

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SHRIVENHAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE MEMORIAL HALL, SHRIVENHAM, ON MONDAY 1<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER 2007**

**PRESENT:** Councillor R Bartle  
Councillor Mrs C Dawson  
Councillor Mrs S Day  
Councillor K Downton  
Councillor S Howell  
Councillor Mrs P Mullin  
Councillor P Saunders (Chairman)  
Councillor G Tidmarsh

In attendance Mrs S Athawes

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors C Holman, S Spencer, B Watson

**PUBLIC COMMENTS AND REQUESTS:**

Mrs D Painter raised a question regarding Marten's Road pavement which appears to have been only half done. Council have had a lot of contact with OCC regarding this, including a visit from John Beaumont to personally inspect the problem. OCC has promised that the pavement will all be completed and Council must now allow them time to finish the work. Some of the problem has been caused by the reduction in the amount spent on weedkiller throughout the county (reduced from £300,000 to £150,000).

Brian McDonough commented that remedial work had still not been done to the footpath outside the Barrington's flats in the High Street to prevent water collecting in the dips. **The path edging should have been replaced and the surface levelled properly.**

Mrs J-A Morrison had five questions:

Is the field beyond the housing likely to be part of the Recreation Ground? Chairman replied that Council have an option and have to raise funds.

When is something going to be done regarding Footpath 14 from Claypits Lane to the A420 as it is in a very bad state and almost impassable? Response from Council was that it has been reported and repairs promised by the County Council.

Can something be done about the dim light at the junction of Colton Road and Townsend Road? This will be reported to the appropriate department.

After the storm damage to two trees on pumphouse green, Mrs Morrison was anxious that the plane tree could be kept. Chairman responded that it was due for severe pruning with the top to be taken out as it was diseased in parts. Mrs Morrison hoped it could be saved.

Can the Chestnut Avenue Path be cleared of fallen chestnuts as it is extremely difficult to walk the path at the moment? **Quotes have been sought.**

**1438 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

**1425 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> September were approved after two corrections:

1407 Declaration of Interest from Councillor *Dawson* not Councillor Day

1416 The minutes of the VPG were *noted* .

## 1426 MATTERS ARISING

**1409/1390/1376/1360/1344/1324 Fairthorne Way and Railtrack** The Clerk had still not received a reply from Railtrack.

**1409 Redundant school sign** This was still in position in Vicarage Lane. Cllr Tidmarsh suggested it could be relocated.

**1410 Monthly accounts** It was confirmed that the accounts package in use required that cashbook and reconciliation be completed on a calendar month basis. This meant that there was usually insufficient time to complete the month end in time for Council meetings now being held on the first Monday of each month.

**1423 High Street Flooding** The County Councillor had agreed to attend a Council meeting but no date has been set.

## 1427 ACCOUNTS

The Accounts paid in August and for payment were approved, with the addition of the following:

Supplier	Date	Item	Amount	Cheque
Reimbursement	02/10/07	Printing VPG flyer	55.20	2476
Thames Water	Sept	Allotment water	23.55	2477
D Pratt	25/09/07	September pay	489.83	2478
S Athawes	25/09/07	September pay	274.18	2479
S Thacker-Pugsley	25/09/07	September pay	201.83	2480
E Jones	25/09/07	Sept pay & mower petrol	844.39	2481
Inland Revenue	25/09/07	September NI & PAYE	411.57	2482
Post Office	01/10/07	2 <sup>nd</sup> class stamps	24.00	2483

## 1428 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ATTENDING MEETINGS ON BEHALF OF COUNCIL

Cllr Bartle had attended a meeting on the emergency caused by the July flooding. He had reported the need for diversion signs to be available and it seemed some villages already had used their own signs. A Councillor from the Hanney area reported that the regular clearance of culverts and drains had been pursued and this had alleviated the flooding in certain vulnerable areas. Concern had been expressed regarding the planned expansion of Swindon by 12,000 houses to be built on the flood plain and that run off could affect a wide area. Because of this perceived threat, a motion had been put forward against the housing expansion but had not been carried. He also reported that the Government had provided money for flood victims and the Vale had decided to grant £250 to each household affected.

