

MINUTES OF SHERFIELD-ON-LODDON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE LIDDELL HALL AT 19.30 HOURS ON WEDNESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2005.

Present

Brian Archer
Ken Clark
John Dodd
Richard Gaiger
Ivan Gosden (Vice Chairman – in the Chair)
Sandy Johnston
Tracy Lander-Sims
Percy Sims
Lorraine Smith

In attendance

Lucy Marshall (Parish Clerk)
One member of the public was in attendance.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

4439 Apologies for absence were received from Bruce Batting.

Percy Sims had signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office following his co-option last month, and was welcomed to the Council.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

4440 There was none.

3. TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10 AUGUST 2005

4441 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

4442 The Neighbourhood Watch report for August had been circulated. Additionally, a document was tabled with details of a recent burglary and theft of vehicles in the village.

Extended Licensing Hours

(a) Four Horseshoes Public House:

4443 The Parish Council had written to the BDBC supporting local residents' objections to the pub's application to extend its opening hours to 1am, and suggesting that Parish Councils should be notified routinely of such applications. The Borough's reply had been that there is no requirement for Parish Councils to be consulted when licence applications are received, but they could opt to be advised of new applications, by email. The Parish Council noted that the pub had since been granted an extension to 12 midnight. It was noted that the White Hart Public House had been granted a licence to remain open until 2am.

(b) Tesco application for 24 hour licence:

4444 At a recent meeting of the Planning Committee, there had been concern that a 24 hour licence could result in problems of antisocial behaviour and under-age drinking in the Chineham Centre, and it had been agreed that a letter supporting Chineham Parish Council's objection should be sent to the local beat officer. PC O'Hanlon had replied, indicating that he is confident Tesco will take necessary steps to prevent the sale of alcohol to under-18s. A decision on the application is awaited.

Sandy Johnston reported that the Basingstoke District Association of Parish and Town Councils (BDAPTC) would be discussing licensing at its meeting on 29 September.

OPEN FORUM

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

6. TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

(a) Planning Committee

4445 The minutes of the meetings held on 11 and 30 August had been circulated. Decisions regarding applications are reproduced below:

Application No: BDB/61419

Location: Little Bowlings Farm, Goddards Lane, Sherfield-on-Loddon.

Proposal: Erection of buildings for use as boarding cattery.

PC Decision: Within the written supporting documents, the applicant had indicated there would be no need for foul water drainage, although this view was questioned. However, the Committee agreed that there should be no objection to the planning application.

Application No: BDB/65100

(Listed Building consent)

Location: 2 Goddards Farm Cottages, Goddards Lane, Sherfield-on-Loddon.

Proposal: Erection of front porch and two replacement front and rear windows.

PC Decision: No objection. (Cllr Gosden excluded during consideration of this application).

Application No: BDB/61546

Location: 40 Bow Drive, Sherfield-on-Loddon.

Proposal: Erection of a rear conservatory.

PC Decision: No objection.

Application No: BDB/61410

Location: Wildmoor Farm House, Wildmoor, Sherfield-on-Loddon.

Proposal: Erection of a two storey rear extension involving the construction of two dormers in side elevation.

PC Decision: No objection.

Application No: BDB/61482 and 61484

Location: Ye Old Winton Cottage, Sherfield Green, Sherfield-on-Loddon.

Proposal: Erection of a single storey rear/side extension and erection of attached garage following demolition of existing garage.

PC Decision: A previous, similar application had received no objection by the Parish Council, but had been rejected by the Planning Department. The Committee was again content with the proposal; no objection.

Application No: BDB/61285

Location: Globe House, Goddards Lane, Sherfield-on-Loddon

Proposal: AMENDMENT: Erection of a 2.0m close boarded fence including gravel board to western boundary.

PC Decision: No objection.

Application No: BDB/61691

Location: 2 The Briars, Reading Road, Sherfield-on-Loddon

Proposal: (RE-SUBMISSION, AMENDED) Erection of a single storey side extension to provide a granny annexe and erection of a detached double garage.

PC Decision: No objection, although it is noted that there is still no provision for a bathroom/WC within the "Granny Annexe".

Application No: BDB/61684

Location: Highway verge, OS Ref 466920 156330, Reading Road, Sherfield-on-Loddon

Proposal: Erection of a 12m high telecommunications monopole with antennas to a maximum height above ground level of 13.5m, with 2 no. ground based radio equipment cabinets and ancillary development.

