

MINUTES OF SHERFIELD-ON-LODDON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE LIDDELL HALL AT 19.30 HOURS ON WEDNESDAY 12 OCTOBER 2005.

Present

Brian Archer
Bruce Batting (Chairman)
Ken Clark
John Dodd
Richard Gaiger
Ivan Gosden
Sandy Johnston
Tracy Lander-Sims
Percy Sims
Lorraine Smith

In attendance

Lucy Marshall (Parish Clerk)
WPC Mandy Jewell

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

4465 Apologies for absence were received from Chris Horton.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

4466 Ivan Gosden declared an interest in agenda item 28.

3. TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14 SEPTEMBER 2005

4467 The minutes of the last meeting were approved as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

4. STANDING ORDER 17 - TO CONSIDER REVIEW OF CONDITIONS AND PAY OF STAFF

4468 In accordance with Standing Orders, the first item of business at the October meeting was to consider whether to review the conditions and pay of staff. It was agreed that a review should take place, based on the pay scales recommended by NALC.

5. TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF CRIME AND DISORDER

4469 The Neighbourhood Watch report for September had been circulated. Additionally, it was reported that the police had arrested two men as they were attempting to steal a car in Sherfield. The 'phone box had been broken into and money taken, and a number of petrol caps had been removed from cars in the village. Also, WPC Jewell reported three burglaries in Bramley last week, where keys had been taken and cars driven away. Burglaries have increased across the whole division.

OPEN FORUM

With no members of the public present, the meeting proceeded without the usual open forum session.

6. TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

(a) Planning Committee

4470 It had not been possible to organise a quorate meeting for the one application received:

ACTION

FGPC

Application No: BDB/61829 and BDB/61830

Location: White Hart, Reading Road, Sherfield-on-Loddon, RG27 0BT

Proposal: Change of use of grassed area to car park spaces and repositioning of planter tubs (retrospective)

However, all members of the Planning Committee were in agreement that the Parish Council should object to the application and consequently the Clerk had written to the appropriate planning officer. Next Planning Committee meeting, Monday 17 October.

(b) Finance and General Purposes Committee

4471 The next meeting of the committee will be held on Tuesday 25 October.

(c) Leisure Facilities Committee

4472 The next meeting of the committee will be held on Tuesday 25 October.

With regard to the tennis court lock, the contractor from Bramley had been unable to fix the lock and would try to find a replacement part. However, Council asked the Clerk to contact Basingstoke Locksmiths. The Council was reminded that the person responsible for breaking the lock had agreed to pay costs.

LM

The Clerk had written to the three sports club representatives, inviting them to join the committee and had received confirmation from Fred Berntsen. Replies were awaited from the other two representatives.

(d) Village Green Committee

4473 The next meeting of the committee will be held on Tuesday 18 October.

Percy Sims again voiced his concern that the Village Green had been left uncut for much of the summer and that it should be maintained for recreation. He said that encouraging gorse might result in the return of snakes to the area.

The Chairman reminded Council that a suitable grass cutting regime was being drafted by the Chairman of the Village Green Committee and others. The Wildlife Trust advice was that the heathy area should be carefully managed so that heathers and other heath plants and grasses would thrive.

(e) Allotments

4474

The annual meeting of allotment holders had been held on Tuesday 4 October 2005, and the minutes had been circulated.

The suggestion of a temporary waste site would be given consideration by the Finance and General Purposes Committee. The Clerk would contact one of the tenants who had indicated that her son could provide a concrete base free of charge.

LM

It was noted that there is a cockerel within the allotments at present, but it was understood that the tenant will be removing it.

The suggestion of amending the agreement to state that an outgoing tenant may sell on their own storage unit/shed to the incoming tenant was not necessary, as this could be a private arrangement between the two parties.

The bolt on the gateway at the northern entrance might need to be replaced. John Dodd agreed to look at it.

JD

The allotment holders had discussed whether dogs should no longer be permitted within the gardens, as some had been roaming freely and dog mess had been left. The agreement currently states that dogs are permitted but must be kept on a lead. Byelaws relating to fining for dog fouling are also applicable within the allotments. One allotment holder did not wish to put her dog on a leash as it is generally well behaved but becomes distressed whenever it has to wear a collar and lead. After discussion, Council agreed that the agreement should remain unchanged and dogs must be kept on a lead within the allotment gardens.

It was agreed that plots must not be enclosed for use as a garden, but maintained according to the agreement. One plot is currently being used as a private garden and a letter would be written to the tenant in question to explain that the agreement must be complied with and the tenant cannot establish a claim to the ground by adverse possession.