Cllr Saunders had attended a liaison meeting with County Council, District Council and Parish council representatives, outlining how County and District Councils function. Various workshops were being held and there was much emphasis on affordable housing. Cllr Saunders undertook to summarise his observations and email them to Councillors. He had raised the question of the reduced expenditure on weedkiller and its various repercussions, and had also met John Beaumont.

## 1429 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Following the recent storm damage to trees on Pumphouse Green and the Recreation Ground, both Ros Muir and Tony Craddock had assisted and thanks were due to Robert Gay for identifying and removing dangerous branches in the Chestnut Avenue.

#### **1430 VILLAGE MAINTENANCE**

Councillors considered a report on Village Maintenance, which had been previously circulated. Councillors were concerned that £18,000 is spent on grass cutting, street cleaning etc, which is offset by only £8,000 currently received in grants from the Vale and County Councils and from recharging. Council considered this a serious situation.

**Street Cleaning.** The roads should be regularly cleaned by Cleanaway and Cllr Saunders will pursue this with the District Council. Council instructed the Clerk to write to the Cleansing Department of VoWHDC for confirmation of how often Cleanaway should come to Shrivenham and request a timetable for the cleaning. It was also agreed that the next Parish Jottings in The News should outline the fact that village maintenance costs had risen and find out parishioners' views on whether they are prepared to pay more to maintain the same level of village tidiness.

It was agreed that tenders should be invited to assist the Village Handyman with leaf sweeping and removal. It was agreed that Council's Environmental officer should write to OCC deploring the reduction in the spend on weedkiller.

#### **1431 BURIAL PLOT RESERVATION AND INTERMENT FORMS**

Two amendments had been made in consultation with Cllr Tidmarsh, and the finalised forms were approved.

#### **1432 VILLAGE PLAN GROUP**

The minutes of the VPG meeting held on 11th September were noted. Cllr Howell reported that about 100 people had attended the Open Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> September and there had been a lot of suggestions. An additional 10 or so people wanted to be involved as well as possible names for Secretary and Treasurer. The next VPG meeting will be held on 18<sup>th</sup> October. The ORCC have organised a Parish Plan Training Day on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October at Steventon Village Hall from 10am - 4 pm. Details will be circulated to members of the VPG.

#### **1433 HERITAGE CENTRE**

Council considered the request for a grant from the Heritage Centre. There was some discussion regarding other sources of funding and Council recommended that the Heritage Centre should apply to the Shrivenham Fete Committee as well as the Western Area Forum, CPRE, ORCC etc. After further discussion a vote was taken and approval given for a grant of £300.

#### **1434 PLANNING MATTERS**

The following applications were received:

20267	9 HAZELLS Lane	Single storey rear extension and pitched roof garage.	No objections
3752/6	Barrington Hotel	Refurbishment & demolish some walls & move fire escape	No objections
19762/1	Silver Birch House Northford Close	Erect garage	Object
20121	10 Manor Lane	Additional plans for bathroom extension	No objections
10950/4	The Bungalow, Station Road	Replace existing hedge with boarded fence	Concerns noted
20293	Post Office	New access to flat and extend counter	
3128/7	Cherry Bungalow, Station Road,	Single storey rear extension	

The following decisions were received

13893/3	11 Claypits Lane	Demolition of existing garages and rebuild garage/studio	PERMIT
13893/4-CA	11 Claypits Lane	“ “	PERMIT
3705/8	Oakmead House, Northford Close	Erect single storey rear extension	PERMIT

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **1435 TRAFFIC CALMING**

Council considered a letter regarding a narrowly avoided traffic accident involving a child on Highworth Road. This will be raised at the forthcoming meeting with school governors on school travel plans.

### **1436 CHRISTMAS TREE**

The possibility of a permanent siting for a Christmas tree was discussed. It was agreed that Cllr Howell would look at the feasibility of planting one on Pumphouse Green.

### **1437 PLANNING MEETING**

Councillor Tidmarsh informed members of the annual planning evening pm 9<sup>th</sup> October at Wantage Civic Hall between 7 and 9 pm. No one is able to attend.

The meeting closed at 8.34.