May were approved.

**1850    REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ATTENDING MEETINGS ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL**

**Power of Well Being.** Councillors Bartle and Watson had attended a conference on "The Power of Well Being", a new scheme for all levels of local government, replacing Section 137, enabling councils to spend limited amounts for the benefit of the local community, village hall, etc. The scheme is planned to benefit the whole community, and could range from supporting an Affordable Housing Scheme to assisting a talented potential Olympic athlete. However, no income is available and all the money must be found in grants or raised by local efforts. The Parish Clerk is required to attend a 2 year part-time course and 80% of councillors would need to attend training courses. Each session of the scheme would run for four years, after which there would be re-training.

Councillors considered the scheme interesting but decided not to pursue it.

## **Oxfordshire Village of the Year 2009**

Councillors Holman and Watson attended at Eynsham Village Hall on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July where 27 villages were represented. Shrivenham was awarded a "short listed" certificate having reached the top twelve applicants. The judges had asked our representatives various questions and were impressed amongst other features with the website, the affordable housing and The News. Also on view was the Shrivenham book. Goring on Thames won the title and impressed the judges with their ambitious community hydro electric scheme. The Council may like to consider the idea of having a Forum on the website at some stage. Thanks were expressed to David Pratt for the preparation of material for the presentation.

To be better prepared and make an improved presentation another time, it was felt that a more professional display kit should be available for functions of this nature and Councillor Holman will evaluate the cost. It may be that the Photographic Club could lend a display and Councillor Saunders volunteered that he has something appropriate that he is prepared to lend.

## **West of Vale Forum**

Councillor Saunders reported that a £2,000 grant had been made available for hall lighting and noted that when grants are applied for it needs to be seen that the Parish Council is also supporting the application with a grant.

The Street Cleaning grant is still in operation. It has been noted that Shrivenham costs are higher than others.

## **1851 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Official Opening of the Glebe Close Housing Scheme had been a successful event. Bishop Stephen had been generous in his praise and a copy of his opening address is now available. The Chairman proposed that in order to keep abreast of the needs of the village another Housing Needs survey should be completed. Councillor Watson suggested that before any decisions were made councillors should read the Village Plan which is now being published. Councillors' views were sought and it was agreed that a new Housing Needs Survey should be undertaken soon, bearing in mind the length of time taken by the whole process.

## **1852 POWER TO ACT DURING JULY AND AUGUST**

Members unanimously resolved to delegate powers to act during July and August to the Chairman, Cllr Colin Holman, Cllr Tidmarsh, Cllr Sarah Day and Cllr Watson.

## **1853 KEBAB VAN**

The application for the siting of the kebab van in Shrivenham will be heard on Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> July, and Councillor Holman will attend. Amongst other objectors, there had been 24 letters from local residents objecting to the van together with submissions from Highways, Environment, Police (road traffic, safety, fire hazard). The licence had been previously revoked because the condition relating to trading hours had been broken.

## **1854 GRANT TO VISCOUNTESS BARRINGTON'S TRUST**

A request had been received from the Trust for a grant towards roof work and lighting. The Trust had already paid £6,900 for roof works but a further £14,000 (including VAT) was required to pay the contractor. These costs had been incurred because of previous defective workmanship and the roof needed to be repaired as a matter of urgency. All agreed that the current roofer had done an excellent job. Councillor Spencer proposed, Councillor Downton seconded and it was agreed that the grant to the Trust be made.

## **1855 VAS SPEED SIGN**

It has been established that as the sign is now more than three years old it is outside the guarantee period. The sign was removed for inspection by Street Lighting Section and councillors agreed that it should be returned to Shrivenham for a local engineer's assessment. A final decision regarding replacement of the sign will be deferred to the September meeting. Cllr Howell observed that a random speed check in the same position could serve the same purpose and suggested local police could be contacted. *(Since the meeting it has been established that the Parish Clerk first reported the sign as faulty in June 2008, which is just within the 3-year guarantee period.)*

### **1856 SWINDON EASTWARD EXPANSION**

District Councillors Peter Saunders and Elaine Ware had been to see Peter Greenhalgh. The Strategic Gap gave cause for concern as Shrivenham had been promised the gap would be on their land. However, this agreement had now been overruled and Swindon were not inclined to give over the land which could be used for wet land features, ponds etc. The plan is that Stages 1 and 2, nearer Swindon and South Marston would be completed first, Stage 3 is unlikely before 2030.