LM

Some tenants wished to establish an allotment association and had produced a document for circulating to all tenants. There was no objection to this proposal.

LM

(f) Play Area

Letter from resident offering to donate a bench for the play area

4475 It was agreed that the bench being donated to the village would be sited opposite the entrance to the playground, on the other side of the concrete path. Quotations had been received and the Clerk would order the bench and make arrangements for its installation on behalf of the resident, who had indicated he would be paying all expenses.

LM

To report on re-surfacing below scootabout and log slide

4476 It was reported that Park Leisure would be returning to repair the vandalised safety surfacing below the scootabout. Two quotations for re-surfacing below the log slide had been submitted to the insurers and a reply is awaited.

With regard to Section 106 money for open spaces, Ian Harris of the Borough Council had confirmed that the money could be spent on five-a-side goal mouths.

(g) Schools

4477 Percy Sims reported that he would be letting Sherfield School copy some of his photographs taken years ago of North Foreland Lodge and the village.

It was agreed that the school should be asked whether a tour could be arranged for Parish Councillors.

LM

Lorraine Smith reported that school children living in Sherfield Park have to walk along the grass verge of the A33 each morning in order to catch the school bus from within the village. The Chairman would draw this to the attention of the Chief Highways Engineer. Also, WPC Jewell would raise this matter with colleagues to see whether the bus company could be asked to change the route, so that children can catch the school bus at the entrance to Sherfield Park.

BB

WPC MJ

(h) Village Hall

4478

Update on Village Hall roof repair

The Chairman reported that the Borough Council were considering whether to award a 75% grant based on the quotation provided by Fleet Roofing, which had been the most

comprehensive quotation. However, this did not mean that the Parish Council had to appoint Fleet Roofing in order to secure the grant. It was hoped that a decision would be made in the very near future.

It was reported that visitors to the playgroup often have to reverse from the Village Hall car park onto the Reading Road, which was considered to be very hazardous. WPC Jewell agreed to contact the playgroup.

WPC MJ

The hall cottage had been re-let at £450 per month. A leaflet is being prepared for the Village Hall. After eleven years on the Village Hall Management Committee, the Chairman, Esme Ward, would be standing down at the AGM on 23 November. Caretaker arrangements were to be changed between Jan and Alan Martin. There was a deficit again this year, a shortfall of over £2,000. Repairs works were to be carried out in the car park, under warrantee. A barn dance would be held on 28 January 2006 to raise funds for the Parish Council and Village Hall.

7. TO DISCUSS SAFETY INSPECTION OF PARISH COUNCIL PATHS / LAND

4479 Due to poor light, the inspection of the green had to be postponed this month. After discussion it was agreed that inspections should be held in March and September. However, an interim inspection would take place this Saturday.

8. TO APPROVE QUOTATION TO CUT AND REMOVE ARISINGS FROM A SECTION OF MIDDLE GREEN, OBTAINED BY ALISON CROSS, HANTS IOW WILDLIFE TRUST

4480 A quotation of £150 from Buckland and Blay had been received. Bulpitt Brothers had quoted over £200 plus £47+vat per 1 tonne collection bag from Basingstoke Skip Company. Ivan Gosden proposed accepting the quote by Buckland and Blay, seconded by Percy Sims, agreed.

LM

It was noted that the Wildlife Trust had indicated that grant money could be made available for cutting and collecting for a larger area next year. This would be given consideration by the Finance Committee.

FGPC

9. TO REPORT CRASSULA HELMSKII FOUND WITHIN JUBILEE POND

4481 It was reported that New Zealand Pygmyweed had spread to the Jubilee Pond and Alison Cross had said she would monitor this situation.

The contractor had carried out a second spray of Golden Pond at no charge.

It was noted that the water level had dropped significantly in Horse Pond revealing a collapsing wall on the boundary of Pond Cottage, and the Chairman agreed to discuss the matter with the resident.

BB

The Clerk was asked to circulate a map of the green and ditches to Parish Councillors.

LM

10. TO REPORT NEW CONTRACTOR REQUIRED FOR GRASS CUTTING BY WAR MEMORIAL

4482 The Chairman reported that after approximately 42 years of tending the area, Grace Bowman and her family had decided to give up the task at the end of this year. Mike Barnes of Acorn Services was willing to take over the task at the same cost, proposed John Dodd, seconded Loraine Smith, agreed.

LM

11. TO CONSIDER QUOTATIONS FOR REMEDIAL WORK TO “MANSERS LAND”

4483 The Clerk had been seeking quotations for clearing some of the trees and replacing broken fencing on the land in question. It appeared that remedial works would be in the order of £5,000. However, it was suggested that much of the work could be carried out over a period of time.

