

MINUTES OF SHERFIELD-ON-LODDON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE LIDDELL HALL AT 19.30 HOURS ON WEDNESDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2005.

Present

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

In attendance

Lucy Marshall (Parish Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

4503 Apologies for absence were received from John Dodd, WPC Mandy Jewell and Chris Horton.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

4504 There was none.

3. TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 OCTOBER 2005

4505 The minutes of the last meeting were approved as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

4. TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF CRIME AND DISORDER

4506 The Neighbourhood Watch report for October had been circulated. In addition, it was reported that a NW co-ordinator had advised of someone acting suspiciously along Reading Road earlier this week.

The committee was reminded that cars which are permanently parked on the highway cannot be removed unless they are causing an obstruction and/or have no valid tax disc on display.

OPEN FORUM

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

5. TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

(a) Planning Committee

4507 The Chairman reported that the White Hart's application to change the use of grassed area to car park spaces and to reposition planter tubs had been approved; the Parish Council had written to object to the application but, as fewer than 5 letters of objection had been received, the application had not been considered by committee but had instead been passed under delegated powers. There remained concern for the safety of customers parking to the front of the planters, and the Chairman agreed to write to the Highway Authority to see whether any action could be taken to improve the situation.

ACTION

BB

The ongoing frustration arising from an apparent disregard for Parish Councils' views by Planning Officers would be an issue to be raised at a future meeting of the Basingstoke and District Association of Parish and Town Councils.

BB/SJ

It was reported that the Borough's Community Development Team would be visiting the Liddell Hall at 7pm on Thursday 17 November to discuss the setting up of a Community Association for the new Community Building in Sherfield Park.

(b) Finance and General Purposes Committee

4508 A meeting had been held on Tuesday 25 October. Due to an omission, the minutes of the meeting had been amended and were tabled.

Section 106 money

Ivan Gosden reported that Ian Harris of BDBC had met with Sandy Johnston and Lucy Marshall and had confirmed that the money available this year could be spent on 5-a-side play equipment. It was agreed that arrangements should be made for Councillors to visit the Green to see where the posts might be installed. The Council was reminded that the Section 106 money must be spent by the end of March 2006.

LM

Richard Gaiger reminded the Council that Section 106 money for open spaces/playground could be earmarked for improvements to the BMX track.

It was confirmed that S106 community funds had been allocated towards the football pavilion, as it included a community meeting room and police room; this too would need to be spent this year.

Precept for 2006/7

Version 5 of the precept calculation spreadsheet had been circulated for Parish Councillors to consider.

Due to a declared interest, Ivan Gosden was excluded from the following discussion: With regard to increasing the burial ground reserve next year, Brian Archer proposed increasing the transfer figure for 2006/7 from £1000 to £2000. Seconded by Bruce Batting, unanimously agreed. Bruce Batting reported that the issue of whether Section 106 money can be used for the purchase of burial ground is currently under discussion by the Borough Council.

LM

The following recommendations had been made by the FGP Committee:

- Acceptance of Bulpitts quotation of £200 for laying scalpings in car park and steps – in budget for next year; however, Richard Gaiger advised that the scalpings held at Bowlings Farm would only be sufficient for the steps. The Clerk would ask the Bulpitts to advise on the cost of extra scalpings.
- Acceptance of Butlers Lands quotation of £50 to top up pond path with wood chippings – work to be carried out this year.
- Acceptance of Broadleaf Tree Management's quotation of £240 for works to willows on centre brook and by pond – work to be carried out this autumn.
- Recommended to divert the £1000 in this year's budget for cricket ground into a reserve, to be increased gradually to allow for the treatment of a larger area of ground in the future.
- Recommended that the "no cycling signs" should not be replaced, as they only need to be cleaned.

LM

LM

LM

- Recommended to order a further skip for the allotments; the allotment expenses are over budget this year, and so the cost of an extra skip should be taken from the allotment reserve.
- Recommended to increase allotment rent with effect from October 2006 as follows: £20-£24 for full plot, £10-£12 for half plot, half price for retired.
- Recommended to increase football and cricket licences from £130 to £135 each.
- Recommended no further action on purchasing a noticeboard for Sherfield Park, until land is given over to the Borough Council and an arrangement can then be negotiated.

LM

Bank of Ireland Savings Account

The Committee had also recommended opening an instant access, high-interest account with Bank of Ireland.

The above recommendations were proposed for acceptance by Ivan Gosden, seconded by Tracy Lander-Sims and carried.

Next FGPC meeting: Tuesday 6 December, 20.30 hours, Garden Room.

(c) Leisure Facilities Committee

4509 The minutes of the meeting held 25 October 2005 had been circulated. Two sports club representatives had attended the meeting.

Sandy Johnston produced an image of the proposed 5-a-side pitch. However, he wished to discuss a different layout for the tarmac/Astroturf with Playdale, and would obtain a quote for this extra work.

SJ

The tennis court lock is still being repaired.

Bramley PC had confirmed that they have just 12 allotments and charge £10 rent. Their allotment gardens were soon to be disturbed by works being carried out by the electricity supplier.