PC Decision: No objection.

Application No: BDB/61712

Location: 1 West View, Bramley Road, Sherfield-on-Loddon.

Proposal: Erection of a part two storey, part first floor side extension.

PC Decision: Objection. The committee noted that a side extension was added to this property some months ago and had resulted in the dwelling being, in places, less than 2ft from the boundary with Brunlea. It was agreed that the current proposal to add a second storey would provide a large, unsightly expanse of wall facing the neighbouring property and would significantly reduce the natural light coming into the neighbour's sitting room, kitchen and landing. It was noted from the plans that if this application is given approval the applicant intends to further extend into the new loft space. The committee agreed that the current proposals would be an over-development of the site.

Approvals

Application No: BDB/61050 & 61051

Location: White Hart, Reading Road, Sherfield-on-Loddon

Proposal: Installation and display of new pictorial sign in existing free standing pictorial post.

Application No: BDB/61290

Location: The Meadow Mobile Home Park, Bramley Road, Sherfield-on-Loddon.

Proposal: Erection of a double garage and workshop to replace existing.

Application No: BDB/61339

Location: Sherfield Hill Farm, Reading Road, Sherfield-on-Loddon.

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

Appeals

Application No: BDB/59948

Location: Court Farm House, Sherfield Green, Sherfield-on-Loddon

Proposal: Erection of a side extension with accommodation in roof space.

The Chairman tabled a copy of the appeal document which had been submitted by the owners of Court Farm House. The application had been supported by the Parish Council during the consultation period but rejected by the Planning Department. The Committee agreed that a letter from the Parish Council would be sent supporting the owners' appeal.

Redlands – It was reported that the Department for Culture, Media and Sport had rejected the Borough Council's application to have Redlands added to the Statutory List. However, it had been identified as being a notable building of local interest.

(b) Finance and General Purposes Committee

4446 The minutes of the meeting held on 23 August had been circulated. The Chairman reported the following recommendations:

Recommendations from the Village Green Committee had been considered by the Committee. These were largely relating to expenses for next year's budget. Most of the recommendations would be incorporated within the draft budget. However, the Finance and General Purposes Committee had recommended deferring action on the following for a further 12 months: replacing a red oak sapling; removal of oak saplings in heath area of the Green. With regard to a suspected diseased tree, advice from the Tree Officer is awaited.

The Clerk had been asked to obtain quotes for: wood chippings for Jubilee Pond path; laying scalplings on steps by Golden Pond; a noticeboard for Sherfield Park; resurfacing section of centre path; laying scalplings outside Green View.

Richard Gaiger had indicated he wished the bench by Golden Pond, placed in memory of his father, to remain where it is, and his family would keep the immediate surrounding area cut. Richard had also offered to trim the Jubilee Pond island soon, and the BMX track.

It was noted that the Parish Council had not formally agreed to reduce the number of cuts on the Green, although following a report from the Hants and IoW Wildlife Trust the contractor had been asked to reduce the cutting. However, extra cuts had now been made to some areas of the Green. There were differences of opinion with regard to the appearance of the Green this year, but the Chairman advised Council that Alison Cross's recommendations were being clarified and the scheme was being reconsidered by Simon Hennessey, Bruce Batting and other members of the Village Green Committee. Their report would be awaited before making a decision about the cutting arrangements for next year.

There remained Section 106 money to be spent in this financial year. The purchase of "Mansers Land" had already been agreed, although clarification over legal expenses is currently being sought. Sandy Johnston would be in contact with Ian Harris, BDBC, to ask whether the proposed new 5-a-side goal posts would qualify for "Open Spaces" money. The subject of providing for a new burial ground would be added to the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting.

With regard to the village hall roof repairs, quotes had been considered by the Finance and General Purposes Committee: Glenn Moody (£1,650.00, no scaffolding), Hutchins Roofing (£2260 + vat, includes scaffolding), A & F Roofing Specialists Ltd (£820 + vat, plus to provide scaffolding £375 +vat), Fleet Roofing & Scaffolding Ltd (£2292 +vat, inc scaffolding). The Borough Council will make a site visit soon and Cabinet will then decide at the end of this month whether grant aid can be awarded. The committee had recommended that Glenn Moody, a local builder, be given the job. The committee had also suggested that the materials could be purchased by the Parish Council so that the VAT can be reclaimed.

