

D R A F T

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SHRIVENHAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE MEMORIAL HALL, SHRIVENHAM ON MONDAY 4TH JANUARY 2010

PRESENT:

Councillor R Bartle
Councillor Mrs C Dawson
Councillor Mrs S Day
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

APOLOGIES: Councillor K Downton

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND REQUESTS

Mr Jones brought Councillors attention to the e-mail reply from OCC Highways regarding the enquiry concerning the criteria for a 20mph speed limit. He was not satisfied with the reply and trusted the Council would pursue the matter further. With regard to the Oxford City experiment, he knew that Wallingford had a 20mph limit. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the Highways Authority to obtain the criteria for introducing a 20mph Speed limit. He was also concerned that the Parish Council were considering paying for Weed Killing in the village as he believed that this was part of the Highway Authority to keep the Roads in a safe state. The Chairman replied that the County had insufficient funds to carry out this function and that in order to keep the Streets in good order, the Council had gone out to tender and secured a good price. Finally he enquired whether the Council had progressed the Lighting issue adjacent to the Allotments on Townsend Road. The Chairman replied that Cllr Downton was looking into the matter but as he was absent tonight, this would be held over until the next meeting

1929 MINUTES: The minutes of the meeting held on 7th December were approved and signed.

1930 MATTERS ARISING:

1914: Biological Survey: An estimate had been obtained from Mrs Napper amounting to £300 for a survey of 2 sites. A grant of £150 would be available bringing the Council's contribution to £150. Cllr Tidmarsh believed that the only places shown for a survey would be in the Tuckmill

Brook area and that the majority of the area was owned by the Golf Course. The Clerk reminded members they would need to seek permission to carry out a survey but that they could authorise a survey in Coppidthorne Meadow. Cllr Spencer could see no point in a survey of the meadow as all would show was how to manage the sward for maximum wild flower coverage. Cllr Tidmarsh reminded members that it was statutory for the Council to undertake a Biological Survey and that Coppidthorne would be a good place to start to find out what was present in terms of herbage. Without a formal proposition, the Chairman ruled that the item should lie on the table pending further information.

1914/1900/1882/1867/1855. VAS speed sign. To date no further information.

1914/1900/1882: Unauthorised sign, Rafu's Restaurant. The sign was in situ and members requested that the Planning enforcement officer be informed.

1914 Beckett Place Signs: An e-mail had been sent to the developers requesting the signs to be removed but without an acknowledgement. Cllr Tidmarsh asked if the Council could remove the signs under the Agency agreement with the County. The Clerk believed this was possible but Cllr Spencer was concerned that that Lorries delivering to the site could have difficulty finding the development. Cllr Tidmarsh was of the opinion that the signs were purely for marketing. The Clerk to contact the Developers again.

1911: AFFORDABLE HOUSING: The Clerk confirmed that a transcript of the Bishop's speech had been sent to the "News". Members also confirmed that the ORCC Housing enabler be contacted to organise a Housing Needs survey with particular attention to the possible needs of older members of the village who could be looking for smaller houses.

1912: TWINNING: Cllr Saunders had contacted Mrs Morrison and had a view on the current state of Twinning. Despite Mortree not expressing a great interest in continuing the Twinning, members decided to make a formal approach to Mortree, advertise for volunteers to form a new Twinning committee and to approach the official UK Twinning Association to appraise them of the current situation and to advise on a twinning with another Continental Community.

1928 FLOODING HIGH STREET PAVEMENT: The Clerk reported that a drain had been dug across the grass verge opposite Fairthorne Way.

1931 ACCOUNTS: The Accounts for December and for payment in January were approved.

1932 EXTERNAL AUDIT: The External Audit opinion had been received after the Agenda had been sent and the Chairman allowed this as an extra item. The only point at issue was the amount the Council had insured for Fidelity Guarantee. The Clerk was at a loss to explain this note as the current level of Guarantee was £200,000 and the total amount of money held by the Council at one time in the year would be under £100,000. Members agreed that in the light that two signatures were required for all payments there was no requirement to increase the level of guarantee

1933 ORGANISATION AND FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE: The Minutes of the meeting held on the 16th December 2009 were accepted. Cllr Bartle, Chairman of the Sub-Committee, gave a short resume of the meeting and recommended that the Precept be increased to £48,000.