The LFC had not supported the idea of providing a stand pipe for allotment tenants with livestock and the FGPC had endorsed this view.

A list of broken stiles and blocked rights of way, etc, had been handed to the Clerk.

Next LFC meeting: Tuesday 6 December, 19.30 hours, Garden Room.

(d) Village Green Committee

4510 The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 18 October had been circulated.

To receive map of proposed cutting regime

A village map showing a proposed grass cutting regime had been drafted by Simon Hennessey and was tabled. The proposal included cutting the tops of ditches at each cut, cutting the inside each ditch on one side in the autumn and the other side in the spring.

After discussion, it was agreed that the proposal should be accepted and tried for a year with a review next autumn; proposed Ivan Gosden, seconded Richard Gaiger, carried.

LM

The Clerk agreed to contact the Bowman family to ask whether the War Memorial grass would be cut before the Remembrance Service on Sunday.

LM

Some Councillors were concerned about the poor condition of the firebreak track, which crosses the Green from Goddards Lane to Greenway. It was noted that since scalping had been laid the track was being used by drivers on a daily basis, creating further ruts.

To receive update on weed control, Golden Pond

The treated pondweed was sprouting again and the Village Green Volunteers had removed 12 bags of pondweed roots at the weekend. The bags would be removed to Bowlings Farm for burning. Although the cost of spraying the pond had been met in full by the Borough, Councillors agreed that the Borough should be made aware of their misgivings about the competence of the contractor and advised that the herbicide used had failed to eradicate the Crassula.

BB

Next Village Green Committee meeting: Tuesday 20 December, 19.30 hours, Garden Room.

(e) Allotments

4511 Matters relating to allotments had been discussed under items 5(b) and 5(c).

(f) Play Area

4512 The Parish Council's insurers had accepted the quotation from Park Leisure to skim the surface below the log slide and the company would be carrying out the work this Thursday. Park Leisure would also be repairing the damaged safety surfacing around the Scootabout, under guarantee.

LM

(g) Tennis Courts

4513 The courts would be swept during the winter months.

(h) Schools

4514 Thirteen Councillors and partners had visited Sherfield School at the weekend at the invitation of Pat and Keith Preedy. The school intended to become more involved with the community and there was an indication that when the swimming pool and gymnasium have been completed, these would be made available for public use out of school hours.

Councillors voiced concern about traffic safety, especially as the entrance and exit routes had recently been swapped, and cars continue to attempt to cross the A33 carriageway. As the school reaches full capacity, the problem would increase.

(i) Village Hall

4515

Update on Village Hall roof repair

The Chairman reported that the Borough Council was now considering a 30% grant for this project; confirmation is expected next Tuesday. In the meantime, it had transpired that Glenn Moody may not have Public Liability Insurance for weekend work.

The Council considered a tabled document setting out other quotations received. After discussion it was proposed that Glenn Moody be asked to provide evidence of PLI cover to £2million by Tuesday 15 November. If this could not be arranged in time, then the contract would be given to Fleet Roofing; proposed Ivan Gosden, seconded Bruce Batting, 8 in favour 1 abstention.

LM

The Village Hall AGM would be held on 23 November and it was agreed that Sandy Johnston would continue to represent the Parish Council on the Village Hall Management Committee. It was reported that new tenants had moved into number 2 cottage; tickets were selling well for the first Loddon Players' stage production; there are now 50 members of

“POSH”; clubs such as Tae Kwando and the Gardening Club are very popular.

6. TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON “MANSERS LAND”

4516 It was reported that George White, Legal Services, BDBC, had agreed to act on behalf of the Parish Council. The Borough’s fees would be £300 plus local search and land registry fees.

Most Councillors had now been able to inspect the area of land, but it was agreed that fuller discussion of how the land might be improved and used would take place at the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee. In the meantime, the Clerk would obtain advice on insurance cover from Allianz Cornhill.

FGPC
LM

7. TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON CENTENARY PAVILION

4517 The Chairman reported that he would meet with Darren Owen (Project Manager), Justin McRae (architect) and David Hill of RHS next week to finalise the Building Regulation Drawings. The Chairman of Sherfield Football Club would be asked to comment before the drawings are submitted for approval by the Borough Council. It was hoped that approval would be received in time to seek tenders at the beginning of the new year. The Chairman agreed to ask whether quotations could be obtained prior to building regulation approval, although he thought that the preference would be to await agreed plans.

BB

As requested, Darren Owen had contacted the local firm, PSC, but it appeared that the company does not have professional indemnity to cover design work. The company RHS had therefore been asked to proceed as advisers for the mechanical and electrical element of the project, and this was supported.

With regard to funding, John Barnwell, Chief Executive of the League Managers Association, had indicated that he would discuss the project with other FA managers within the next two weeks.

8. TO CONSIDER IMPROVEMENTS TO BE MADE TO BMX TRACK

4518 Richard Gaiger asked Council to consider developing the BMX track to provide more exciting areas of the track for older children, eg; dips and ramps. This was supported and Richard would discuss ideas with Dave Miller, a local contractor, and a quote would be obtained. At this stage, the draft budget included a figure of £200 for next year.

