

**MINUTES OF SHERFIELD-ON-LODDON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE LIDDELL HALL AT 19.30 HOURS ON WEDNESDAY 10 AUGUST 2005.**

**Present**

Bruce Batting (Chairman)  
John Dodd  
Richard Gaiger  
Ivan Gosden (Vice Chairman)  
Sandy Johnston

**In attendance**

Lucy Marshall (Parish Clerk)

Four members of the public were in attendance.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**4417** Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Ken Clark, Tracy Lander-Sims and Loraine Smith, WPC Mandy Jewell and Chris Horton.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**4418** There was none.

**3. TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 JULY 2005**

**4419** Page 4, "Track to Greenway", John Dodd had agreed to cut a ditch close to the entrance of the track. With this addition, the minutes of the last meeting were approved as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

**4. TO CONSIDER NOMINATIONS FOR CO-OPTION FOR VACANCY FOR PARISH COUNCILLOR, SHERFIELD-ON-LODDON WARD**

**4420** This item was deferred to the end of the meeting.

**OPEN FORUM**

The meeting was temporarily adjourned to allow questions and comments from the general public.

**5. TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF CRIME AND DISORDER**

**4421**

**Neighbourhood Watch:** The report for July had been enclosed with the agenda. In addition, it was reported that someone had tried unsuccessfully to gain access to Premier Court. It was noted that Sherfield is very fortunate to maintain a low crime rate.

**Extended Licensing hours, White Hart and Four Horseshoes Public Houses:** A resident had written asking whether the Parish Council intended to object to applications made by the village pubs to extend their licensing hours. Councillors were supportive of the residents' objections but it was confirmed that there had been no opportunity for formal comment, as there is no requirement for Parish Councils to be consulted. Considering the general issue of the recent change in licensing laws, it was stated that the police have observed a direct correlation between extended opening hours and increased antisocial behaviour. With district authorities now having the responsibility for issuing licenses, it was incongruous that there is no consultation process at local government level. The Chairman agreed to make enquiries to see whether a letter from the Parish Council supporting residents' objections would have any sway.

**ACTION**

BB

Community Safety Booklet: It was noted that the Community Safety Booklet 2005 would be circulated with the September issue of the Loddon Valley Link.

LM

## **6. TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **(a) Planning Committee**

**4422** The minutes of the meeting held on 21 July had been circulated and were approved. Decisions regarding applications are reproduced below:

**Application No: BDB/61339, Location:** Sherfield Hill Farm, Reading Road, Sherfield.

**Proposal:** Erection of replacement garage with living/office area above.

**PC Decision:** Documentation relating to an earlier planning application for proposed work at this property was considered and it was noted that the Planning Officer at that time had indicated that the creation of a separate building with dwelling space was contrary to Council policy. It was agreed that the Committee's response would include a reference to this earlier clause. However, it was generally agreed that the new proposal would have little or no impact upon any other dwelling in the parish and so there would be "no objection" by the Committee.

**Application No: BDB/61404, Location:** Greenview Cottage, Sherfield Green, Sherfield.

**Proposal:** Erection of a first floor rear extension.

**PC Decision:** No objection.

**Application No: BDB/61285, Location:** Globe House, Goddards Lane, Sherfield.

**Proposal:** Erection of 2.3m close boarded fence including gravel board to western boundary.

**PC Decision:** A nearby resident had expressed concern about the proposal and wished to object to it, and the Chairman had advised the resident to submit their objection directly to the appropriate Planning Officer at the Borough Council. It was noted that the applicant had placed the mandatory yellow notice outside the property, so that neighbouring residents had an opportunity to be informed and inspect plans within the 21 day consultation period. The Committee acknowledged that a fence might improve access along Greenway, providing the fence is placed along the root line of the existing hedge. The Committee considered what other options there might have been for the boundary, but in conclusion the Committee had no objection to the application.

### **Refusals**

**Application No: BDB/60955**

**Location:** Ashwood Pines, Reading Road, Sherfield-on-Loddon.

**Proposal:** Demolition of existing garages/sheds and erection of garage/tractor shed.

### **(b) Finance and General Purposes Committee**

**4423** The next meeting of the committee will be held on 23 August.

### **(c) Leisure Facilities Committee**

**4424** The next meeting of the committee will be held on 23 August.

It was reported that new tennis court nets had been fitted. The broken gate lock would be fixed by the end of the month. Tennis fees of £194.50 had been collected and this was passed to the Clerk. Sandy Johnston had attended a play area inspection course and it was recommended to him that a weekly inspection is carried out.

Wicksteed had been asked to repair a broken part on the combat cableway. Sandy Johnston would be visiting the annual Saltex play equipment exhibition.