It was reported that solicitors fees would be in the region of £1000. Mr Manser wished to include an uplift clause of 50% within the sale agreement.

BB

12. TO AGREE PROJECTS FOR SPENDING S.106 PAYMENTS IN 2005/6

4484 It was agreed that section 106 money available should be discussed by the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

FGPC

13. TO RECEIVE INSURERS RECOMMENDATION TO SETTLE INSURANCE CLAIM

4485 With regard to a claim for reimbursement for broken spectacles following a fall on the village green, the Parish Council unanimously supported the Insurers recommendation to settle the claim in full.

LM

14. TO DISCUSS PRODUCTION OF VILLAGE COOK BOOK

4486 Tracy Lander-Sims reported that Percy Sims would be producing a “potted history” of the village for inclusion in the publication.

PS
TL-S

15. TO AGREE TO APPLY FOR POPPI GRANT, PATH WIDENING BETWEEN NORTHFIELD/READING ROADS

4487 It was agreed that an application should be made to receive the Pride of Place Partnership Initiative Grant before the November closing date, so that the Parish Council’s pathway may be widened next year.

LM

The Chairman reported that an email had been received from a resident suggesting that the hedge along the edge of the pathway was very overgrown and should be cut back further by the owner. It was agreed that the Clerk would write a letter, asking for the hedge to be cut.

LM

The Chairman agreed to ask Darren Clapson of the BDBC to make arrangements to cut the hedges along the borough-owned footpath between the allotments and Bow Grove.

BB

16. TO CONSIDER REQUEST TO USE QUAD BIKE ON BMX TRACK

4488 According to Byelaws, motorised vehicles are not permitted on the Village Green without lawful authority. It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would not give authority to allow the use of quad bikes on the BMX track.

LM

17. TO REPORT ON MEETING WITH PROJECT MANAGER, CENTENARY PAVILION

4489 The Chairman and Clerk had met with Justin McRae and Darren Owen to discuss how the plans for the new pavilion could progress, now that Defra approval had been granted. Also, a pre-application had been submitted to the Football Foundation. Darren Owen recommended the acceptance of a quotation received from his colleague Bob Hill, of £3450 + vat, to carry out various and necessary mechanical and electrical works. The Parish Council agreed that a further two quotations should be obtained, including one from a local contractor. The building regulation drawings were being drafted and would in due course be sent to three local builders plus one other larger building company. The new pavilion would be included for discussion at the next meeting of the Leisure Facilities Committee.

LM

18. TO REPORT ON MEETING OF BASINGSTOKE DISTRICT ASSOCIATION OF PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS

4490 The Chairman reported that he had attended a recent meeting of the BDAPTC. The forum had discussed the crime, disorder and drug audit. The meeting had also been attended by Maria Miller MP, and Tony Curtis of the Borough Council, who answered questions about the South East Plan.

19. TO RECEIVE WORKING PARTY DRAFT RESPONSE TO BDBC REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS/BOUNDARY COMMITTEE

4491 In advance of the working party's meeting, it was discovered that the Borough Council intends to circulate a number of proposals to all parishes in the very near future. The committee agreed to defer discussion until the proposals are received.

20. TO RECEIVE WORKING PARTY DRAFT RESPONSE TO BDBC STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

4492 It was reported that the Working Party had completed the application and, essentially, confirmed that the Parish Council should be consulted on every aspect of planning relating to the Parish. The response was approved.

LM

21. TO CONSIDER RESPONSE TO HAMPSHIRE CC CONSULTATION ON DISTRICT-LEVEL HOUSEBUILDING TARGETS

4493 The Chairman reported that this matter had been raised at a recent meeting of Countrywatch which he had attended, and contact had also been made by the local branch of CPRE. The Chairman agreed to respond by 21 October on behalf of the Parish Council, favouring the option for least development within this area, and stressing that proper infrastructure was of paramount importance; unanimously agreed.

BB

22. TO CONSIDER RESPONSE TO BDBC PLAN 2006-2009

4494 This item had been deferred from the previous meeting. It was agreed that no response would be sent.

23. TO CONSIDER HCC CONSULTATION DOCUMENT ON MINERALS AND WASTE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

4495 It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would not be submitting a response to this document.

24. UPDATE ON TWINNING OPPORTUNITY WITH BRETTEVILLE-SUR-LAIZE AND BDBC EVENT 21-24 NOVEMBER

4496 The Clerk had written by email to the contact at Bretteville-sur-Laize but a reply had not yet been received. By coincidence, details of a twinning event/conference in November had been received and the Clerk had contacted the organiser for more information. He had clarified that no funding would be possible from the Borough, as they could only assist with towns and villages in the region of Alençon, although if Sherfield wished to re-kindle links with Dom Esch, Germany, the Borough could help as it is located near Euskirchen, another of Basingstoke's twin towns. A reply from Bretteville-sur-Laize would be awaited.