RG

9. TO DISCUSS INSPECTION OF VILLAGE GREEN PATHWAYS

4519 Allianz Cornhill had written to the Parish Council requesting evidence of weekly safety inspections of the Village Green, in the light of the insurance claim made by a member of the public. A magazine article written by Paul Clayden, Chief Executive of the Local Councils Advisory Service, indicated that formal weekly inspections of village greens would be “going too far” and it was agreed that a reference to this would be made in the Parish Council’s reply. The insurers would be advised of the Parish Council’s agreement to inspect the Green twice a year and of the standing item at each month’s meeting of “roads traffic and footpaths” which allows the reporting of safety issues.

With regard to the inspection carried out in October, a report would be circulated to Councillors; one or two minor hazards had been identified and quotations were awaited.

LM

At this point in the proceedings, Ivan Gosden proposed extending the meeting beyond 21.30 hours, seconded Brian Archer, unanimously agreed.

10. TO RECEIVE BDBC PROPOSALS FOR REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS/BOUNDARY COMMITTEE

4520 The Borough's proposals had been circulated. The document put forward four possible options, all of which would affect the Calleva Ward boundary which includes Sherfield Parish. After discussion, Option D was the favoured choice which would result in the extension of Calleva Ward to include the whole of Bramley Parish, and would be represented by 3 Borough Councillors.

LM

11. ROADS, TRAFFIC AND FOOTPATHS

4521

Privet hedge obstructing pavement, Goddards Close/Bow Drive

It was confirmed that the owner had been asked to cut the hedge last year and had done so, but the new growth was once again causing obstruction. The Chairman would contact Jason Lewis of Hampshire Highways.

BB

School Bus stop, Sherfield Park

Since the last meeting, Hampshire County Council had been contacted about the problem of school children having to walk along the A33 to reach the bus stop by the Church. Arrangements had now been made to pick up and set down at the bus layby, next to Sherfield Park entrance.

Footway, A33

The Chairman confirmed that Hampshire County Council had approved the installation of a footway between Sherfield Park and St Leonard's Church and work would need to be completed within the current financial year.

Annual Meeting of Parish Transport Representatives

The meeting would be held on Saturday 19 November, from 10am – 12.30pm, Winchester. Due to other commitments, none of the Councillors would be able to attend.

LM

Pathway Reading Road/Northfield Road

The Chairman reported that he had obtained the deeds of the footpath from the Bank, and would investigate whether the overgrown privet hedge is encroaching on the Parish's land.

BB

Signage, Wildmoor Lane/Hams Corner

The Chairman read a letter from Shirley Brewer, BDBC, in which she explained that residents of Wildmoor Lane, opposite the Laings development, had requested the Wildmoor Lane sign some time ago. The Royal Mail and emergency services had been notified of this postal address, as given to Royal Mail and emergency services.

Road Closure

Temporary closure of old Reading Road between the ponds and the Shop, 10.45-11.15 am, Sunday 13 November, for Remembrance Service.

12. TO RECEIVE FINANCE REPORT

4522

A report on income and expenditure for October had been tabled. The balances of all accounts at 31 October 2005 are shown in the table below:

2005/2006	HSBC A/C	General Investment A/C	Consols	Grand Total
Bal B/F from Q2, 2005/6	19,304.22	22,743.69	24.17	42,072.08
Income October	1,076.85	10,000.00	0.00	11,076.85
Outgoing October	11,931.75	0.00	0.00	11,931.75
Balance C/F	8,449.32	32,743.69	24.17	41,217.18

Uncleared cheques: £1,091.34

HSBC Bank Statement at 31st October 2005: £9,540.66

Approval of Payments

- £732.36 Clerk salary
- £113.18 Litter Warden
- £233.38 Inland Revenue
- £1,611.00 Bulpitt Brothers (paid, cutting of green in precept)
- £48.66 Bulpitt Brothers (paid, cutting of football and cricket pitches)
- £12.42 Basingstoke Trophies (paid, Allotment prizes)
- £32.50 Sherfield Village Hall (paid, room bookings, quarter)
- £89.35 SE Water (paid, allotment meter)
- £669.90 Acorn Services (paid, cutting behind hall, tennis courts, playarea)

Approval of payments proposed by Tracy Lander-Sims, seconded Ken Clark, unanimously agreed.

LM

4523 Further to item 5(b), Bruce Batting proposed closing the National Savings Account and transferring Parish Council deposit funds to the Bank of Ireland Treasurers account; seconded Ivan Gosden, unanimously agreed. As with previous accounts, all transactions for the Bank of Ireland Account would require the signature of two Parish Councillors and the bank's mandate was circulated at the meeting for signature.

LM

13. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

4524

- **To set up a Burial Ground Extension Working Party**
- **Safety Inspection Report**
- **To agree precept for 2006/7**

LM

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

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

4525 The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in the Liddell Hall on Wednesday 14 December 2005 at 19.30 hours. Meeting closed 21.55 hours.