**(d) Village Green Committee**

**4425** The next meeting of the committee will be held on 16 August.

Willow trees

The willow tree by the viewing platform had been removed, as agreed at the last meeting. However, another willow had split and fallen along the path by centre brook, and the contractor had been able to remove this at the same time, at a cost of £80+vat. Work to remove other large, leaning willow boughs by the pond and centre brook would need to take place next year.

Conservation Award

With regard to the Parish Council's entry for the BDBC Conservation Awards, an acknowledgement had been received, indicating that a visit to the ponds would take place in September.

Village Green Volunteers

It was reported that the Volunteers had cleared the steps next to Golden Pond at the weekend, as well as removing ragwort.

Middle Green "heath"

Richard Gaiger agreed to remove the pile of dead wood from the "heath". Remaining scrub oaks would be cut, and the stumps treated. A quotation for removing five larger saplings was still awaited from the Bulpitt Brothers.

RG

The Chairman read aloud a letter he had received from a resident who was critical of the current regime for cutting grass verges and, in particular, a large area of nettles at the side of the pathway between Northfield Road and Reading Road, which provides a good habitat for butterflies and moths. Some councillors understood the concern but were surprised by the criticism, in view of the efforts made this year to follow advice from the Wildlife Trust on managing the Green.

**(e) Allotments**

**4426**

Request for permission to erect mesh hen run on allotment plot 38

An allotment holder had written asking permission to install a wood and mesh hen run on her allotment plot. This was agreed.

LM

Bonfires

With regard to lighting bonfires on the allotments, permission had to be sought in accordance with the terms and conditions, and should not be lit before 6pm.

Waste collection

John Dodd proposed hiring another skip for the allotments, seconded by Bruce Batting, unanimously agreed. The provision of a permanent area for allotment waste would be considered when the precept is calculated for the next financial year.

LM  
FGPC

To report no response from tenant of allotment 3, electrified fencing

Councillors were in agreement that the tenant should be asked to provide evidence of public liability insurance cover by return of post. The tenant would also be given until the end of August to erect an outer barrier and extra signage, otherwise the electrified fencing would

have to be removed. Proposed by Bruce Batting, seconded by Richard Gaiger, unanimously agreed.

LM

### Best Allotment

It was reported that Brian Saunders would be judging the best allotment again this year, and presenting the trophy at the Sherfield Show on 3 September.

### (f) Schools

**4427** It was reported that Sherfield School had made a donation to a recent charity cricket match in the village.

### (g) Village Hall

**4428**

#### Update on request for financial support for repairs to Village Hall roof

It was reported that Customs and Excise had confirmed that it would not be acceptable for the Parish Council to pay for the village hall roof repairs if the net amount is then repaid to the Parish Council by the Village Hall.

The Chairman wished to propose that the Parish Council prepare a schedule of works necessary to put the Village Hall roof in good order, seek estimates from contractors for the cost of these works, apply to Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council for a grant towards the cost, select and instruct a contractor to carry out the work and pay for the work out of the Parish precept.

This arrangement had been requested by the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC), and a letter addressed to the Chairman was read out to Councillors. The letter also made mention of a suggested joint fund raising event on 28 January, where proceeds would go towards the Village Hall and the Centenary Pavilion. Natalie Larner was thanked for offering to arrange the event.

The Chairman's proposal was seconded by Richard Gaiger, agreed unanimously. The Finance and General Purposes Committee would discuss the reallocation of this year's budget to meet the costs, at its next meeting.

BB  
FGPC

A meeting of the VHMC had been held on 26 July. Percy Sims was congratulated on his recent award for over 30 years service to the Community; the Hog Roast/Jazz evening last month had raised over £1,000; there had been two recent resignations from the VHMC; the Village Summer Playgroup had been cancelled; the VHMC Constitution is to be revised; a relief caretaker had been organised; a new tenant had been found for no 2 cottage, when Precious Petals vacates the premises later this year.

## **7. TO DISCUSS HERBICIDE TREATMENT OF GOLDEN POND**

**4429**

A quotation from Maplewood Ltd had been circulated. The company had been approached for a quotation by Alison Cross, as they carry out all of the Wildlife Trust's aquatic weed control. It was reported that Mike Bird, BDBC Biodiversity Officer, had indicated that grant-aid would be available for the work. Councillors felt that the cost of £350 for spraying plus £200 for strimming was too expensive, especially as this was an unbudgeted expense. It was agreed that further quotations should be sought. The Chairman would contact Barry Bulpitt.

LM  
BB

## **8. TO REPORT NEW FUNDING FOR COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS**

**4430** Details of funding for possible projects had been received. It was agreed that this

should be referred to the Leisure Facilities Committee for consideration for next year's budget, in the first instance.