1934 ESTIMATES FOR 2010/2011 AND PRECEPT: The estimates were examined and questions asked regarding various items of expenditure particularly Village maintenance costs now that grants were unlikely to be available for Street Cleaning. On the proposition of Cllr. Spencer seconded by Cllr Saunders, it was unanimously **resolved: to set a precept of £48,000 for the coming financial year.**

1935 BURIAL CHARGES: The Clerk had obtained charges from 3 neighbouring Parishes and in the light of these comparisons on the proposition of Cllr. Bartle seconded by Cllr Spencer, it was unanimously **resolved: to increase charges from January 2011 by 10% rounded up to the nearest whole pound.**

1936 MEETING DATES 2010: Cllrs accepted the dates as supplied and decided to hold the Annual Parish Assembly on Tuesday 18th May 2010.

1937 VILLAGE DINNER: Cllr Saunders was concerned that it appeared that there would be two speakers at the Dinner as he had invited Ed Vaizey MP when he understood there would not be a Speaker. The Clerk explained that Lt General Graham had accepted the invitation to speak after the Dinner. It was agreed to ask Mr Vaizey to speak at next years Dinner. The Toast list was agreed as follows.

Loyal Toast:	Cllr Watson
The Community:	Cllr Holman
Toast to the Village	Lt General Graham
Response:	Cllr Mrs Day.

1938 BUGS ALLEY LIGHTING: Cllr Tidmarsh reminded members that previously, when suggesting a light be placed in the Alley, a resident had objected. That resident had since moved and he proposed that the question be

revived. The surface of the Alley was uneven and a number of people attending Church parked in Manor Lane and walked through Bugs Alley in the dark. It was agreed to ask the County Lighting Department to look at the problem.

1939 VILLAGE PLAN GROUP: Cllr Watson (Chairman of the Village Plan Group) proposed a joint meeting between Councillors and key members of the group to detail the difference between the responsibilities of the Group and the authority of the Council. In particular, he felt that contacting officers from other Authorities should be the responsibility of the Council. Cllr Spencer agreed stating that in future all meetings with other Authorities must be arranged through the Council with invitees from the Village Plan Group invited as observers. Nevertheless he was pleased to see a fresh group of residents interested in Village affairs. There were concerns that some Group members acted without the authority of the Parish Council and that this must be brought to their attention. Cllr Watson believed that individual Group members acted to gain information rather than as authoritative figures. Cllr Tidmarsh believed it was good to have pressure applied to Council by the group but Cllrs should be involved in every meeting with outside Authorities. Cllr Bartle stated that at times, it could be construed that Council was being circumnavigated by members of the Group. It was generally agreed that the Survey carried out by the Group did lend credence to future Council requests for services from outside Authorities.

1940 PLANNING MATTERS:

The following applications were received in December

5875/8	Gulshan Brasserie	Side extension & window alterations	Concerns over window heights and type
2573/3	Shrivenham Garage	Demolish existing and erect 3 houses	Concerns on house dimensions and loss of village service

The following decisions were received

3975/2	5 Cowleaze Close	Erect rear orangery	PERMIT

The application for Shrivenham garage was discussed as the proposal would mean the loss of the Garage Service. Members were also concerned at the dimensions of the replacement houses. Cllr Spencer was of the opinion that the garage façade should be preserved as it was an example of 1920s Architecture. Cllr Saunders urged the sub-committee to ask for the Application to be considered by the full District Council Planning Committee.

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1941 ACORN CENTRE: The Chairman reminded members that the loss of this facility for the elderly had placed a strain on the facilities in Faringdon and sought members' authority to have discussions with Watchfield Parish Council to consider better arrangements. Members readily agreed.

1942 Police Message: Cllr Mrs Mullin had requested that the last e-mail recording the crime figures for the area be recorded as received.

1943 Street Gritting: Cllr Howell asked if there was any means of gritting the Village pavements. The Chairman replied there were no supplies and that in the event of an accident after gritting, the Council would be liable.

1944 Vale Plan: Cllr Mrs Mullin enquired why the Council had not been circulated with the latest forms asking for comments on the Vale Plan. There were several items of concern for the Village such as the number of Affordable Houses to be built in private developments in Villages dropped from 5 to 3. The proposed development of 400 houses to the south of Faringdon could contribute to additional traffic on a 420. It was agreed that Councillors would look at the proposals on the Vale Web Site and send their comments to Cllr Tidmarsh to collate a Council response. *Since the meeting, it has been discovered that a general circulation envelope containing the relevant information was sent out on 30th December.*

The meeting closed at 10.15pm