

## **D R A F T**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SHRIVENHAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE MEMORIAL HALL, SHRIVENHAM ON MONDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2009**

#### **PRESENT:**

Councillor R Bartle  
Councillor Mrs C Dawson  
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

In attendance Mr D Pratt Clerk

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor B Watson

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS AND REQUESTS**

Mrs Painter reported that rain water was ponding on the High Street pavement adjacent the Trust Houses. This was a recurring problem and would be reported to the County Highways. In the meantime the Village Handyman would be requested to cut a channel in the verge to aid drainage.

Mr Jones and colleague outlined the perceived need to reduce the speed limit on the High Street from 30mph to 20mph and sought Council's support. The Chairman assured them that Council had previously written to the Highways Authority requesting this reduction but with the additional information provided, the item would be discussed later in the meeting.

**1913 MINUTES:** The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd November were approved and signed.

#### **1914 MATTERS ARISING:**

The Clerk reminded members that following the presentation at the last meeting concerning Bio diversity and Council's responsibility, no decision had been taken regarding setting up an Ecological survey. Members agreed to hold a decision pending estimates for a survey.

**1900/1882/1867/1855. VAS speed sign. To date no further information.**

**1900/1882 Unauthorised sign, Rafu's Restaurant.** The sign had been removed prior to the letter being delivered. However it was noted that the sign had reappeared recently.

Cllr Tidmarsh reported that there were 8 directional signs around the Village for Beckett Place. The Clerk was requested to contact the Developers.

**1905: ADVERTISEMENT FOR CLERK'S POST.** The Clerk confirmed that advertisements had been placed in The News, The Link, Faringdon Folly, Faringdon Whats On and that several Applications had been received.

**1907: STREET NAME, SANDY LANE DEVELOPMENT.** The Clerk reported that the developers had opted for Charlotte Close. Contact had also been made regarding the state of Sandy Lane and that it was noted that the street was swept regularly. The grass verge had been re-instated but Cllr. Mrs Day had noted that vehicles were once again parking on the verge, causing ruts.

**1911: AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** To date there had not been a response to the request to obtain a copy of the Bishop of Reading's address. It was suggested that once a copy was obtained, a transcript should be published in "The News".

**1912: TWINNING:** Cllr Saunders had contacted members of the previous Twinning Committee in the village, the majority of whom were keen to revive the Twinning but not assume the Chairmanship. He had been unable to contact Mrs Morrison who had attempted to revive the Committee and had some correspondence on the matter. The Clerk would pass on the e-mail address. Cllr Spencer was of the opinion that there was little interest on the French side and several members suggested the Committee should look for a village perhaps in Italy who were keen to start up a Twinning Association. Cllr Mrs Dawson proposed that Mortree be investigated on the Net to find other contacts. It was left to Cllr Saunders to contact Mrs Morrison for further information.

**915 ACCOUNTS:** The Accounts for November and for payment in December were approved with the addition of the following:

Shrivenham Fencing	Dec	Refuse Collection paddock	663.85	100292
Hills	Nov	Rubbish collection	104.67	100293
VBT	Nov	Office rent	2000.00	100294
David Webster	Dec	Installation of Christmas lights	300.00	100296

**1916 ALTERATION TO ANNUAL RETURN.** Members unanimously agreed to the alterations to boxes 3 and 6 to show the £9,000 loan and repayment made to the Trust. The Chairman and Clerk initialled the alterations.

**1917 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ATTENDING MEETINGS ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL.**

The Chairman gave a short presentation regarding the training course "Finance for Councillors" attended by himself, Cllr Saunders, Cllr Mrs Day, Mrs Thacker-Pugsley and the Clerk. Notes from the Course were circulated to members. He had found the Course most illuminating and hoped other Councillors would be prepared to attend future courses. In particular, the sections on setting Budgets and VAT had provided clarification on a number of points. Councillor Mrs Day stated that they had been encouraged to set up a rolling reserve fund with £5,000 per annum deposited in the reserves and that provided sums were earmarked for projects, they would not be included in the Council's general reserve. Cllr Bartle agreed stating that it was sensible to hold sums for any further work required to maintain the Memorial Hall. Cllr Saunders pointed out that while the Vale was capped by Government, Parish Councils were not. In reply to questions regarding the value of retaining RBS Accounting, the Chairman explained that RBS were a small Company specialising in Parish and Town Council Accounts and do not charge for telephone queries. This would be of great assistance to the new Clerk when in post. The Chairman suggested that the Parish Jottings should state that the Council faced difficult decisions and that in their opinion it was necessary to increase the annual precept. He was prepared to call a special meeting to approve next year's estimates in order for Councillors to be in accord.

Cllr Tidmarsh reported on the Society for Local Council Clerks' meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December. He found two sections, Asset Management and Human Resources most helpful and the hand outs were excellent. They had visited some Exhibition stands and found information for the Council on mapping and setting up a Cemetery data base. The presentation from Swindon's assistant CEO had pointed out that Parish Councils were not mentioned in the Government's proposed devolvement of power and that Parish Councils should take the initiative in obtaining powers. There were also warnings that Parishes should be wary in taking on District Council assets without sufficient funds transferred for their maintenance. Cllr Spencer was concerned that with the possible amalgamation of local Districts, power would be further from Parish Councils than it is now. Cllr Holman stated that when setting the precept, councillors should be aware that there would be no street cleaning grant from the Vale and that this should be added to their calculations. In his opinion, the current precept was too low and to his knowledge there were parishes with similar populations who had precepts double this Council's last precept. He asked the Clerk to investigate the financial effect on Band D properties.