LFC/  
FGPC

**9. TO CONSIDER REQUEST FOR DONATION FROM BASINGSTOKE CORONARY CARE SUPPORT CLUB**

**4431** Councillors were reminded that £100 had been set aside in the budget for "other donations". Last year, the Coronary Care group had received £50, and £25 had been given to both the Basingstoke Rape Crisis Centre and CAB Tadley. On the assumption that all three would again approach the Council, it was agreed that the Clerk would forward a donation of £33 to BCCSC, proposed Ivan Gosden, seconded Richard Gaiger.

LM

**10. TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON PROGRESS OF DEFRA APPLICATION, FOOTBALL PAVILION**

**4432** No decision had yet been made by the Secretary of State.

BB

**11. TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON "MANSERS LAND"**

**4433** The Chairman reported that he was waiting to hear from Clive Manser and would be making enquiries regarding land registry. He anticipated that the Parish Council's total legal costs, including Mr Manser's legal/conveyancing fees, would be in the region of £1,000.

BB

**12. ROADS, TRAFFIC, FOOTPATHS**

**4434** It had been noted that there were two roadside signs at the entrance to Laings development opposite the Green; "Hams Corner" and "Wildmoor Lane". The Chairman agreed to speak to Shirley Brewer to find out whether it is necessary to retain the Wildmoor Lane sign, as this is confusing.

With regard to the village sign at the southern entrance to the village, it was confirmed that the Borough is responsible for village signs, whilst the County is responsible for Parish Boundary signs placed along the highway.

It was reported that the Parish Council's insurers would be sending an assessor to the Village Green on Tuesday at 10.30am to inspect the area where a resident had tripped over.

With regard to a broken drain cover outside Weston House/Cheshunt Lodge, Joe Bate had fitted a replacement at no charge, for which Councillors were very grateful. There was still an issue to be resolved regarding ownership of that area of land.

A BMW had been parked for some time opposite the White Hart Public House, with "for sale" notices in the windows. The Chairman reported that had contacted Hampshire County Council to see if it could be removed, as advertising is not permitted on the highway without permission.

Regarding the missing footway between St Leonard's Church and Sherfield Park development, it was reported that this would now cost in the region of £50,000, but Andrew Winmill would continue to present the case for obtaining the necessary funding.

**13. FINANCE REPORT**

**4435** Following submission of the revised mandate, HSBC Bank had requested a formal resolution to be passed confirming the signatories of the account. It was resolved, therefore, that the following Parish Councillors are signatories of the account held with HSBC Basingstoke: Brian Archer, Bruce Batting, Ken Clark, John Dodd, Richard Gaiger, Ivan

Gosden, Sandy Johnston, Tracy Lander-Sims, Loraine Smith. Two signatures are required for any transaction. Proposed Sandy Johnston, seconded John Dodd, unanimously agreed.

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

2005/2006	HSBC A/C	General Investment A/C	Consols	Grand Total
<b>Bal B/F from Q1 2005/6</b>	<b>14,270.91</b>	<b>22,743.69</b>	<b>24.17</b>	<b>37,038.77</b>
Income July	358.87	0.00	0.00	358.87
Outgoing July	2,028.36	0.00	0.00	2,028.36
<b>Balance C/F</b>	<b>12,601.42</b>	<b>22,743.69</b>	<b>24.17</b>	<b>35,369.28</b>

Uncleared cheques: £113.18

HSBC Bank Statement at 31 July 2005 = £12,714.60

#### **Approval of Payments**

£725.98 Clerk salary  
 £113.18 Litter Warden  
 £239.76 Inland Revenue

Approval of payments proposed by Ivan Gosden, seconded by Sandy Johnston, unanimously agreed.

LM

#### **14. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

**4436** Councillors were asked to advise the Clerk if they had items for discussion at the next meeting. The Chairman would not be present at the next meeting as he would be on holiday.

#### **15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**4437** The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in the Liddell Hall on Wednesday 14 September 2005 at 19.30 hours.

#### **Deferred Agenda item 4:**

#### **TO CONSIDER NOMINATIONS FOR CO-OPTION FOR VACANCY FOR PARISH COUNCILLOR**

**4438**

This item had been deferred from the previous Parish Council meeting to allow Parish Councillors extra time to consider the matter. It was resolved that members of the public be excluded from the meeting for this agenda item, proposed Ivan Gosden, seconded Bruce Batting, unanimously agreed. Therefore, members of the public were thanked for coming to the meeting and were asked to leave for the final agenda item.

After discussion, John Dodd proposed Percy Sims to fill the vacancy of Parish Councillor, Sherfield-on-Loddon Ward, seconded Ivan Gosden, four in favour, one abstention. The Clerk would write and advise both candidates of the outcome, and would notify the Electoral Services Manager at the Borough Council.

LM

Meeting closed 21.05 hours.