

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SHRIVENHAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE MEMORIAL HALL, SHRIVENHAM, ON MONDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2007

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 S Spencer
Councillor B Watson

In attendance Mr D Pratt Clerk to the Council

APOLOGIES: Councillor P Saunders

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND REQUESTS:

Mr Ian Jones drew Cllrs attention to the surface repairs currently being carried out on Martens Road Pavement. In his opinion the patching operation was appalling. He had been able to look at the worksheet of the employees, which stated clear weeds and patch path. He also deplored the amount of time it has taken to reach this stage and asked what further actions the Parish Council would take. The Chairman agreed with Mr Jones, stating that he had recently visited the site and was not satisfied with the work. **He proposed that the Clerk inform both the County Councillor and the Road Inspector from the Drayton depot** and request a site meeting. He assured Mr Jones that he would be kept informed of any actions or deliberations being taken.

Mr John Lloyd was concerned at the state of the grass paths at the allotments and of the number of unkempt plots. He was surprised that the increased rents had not enabled the Council to carry out the necessary maintenance work. In particular he brought Councillors' attention to the state of the main path adjacent to the Bowling Green, which was not kept to the same standard as the other public path through the allotments. The Chairman explained that the Council would be discussing the allotments later in the evening and that his comments would be considered at that time.

1407 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Downton, Day, Mullin and Howell declared interest in item 12, allotments.

1408 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th July and the Extraordinary Meeting held on 13th August 2007 were approved.

1409 MATTERS ARISING

1390/1376/1360/1344/1324 Fairthorne Way and Railtrack The Clerk had not received a reply from Railtrack. Cllr Bartle reported that he had stopped an extremely large vehicle as it progressed along Fairthorne Way, pointing out that this was a residential area and that there were better access points to the railway. He had not expected any action to be taken but thought it underlined the problem Council were trying to address. Cllr Tidmarsh reiterated that the redundant **school sign** on Vicarage Lane was still in position.

1390/1376/1360/1344/1324/1308/1293/1278/1272 Village Car Parking The Clerk was pleased to report that the Co-Op had painted the windows, as had the property close to the Post Office and that the excessive lavender growth had also been cut back. No reply had been received from the One-Stop shop and the wall continued to be in a state of disrepair.

1410 ACCOUNTS

The Accounts paid in July and for payment were approved. The Clerk apologised for the lack of the August accounts, pointing out that the statements would not be received until after the Council meeting. Cllr Mrs Day informed the meeting that statements could be ordered for any period and could probably be viewed on line. The Clerk pointed out that there would not be sufficient time to prepare the monthly cashbook and reconciliation statements unless the bank statement was received two weeks prior to the Council meeting. He would contact the internal auditor for his opinion regarding calendar month statements as opposed to middle of the month statements.

1411 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ATTENDING MEETINGS ON BEHALF OF COUNCIL

There were none.

1412 AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The Chairman stated that Stuart Roberts of Sovereign Housing was in final negotiations with the Diocesan Glebe Committee. Cllr Tidmarsh reported that the Glebe Committee had written to the PCC asking for observations on the proposed sale.

1413 EMERGENCY PLAN

The Chairman introduced this item by stating that a few years ago each village and town had a plan to deal with any emergencies. He had been dismayed that during the July floods the A420 had been closed but there were no signs in the village diverting traffic onto the B4000. Consequently traffic re-emerged onto the A420 close to Acorn Bridge and unable to progress any further. He suggested that a simple Parish Council Emergency Plan for future occasions would be to ensure signs were in place to encourage traffic to take the desired route. Cllr Bartle agreed but proposed that the A420 be closed at the Acorn Bridge end so that through traffic would not be diverted through the centre of the village. Cllr Tidmarsh suggested that an accommodation list of people willing to put up stranded travellers be kept at the Council offices. Cllr Mrs Day pointed out that when the A420 was closed to traffic for a traffic accident, the pinch point on Faringdon Road became a bottleneck and in her opinion should be manned by police to ensure a continual flow of traffic. Cllr Spencer believed all car drivers should carry road maps in order to find their own alternative route. He felt it was too much responsibility for the Parish Council to take on a task for Emergency Planning. Cllr Mrs Day opposed this view pointing out that other villages could easily be affected to the same degree as Shrivenham thus sending travellers off on a wild goose chase. Cllr Holman indicated that unless there were emergency plans and better intelligence, the state of routes in any direction would not be known. Cllr Tidmarsh suggested that information regarding alternative routes should be made public and displayed at various points around the village. Cllr Mrs Mullin suggested that to avoid vehicles stopping, alternative routes should be one way only. Cllr Watson cautioned members to be careful before implementing a plan and pointed out there would need to be a point of contact. Should that point of contact be away, who would be the next responsible person in the chain? There would also be a responsibility on the

Council to update any notices. Cllr Mrs Day was of the opinion that temporary signs were required and Cllr Mrs Dawson supported this view, stating that simple A-frame diversion signs would be sufficient. Cllr Downton was doubtful about the whole situation, enquiring how far should the Council be prepared to go in the matter. Cllr Spencer pointed out that as these emergencies were few and far between, who would remember how the previous emergency had been dealt with. The Chairman replied provided the instructions for an emergency were simple, with signs clearly stating diversion to Lambourn or Highworth, he did not feel this was too onerous a task. He proposed the Council investigate with the AA the possibility of keeping diversion signs in the village. Cllr Bartle stated that in his opinion these were Police matters. Having had members' attention drawn to the special "flood" meeting on 12th September, Cllr Bartle volunteered to attend on behalf of the Council.