The Parish Council agreed to await the outcome of the grant application, and would then offer the job to Glenn Moody, proposed Brian Archer, seconded Tracy Lander-Sims, agreed.

The FGPC will present a draft budget for 2006/7 to the Parish Council in the next two months.

(c) Leisure Facilities Committee

4447 The minutes of the meeting held on 23 August had been circulated. It was reported that quotes are awaited for resurfacing below the log slide, due to the fire damage as reported in the annual safety inspection report, and the Clerk would then submit an insurance claim.

It was reported that Park Leisure had raised the height of the Scootabout and had resurfaced a section around the play equipment, but the surfacing had been vandalised whilst still pliable and the company had been asked to return to repair the damage.

The surface below the combat cableway is satisfactory and does not require protective surfacing at present.

Tennis fees of £51 had been collected and were passed to the Clerk. The Clerk would continue to chase the contractor to fix the lock on the tennis court gate.

With regard to the new pavilion, formal approval from DEFRA is expected at any time. A project manager had been appointed as previously agreed and as soon as tenders are received, grant aid from the Football Foundation can be sought.

It was the recommendation of the Leisure Facilities Committee that Andy Stevens, Fred Berntsen and Don Campbell of the village's cricket and football clubs should be invited to attend future meetings of the Leisure Facilities Committee. This was agreed.

(d) Village Green Committee

4448 The minutes of the meeting held on 16 August had been circulated.

It was reported that Golden Pond had now been treated. Since the last meeting, the Borough Council had offered to provide a 100% grant for the work and so the contractor had been asked to go ahead with spraying.

In addition to the recommendations for next year's budget, the Committee had suggested re-siting the practice goalmouth and replacing the net. The Parish Council was advised that the net had only recently been replaced but had been vandalised and it was agreed that it should not be replaced again immediately. As there is still a question over whether a five-a-side pitch can be provided this year, no decision was taken with regard to moving or removing the practice goal.

(e) Allotments

4449

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

Since the agenda had been circulated, an email had been received from the tenant stating that she is trying to obtain public liability insurance to £2 million, with automatic indemnity for the land owner, and that the paperwork would be presented to the Parish Council as soon as it is available. Signage would also be erected as required. In the meantime, however, the fence would be switched off.

Best Allotment

It was reported that Bill Watson had won the best allotment competition this year, Carolyn Neill was runner-up and Guy Goodey was third. The cup had been presented at the Sherfield Show on 3 September.

To confirm date of Annual Allotment Holders Meeting

The meeting will be held at 8pm in the Garden Room, Village Hall, on Tuesday 4 October 2005.

It was reported that a water tank had become silted up. John Dodd agreed to rectify the problem.

(f) Play Area

4450 The play area had been discussed under item 6(c), minute 4447.

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

A resident had offered to pay for the purchase and installation of a new bench to be situated close to the entrance of the play area. Proposed Tracy Lander-Sims seconded Richard Gaiger, unanimously agreed. The Clerk would obtain quotations.

(g) Schools

4451 Following a recent invitation by the head teacher, Percy Sims had visited Sherfield School. He reported that registration had increased to 200 pupils this year.

Members hoped that a visit to the school could be organised for other Parish Councillors in the near future.

(h) Village Hall

4452

Update on Village Hall roof repair

This had been discussed under item 6(b), minute 4446.

A fund-raising coffee morning held on 10 September had been attended by 30 villagers.

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

4453 Following a recent visit to the Green by an insurance assessor, Ivan Gosden proposed that Parish Councillors inspect the pathways and land for which the Parish Council is responsible, in advance of the October and April meetings. Some members voiced a concern that if this is adopted, failure to notice a hazard might result in legal action against the Parish Council. However, it was recognised that the Parish Council has a duty of care for the safety of the public and Cllr Gosden's proposal was seconded by John Dodd, 8 in favour, one abstention. The Parish Council agenda would continue to have a standing item "roads, traffic and footpaths". Also, any concerns about safety / hazards should be reported to the Clerk as soon as they are noticed.

John Dodd asked whether a "no cycling" sign, now badly rusted, could be removed from the concrete path. However, members felt that cycling should continue to be discouraged and so it was agreed that the sign should be replaced and the Clerk would obtain a quotation.