**College Liaison Committee:** The Chairman outlined the recent meeting at the College and in particular the College's refusal to recognise their address as being in Oxfordshire and not Swindon, Wiltshire. The College's attitude was that they had enjoyed a Swindon postcode for most of the College's history and had been advised that adding Swindon to the address would ensure a swift postal service. The Chairman had disputed this fact in that when the College first opened until 1974 the College had been in Berkshire and from 1974 in Oxfordshire, albeit with a Swindon postcode. Members voted unanimously to send a letter to the College asking them to reconsider their decision and at the very least giving Oxfordshire and the two villages precedence at their official functions. With regard to the question of foreign students being given instruction on British driving rules, he had been informed that this had not proved necessary in the past. He had also presented the Village Plan and was assured that the College would work with Colin Strong with regard to biodiversity.

### **1918 ESTIMATES FOR POLLARDING HIGH STREET TREES**

The following estimates were received:

Swindon Commercial Services	£1,580
Westwood Tree Surgeons	£520
Bawdens Tree Care	£1,878.72

Members unanimously resolved to accept the lowest estimate from Westwood Tree Surgeons.

### **1919 ESTIMATES FOR STREET WEEDKILLING**

The following estimates were received:

Bawdens	£480 per application
Swindon Commercial Services	£75 – £125 depending on area

It was unanimously agreed to accept the lower estimate from Swindon Commercial Services.

### **1920 HIGH STREET SPEED LIMIT**

Following the previous presentation at the start of the meeting, Members discussed the possible reduction from 30mph to 20 mph. It had been explained to members that part of the criteria to reduce speed limits was to include, every 50 metres, some form of speed restriction. Cllr Spencer was totally against additional speed humps or pinch points. Cllr Saunders considered that signage should be sufficient. The Chairman reminded members of the types of traffic calming found in France and Portugal but thought that these methods would be far too expensive. Cllr Tidmarsh pointed out that Beechcroft Road in Swindon

had a number of road narrowing pavements in place. Cllr Spencer reminded members that when the white lines were renewed in the High Street the road width had been narrowed except outside the Cooperative store. He suggested that cars be allowed to park opposite the store to act as a pinch point. Cllr Bartle agreed stating that a chicane was probably the best form of speed restriction. Cllr Tidmarsh was of the opinion that no amount of speed humps would slow down 4 x 4s whilst Cllr Mrs Day thought the hump outside the post office was far too low and that a cobble finish would be more effective. Cllr Spencer suggested a central reservation. On the proposition of Cllr Howell, seconded by Cllr Tidmarsh, it was **resolved** to contact the Highways Authority to ascertain the criteria required to reduce the speed limit to 20 mph.

### **1921 MINUTES OF MAY DAY COMMITTEE**

Members accepted the minutes with thanks for the hard work carried out by this committee. Cllr Saunders offered to approach Ed Vaizey MP to see if he would be available to speak after the dinner.

### **1922 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Members endorsed the letter composed by Cllr Saunders which had been forwarded to the Planning Authority.

### **1923 NOMINATION FOR DISTRICT COUNCIL'S CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNITY AWARD LUNCH.**

Members unanimously nominated Mr Iain Winskill for his outstanding contribution to the Memorial Hall in setting up and operating light and sound for a number of organisations, both inside and outside the village.

### **1924 CHRISTMAS PERIOD OFFICE OPENING HOURS**

Members unanimously agreed that the office would close at 5.30 on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December and reopen on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> December.

### **1925 PLANNING MATTERS**

The following applications were received in November

19636/2-X	Land adjacent to 28 Colton Road	Outline to erect dwelling	No objections
13450	7 Claypits Lane	Demolish existing garage and erect new	Fully support

The following decisions were received

9226/6	48 High Street	Erect single storey extension	PERMIT
20862/2	27 Highworth Road	Demolish existing side & rear extensions & garage, erect new & room in roof	PERMIT

## A O B

**1926 STREET LIGHTING TOWNSEND ROAD.** Following an email from Mr I Jones, members considered how best to improve illumination from the lamp standard adjacent to the allotments. After some discussion, members agreed that Cllr Downton would look further into this matter and report back.

**1927 MANOR LANE ILLUMINATION.** Cllr Tidmarsh had experienced an incident whilst turning into Manor Lane when he found two people walking in the centre of the road wearing dark clothes. He requested that information be submitted to the News encouraging people to wear light coloured clothing.

**1928 FLOODING HIGH STREET.** Both Cllrs Howell & Tidmarsh reported flooding on Elm Tree Square following the last heavy rainfall. Cllr Bartle agreed, drawing members' attention to the number of potholes all along the High Street. He offered to photograph the problems and submit them to the Highways Authority with a request that they be repaired. It was also noted by several councillors that the subsidence on the Swindon Road was worse and should be reported at the same time.

The Chairman thanked members for their efforts over the past twelve months and wished them all a very merry Christmas.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.