1414 BURIAL RESERVATION AND INTERMENT FORMS

A draft of the proposed form was circulated to Councillors. Cllr Tidmarsh pointed out several problems and agreed to liaise with the Clerk to rationalise the information.

1415 ALLOTMENTS

Cllr Downton reported that he had carried out a survey of the allotments, noting any problems on the plan provided. He had noted that four or five plots were extremely bad and at least two of them were vacant. He proposed that letters should be sent to the offending allotment holders. With regard to the division grass paths between each plot, he asked for guidance as to who would be responsible for trimming the path. He also noted that the contractors were not cutting the main path adjacent to the Bowls Club to the same standard as the public footpath. Cllr Mrs Mullin as an allotment holder agreed but had had no guidance as to which of the boundary paths were her responsibility. Cllr Spencer proposed that Cllr Downton design a path responsibility schedule for inclusion with the annual letter. Cllr Howell thought that once a design had been approved, allotment holders would be informed that inattention to their plot would result in a notice to quit. At the same time he wondered whether Council were complicating the issue. Cllr Watson believed it was important that allotment holders be clear on their responsibilities. Cllr Tidmarsh believed that allotment holders should reach agreement with the neighbouring plot to keep the dividing paths cut to a reasonable length.

1416 VILLAGE PLAN GROUP

The minutes of the Village Plan Group held on 6 August were approved. Cllr Howell as Chair of the Group, was concerned that the Group was erring towards Councillors rather than towards Villagers. Cllr Tidmarsh proposed to resign from the group, agreeing that there were too many Councillors in what was essentially a whole village group. Cllr Watson enquired as to the findings of the Fete stand and the resulting public suggestions. The Clerk replied that they had not been evaluated and hoped that they would form part of the open public meeting on 24th September. Councillors were urged to attend this meeting on 24th September in order to interact with members of the public.

1417 SWINDON EXPANSION

Members had been kept up to date with the latest developments in the Swindon eastward expansion through the good offices of the Bourton Parish Clerk. Cllr Watson reported that he had read the hydrologist's report, which stated conclusively that building on the River Cole flood plain was inadvisable. However, the area of the flood plain was not defined in the submission but the greatest risk of flooding was south of the railway line and the A420. The report has also stated that it was not feasible to develop this land as the geology of that area would not be able to take excessive amounts of flood water. The report finished by stating that development to the east of Swindon was not advisable and that the western area was

better. The EIP decision would be known in October and Cllr Watson would inform members as soon as that decision received.

1418 WEBSITE

Cllr Howell noted that the website had received criticism in a Swindon evening Advertiser article about Giotto's restaurant. It was pointed out that Giotto's had not requested an advertisement on the site. He also clarified the costs put to the last meeting which were for a full year and not six-months as previously discussed. He proposed that a brief be prepared and given to four or five organisations to estimate costs for the design and upkeep of the site. He would work on a brief and present it at the October meeting. Cllr Holman reminded members that the website should be managed by the Trust as Council was unable to act as a business. On the proposition of Cllr Mrs Day, seconded by Cllr Downton, it was unanimously **resolved** to pass the management of the Shrivenham website to the Trust.

1419 PLANNING MATTERS

The following applications were considered:

3705/8	Oakmead, Northford Close	Single storey rear extension	No objections
8203/2	67 High Street	Erect porch and first floor extension	No objections
10333/1	31 Vicarage Lane	Loft conversion with dormer windows	No objections
8093/3	1 Stallpits	Single storey extension & convert garage to accommodation	No objections
6015/4	13 Vicarage Lane	2 storey side extension	No objections
109902	59 High Street	Loft conversion	No objections
20248	10 Townsend Road	Bike shed	Object
17622/3	Tarifa Cottage	Erect new dwelling	To be determined
20258	13 Longcot Road	Erect three storey dwelling	To be determined

The following results of planning appeals were received

5532/7	Pennyhooks Farmhouse, Pennyhooks Lane	Second storey to outbuildings	Appeal dismissed
19619	17 Highworth Road	Erect new dwellings	Appeal dismissed

The following application under a General Permitted Development was received:

17529/2	Telephone Exchange, Faringdon Road	Redevelopment of existing 12.5 metre high telecommunications mast	Approved
---------	------------------------------------	---	----------

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1420 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Cllr Tidmarsh had met the leader of the District Council and had discussed the matter of sustainable development in planning applications. He had been informed that the District Council would shortly be having a policy meeting in which it was hoped to determine that all future developments would be approved to a design of acceptable sustainability.

1421 VILLAGE FETE

Councillors unanimously recorded a vote of thanks and congratulation to the fete Committee for organising an excellent Fete.

1422 TREE, CORNER OF FAIRTHORNE WAY AND SANDY LANE

Cllr Bartle had been approached by the owner of a property at the above junction, who was concerned that the tree planted on that corner was overhanging the pavement causing a hazard. The tree had been planted by his ex-neighbour and he had been asked to enquire who would be responsible for that tree. The Clerk responded that this was a County Council matter but that as they had not planted the tree he was unsure what action the County would take.

1423 HIGH STREET FLOODING

Cllr Bartle had been informed that several drains along the High Street had flooded recently and villagers were concerned that the drains had not been cleared in recent months. There was also concern that kerb debris was sometimes swept into these drains. As there had been several points raised concerning County roads, the Chairman proposed that the County Councillor be invited to attend the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.