25. ROADS, TRAFFIC AND FOOTPATHS

4497 With regard to the signposting of Wildmoor Lane next to the Hams Corner development, the Clerk would contact Shirley Brewer at BDBC to ask whether this could be removed.

LM

It was suggested that many drivers entering the village via the sliproad fail to give way to southbound traffic, as directed by the signs, and that humps would be more effective. However, it was noted that this option had been considered but rejected at the time of the public consultation, as humps require street lighting.

The Chairman reported that he had received a letter from a resident in Longbridge Close, suggesting that the “no through road” sign opposite the White Hart Pub badly positioned and overlooked, and that it should be re-sited so as to reduce the amount of traffic which has to turn around in the Close. The resident had also suggested that additional signage should be installed at the slip road. It was noted that the Parish Council had asked the highway authority to allow a “village access only” sign in the past but this had been refused. However, it was agreed that the resident’s letter should be passed to the County Council for consideration.

BB

26. FINANCE REPORT
4498

A report on income and expenditure for the second quarter had been tabled. The balances of all accounts at 30 September 2005 are shown in the table below:

2005/2006	HSBC A/C	General Investment A/C	Consols	Grand Total
Bal B/F from Q1, 2005/6	14,270.91	22,743.69	24.17	37,038.77
Income Second quarter	11,348.85	0.00	0.00	11,348.85
Outgoing Second quarter	6,315.54	0.00	0.00	6,315.54
Balance C/F	19,304.22	22,743.69	24.17	42,072.08

Uncleared cheques: £213.18

HSBC Bank Statement at 30 September 2005 = £19,517.40

Approval of Payments

- £770.86 Clerk salary
- £113.18 Litter Warden
- £194.88 Inland Revenue

Approval of payments proposed by Loraine Smith, seconded Ivan Gosden, agreed.

The second precept payment of £10,000 had been received, and this amount had been transferred to the National Savings account at the start of October, as agreed at the last meeting.

The Clerk had tabled a half year budget report for information.

With regard to the Bank of Ireland’s Treasurers Account, created specifically for Parish Councils, the Clerk reported that the Parish Council’s funds could receive 0.5% higher interest than within the National Savings account, and could also have instant access to the funds. It would be possible to operate the account through the Post Office. However, Councillors did not wish to propose opening an account with Bank of Ireland at this stage but would read the leaflet which had been tabled at the last meeting and would discuss it further at the Finance and General Purposes Committee on 25th October.

FGPC

It was resolved to extend the Parish Council meeting beyond 21.30 hours, in accordance with Standing Order 85.

27. TO DISCUSS THE NEED FOR STANDING ORDER RELATING TO LATE CORRESPONDENCE

4499 The Parish Council discussed the suggestion of creating a Standing Order to prevent new correspondence, received after the issuing of the agenda, from being considered at the meeting. It was agreed that correspondence can only be raised if it relates to an item on the agenda, and this would be left to the Chairman's discretion.

28. TO DISCUSS REQUIREMENT FOR BURIAL GROUND, SHERFIELD-ON-LODDON

4500 Ivan Gosden left the meeting during this discussion.

It was reported that the burial ground, St Leonard's Church, is nearing capacity and would probably need to close in two years' time. The Chairman explained that when the PCC closes it down, the Parish Council must decide within three months of that date whether to pass the responsibility of arranging burials to the Borough Council, in which case future burials would then take place at Basingstoke Cemetery. If the Parish Council chooses instead to buy a new burial ground, then unless the PCC agrees to take on the management of it, that duty will rest with the Parish Council. Percy Sims said that he believed the PCC would be able to come to an arrangement if necessary.

With regard to purchasing land, an approach would need to be made to the land agent for Goddards Farm, in order to ascertain the views of the landowners, and to find out whether they would be prepared to sell approximately 1 acre for burial site next to the existing churchyard. It was confirmed that the Environment Agency would need to approve the ground.

It was agreed that, in the first instance, the Clerk would write to the Land Agent for the landowners view.

LM

29. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

4501 Councillors were asked to advise the Clerk if they had items for discussion at the next meeting.

30. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

4502 The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in the Liddell Hall on Wednesday 9 November 2005 at 19.30 hours.

Meeting closed 21.50 hours.