7. TO REPORT HIGHWAY AUTHORITY IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR DRAIN BEHIND TENNIS COURTS

4454 The Assistant Highway Engineer had advised the Clerk that the Highway Authority is only responsible for drainage from the brick headwall to the chamber in the common. The cost of repairing the eroded pipe support would therefore fall to the Parish Council. There was no proposal to accept the quotation of £500 from the Bulpitt Brothers to build a new cement/sandbag headwall, and the matter was deferred.

8. TO DISCUSS REVIEW OF REGIME FOR CUTTING THE GREEN

4455 This matter had been discussed under item 6(b), minute 4446.

9. TO DISCUSS HAMPSHIRE CC CONSULTATION ON DISTRICT-LEVEL HOUSEBUILDING TARGETS

4456 A document had been circulated, closing date for response; 21 October. This was an important issue which would have a major impact on the parish and it was agreed that Councillors should give further thought to the document. The matter would be raised again at the next Parish Council meeting.

10. TO DISCUSS BDBC PLAN 2006-2009

4457 Outline objectives had been circulated, and it was noted that more detailed proposals would be published for consultation in November. However, the Council Leader had indicated that contributions at this stage would be welcomed. This would appear on the agenda for the next meeting.

11. TO DISCUSS BDBC REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS / BOUNDARY COMMITTEE

4458 Proposals had been circulated, seeking comments by 12 December. It was agreed that a working party should be established to discuss a response from the Parish Council, comprising Bruce Batting, Ivan Gosden, Loraine Smith, Brian Archer.

12. TO DISCUSS BDBC STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

4459 A questionnaire had been circulated for response by 21 October. It was agreed that the working party would also consider this document.

13. TO DISCUSS HAPTC NOTICE OF TOWN TWINNING OPPORTUNITY

4460 The HAPTC had advised that a town in Normandy was seeking to twin with a village or town in Hampshire. Councillors discussed the unfortunate failure of the village to maintain its link with Dom Esch; there had been no communication between the two villages for at least 15 years. However, the majority of members wished to investigate this opportunity further, and the Clerk would obtain more information about Bretteville-sur-Laize and twinning arrangements in general.

14. ROADS, TRAFFIC, FOOTPATHS

4461

To report letter from resident regarding condition of footbridge

A resident had written to advise of the collapse of a steel and wooden bridge, constructed many years ago by the local hunt. The bridge, which spanned the Loddon, had been well used by walkers and anglers. The resident wished the Parish Council to consider making a financial contribution to re-instate the bridge. However, Councillors noted that the bridge was not part of a recognised footpath, nor was it within Parish Council owned or managed land. The Parish Council agreed that the resident should be advised to make contact with the appropriate land owners, ie; Duke of Wellington estate and David Mitchell. Councillors felt that the landowners should be urged to remove the remains of the bridge for safety reasons.

15. FINANCE REPORT

4462

A report on income and expenditure for July/August had been tabled. The balances of all accounts at 31 August 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 July/August	1,126.22	0.00	0.00	358.87
Outgoing July/August	4,859.34	0.00	0.00	2,028.36
Balance C/F	10,537.79	22,743.69	24.17	33,305.65

Uncleared cheques: £1,119.31

HSBC Bank Statement at 31 August 2005 = £11,657.10

Approval of Payments

£725.76	Clerk salary
£113.18	Litter Warden
£239.98	Inland Revenue
£183.51	Four Winds Court Services (including £5.88 for a new centre guide adjuster tape)
£32.61	Petty Cash

The Clerk reported that the second precept payment of £10,000 is due this month, and recommended that this amount be paid into the National Savings account.

Proposed by Loraine Smith, seconded by Ken Clark, unanimously agreed.

The Clerk had also tabled details of the Bank of Ireland's Treasurers Account, created specifically for Parish Councils. The savings account allowed for instant access and offered a higher rate of interest than National Savings. Councillors agreed to give this consideration and the matter would be raised again at the next Parish Council meeting.

16. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

4463 Councillors were asked to advise the Clerk if they had items for discussion at the next meeting.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

4464 The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in the Liddell Hall on Wednesday 12 October 2005 at 19.30 hours. **The meeting will be preceded by a safety inspection; commencing 19.00 hours.**

Meeting closed 21.15 hours.