Cllr Howell commented that momentum was growing against development from Swindon and in the end it may not go ahead. A general election may vary housing development. Cllr Watson commented that if it does happen, the buffer zone is the only thing to campaign for. Also at this stage there is no plan to upgrade the A420.

### **1857 VILLAGE PLAN**

Cllr Watson introduced the Draft Village Plan. He encouraged councillors to take this away for study and to send comments to him by end of July. ORCC and OCC have already responded. It was explained that the Plan divided into different sections, worked on by separate groups, each of which had produced an action plan. The Village Plan was not an end in itself but the start to enable action to be taken on some of the points. Cllr Holman thanked the Village Plan Group for the hard work that had gone into condensing all the input to a concise document.

Cllr Watson hoped the draft Plan could be presented at the Fete and after that it will be printed and delivered to each household. It is also hoped to hold a function for young people to involve them in the plan.

In order for the Plan to be received and adopted at the September meeting, it may be that a separate response meeting should be arranged to bring councillors up to speed, including District and County Councillors. There was discussion as to whether the Council would be committed to fulfilling specific plans and that there could be a question of raised expectations.

Cllr Holman closed the discussion, again thanking the Village Plan Group and said the Consultation Paper would be awaited with interest.

### **1858 MAY DAY SUB-COMMITTEE**

At the Annual Meeting, Chairman, Richard Bartle, and Treasurer, Edna Day, had been re-elected and Sarah Thacker-Pugsley had agreed to take the minutes.

It was reported that May Day had been a successful event, despite unfavourable weather.

The Oxford Playhouse wished to put on a touring production of 'One Small Step' in the Memorial Hall on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30. Tickets had been available for two or three weeks but sales had been poor (same date as schools break up and day after big event at JSCSC) and it was considered by Council that the production may not be viable. It was agreed that Richard Bartle would discuss the matter again with Oxford Playhouse on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July and take the final decision. *(After this discussion with Oxford Playhouse it was agreed that the production should go ahead.)*

### **1859 GARAGE**

The current position is that the garage is owned by VBT and used by SPC. Councillor Spencer proposed that the Parish Council should rent it from the Trust in the hope that the Parish Council would not pay business Rates. *(A telephone call after the meeting established that whoever occupies the building would be liable for this business rate.)*

## 1860 PLANNING MATTERS

The following applications had been received during June:

20862	27 Highworth Road	Demolish single storey extn and build new extn and porch	No objections but some conditions
20881	30 High Street	Conversion to create 1 bed and 3-bed maisonette	No objections
11340/82	RMCS	Physical & Rec Centre, Medical and Dental and Logistics	No objections
OCC R3.0137	Shrivenham School	Damp proofing	No objections

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

**1861 ALLOTMENT FENCE** It had been reported to Cllr Mullin by a representative from Sovereign Housing that there was a problem with the allotment fence behind The Green. Rubbish had built up on a bank on the allotment side and the fence was rotting. Councillors determined there were three options:

- a) Ask the allotment holder to clear the bank
- b) Pay for a contractor to clear it
- c) Contact Sovereign regarding whether the bank existed when the fence was built and, if so, whether it should have been taken into account.

Cllr Downton agreed to inspect the site and report back.

**1862 IMPENDING ROADWORKS ON THE A420** Cllr Holman is attending an A420 diversion meeting on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July and will seek more information. He may be able to ascertain whether there are any plans to suspend the work over the August Bank Holiday weekend and also what diversions will be in place. Concern was expressed regarding additional traffic being directed through the village.

**1863 BONFIRES** A Parishioner had been affected by bonfire smoke and smell regularly for a few weeks. Council were requested for guidelines for consideration to others when making bonfires and it was suggested that this could appear in The News.

**1864 PERSONNEL MATTERS** After some discussion regarding problems of matching precept and grant revenue with Parish Council expenditure, it was unanimously agreed to form an Organisation and Finance committee to be chaired by Richard Bartle, with Sarah Day, Peter Saunders and Stuart Spencer. It was agreed that this committee should make its first report at the September Council Meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.