

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE SHERFIELD-ON-LODDON PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT SHERFIELD SCHOOL AT 19.30 HOURS ON WEDNESDAY 10 OCTOBER 2007.

Present

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

In attendance

Lucy Marshall (Parish Clerk)
A member of the press was in attendance.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

5322 Borough Cllr Marilyn Tucker, WPC Jewell and Chris Horton. John Dodd apologised that, due to his health, he would be able to stay for only half an hour.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

5323 Ivan Gosden, item 6(k) and 18. John Dodd, Percy Sims, Sandy Johnston item 6(k).

3. TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 SEPTEMBER AND EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 24 SEPTEMBER 2007

5324 The minutes were approved as a true record of the proceedings and were signed by the Chairman.

4. SO 17: "At every October meeting, the first business shall include consideration of the question whether pay and conditions of service of existing employees of the Council shall be reviewed"

To report resignation of Clerk and to discuss procedure for replacement

5325 Members were sorry to learn of the resignation of the Clerk and she was thanked for her hard work during the last 4 ½ years. Lucy had agreed to continue as an employee of the Parish Council as RFO with significantly reduced hours. The Council agreed to review the terms and conditions of Clerk and RFO and an advertisement for the vacancy would be placed in the Loddon Valley Link and via the HAPTC email distribution to councils.

It was noted that the Litter Warden did not have a written contract of employment and this was being drafted.

5. TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF CRIME AND DISORDER

5326 The Neighbourhood Watch report for September had been tabled. Members were sorry to learn that a local man had been killed in a road traffic accident close to the A33 roundabout this week.

It was noted that the next meeting of the Community Safety Forum would take place next week.

Members wished to congratulate WPC Mandy Jewell on her recent award in recognition of her excellent work as community police officer.

ACTION

BB
LM

LM

OPEN FORUM

The meeting was temporarily adjourned and members of the public were invited to speak.

The Chairman then wished to discuss item 6(k) on the agenda:

6(k) Village Hall

To receive update on Charity Commission/legal view of change in trustees (enclosure F)

To receive update on appeal to insurers

5327

Due to the confidential nature of the discussion the Chairman asked the public to leave the meeting temporarily.

There were no decisions made during the discussion. The public were invited to return to the meeting. John Dodd left the meeting.

6. TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

(a) Planning Committee

5328 The minutes of the meeting held on 28 September had been circulated. The following decisions were reported:

Application No: BDB/67025 Location: 5 Poplar Close, Sherfield-on-Loddon, Hants

Proposal: Erection of a part two storey, part single storey rear extension, single storey front/side extension and replacement garage/store.

PC Decision: No objection.

Application No: BDB/66841 Location: 9 Breach Gardens, Sherfield-on-Loddon, RG27 0AW

Proposal: Erection of a rear conservatory.

PC Decision: No objection.

APPROVALS BY BDBC FOR REPORT

Application No: BDB/66645 Location: Wildmoor Place, Wildmoor Lane, Sherfield-on-Loddon

Proposal: Removal of Condition (Section 73): Relief of condition 5 of planning approval

BDB/54120 for the erection of a summerhouse.

Application No: BDB/66635 Location: White Hart, Reading Road, Sherfield-on-Loddon

Proposal: Installation of 2 no. 5m x 5m tensile membrane parasols to frontage on existing seating area.

REFUSALS BY BDBC FOR REPORT

Application No: BDB/66692 Location: 1 Wheelers Court, Reading Road, Sherfield-on-Loddon

Proposal: Erection of two storey rear extensions and side porch.

The Chairman reported that the residents of Wheelers Court cottages would be making arrangements to fill the potholes on the track leading to their properties.

(b) Leisure Facilities Committee

5329 The minutes of the meeting held on 25 September had been circulated.

Andy Stevens had agreed to have the smoke alarm re-fitted. It was reported that the two football clubs would be paying for de-worming on the football pitches. The Bramley pest contractor had been asked to provide a quote for future treatments on the pitches and play areas and a reply is awaited. Plans for a modular pavilion would be submitted to Planning, Brian Archer offered to

arrange a working party meeting. A mole hill had appeared at the edge of the NoMow surfacing beneath the cableway. The tarmac had been laid between the basketgoals but Sandy Johnston suggested that it would be improved if turf could be placed around the edge of the area.

LM

(c) Finance and General Purposes Committee

5330 The minutes of the meeting held on 25 September had been circulated. Loraine Smith advised that she had been in attendance. Finances were to be reviewed for next year's precept.

LM

(d) Village Green Committee

5331 At the meeting held 18 September it was agreed that the Green should be given a third cut.

(e) Allotments

5332 Update on legal advice, disability access

Legal advice had been sought but it was still not clear whether the Parish Council has a duty as a service provider or landowner, in relation to allotments and the DDA. It was still considered to be too dangerous to allow vehicles to be driven along the central path, although from time to time it was necessary to allow the rotovator access to plots. It was agreed that the Borough's Access Officer's advice on reasonable access would be sought, and quotations could be obtained for consideration.

LM

5333 To receive minutes of Annual Allotment Holders Meeting held 2 October

The minutes of the annual meeting had been circulated. Several matters had arisen for consideration by the Parish Council:

5334 To receive recommendation for review of judging for best allotment competition

It had been suggested that tenants put forward a shortlist of nominations in the spring, and these plots could then be re-visited in the summer by the Parish Council. This was agreed.

5335 To receive recommendation that tenants with hens share cost of re-stocking bait for rat traps

At the allotment holders meeting, tenants had suggested that those with hens should pay for rat bait. There is an annual arrangement for re-stocking bait boxes, and it was agreed that this should continue until April, after which time those tenants with hens could share the task and the cost of purchasing and re-stocking the boxes on a regular basis, for a trial of one year. In the meantime, the Clerk would contact the pest contractor to ensure that he is re-stocking the boxes every 6 weeks as per his contract.

LM

5336 To receive request that a tenant moves fruit trees from edge of plot

At the allotment holders meeting, a tenant had reported that her neighbour had planted fruit trees close to the edge of the plot and these would eventually cause problems with root growth and loss of light. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the tenant and ask her to move the young plants away from the boundary.

LM

(f) Play area & BMX track

5337 Mole control had been discussed earlier in the meeting. It was important that any mole treatment is carried out regularly.

(g) Football and cricket grounds/pavilions

5338 Discussed earlier in the meeting.

(h) Tennis courts

5339 No report. (Note for record: £90 fees collected and banked on 4 October.)

(i) Schools

5340 Members asked the Clerk to write a letter of thanks to Sherfield School, for allowing use of their rooms for various village meetings, during the closure of the Hall.

LM

(j) Sherfield Park/Taylor's Farm

5341 The Chairman had attended a meeting on 26 September. Fund-raising events would take place at Christmas and the New Year. There had been no further news from the planners with regard to re-positioning the community building and the relief road. The Association would be submitting an article for inclusion in the Loddon Valley Link. They had sent a letter of thanks for the funds received from the Sherfield Village Fete.

(k) Village Hall

5342 Discussed under minute 5327.

7. TO RECEIVE MONTHLY SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT

5343 Report not received.

8. TO CONSIDER REQUEST TO PLANT TREE ON VILLAGE GREEN

5344 Members had received a letter asking for permission to plant a Blue Cedar close to the allotments. It was felt that this should be considered by the Village Green Committee in the first instance. It was noted also that some trees had died close to the Play area and might need replacing.

LM
VG Ctte

9. TO RECEIVE VERBAL REPORT ON BDAPTC MEETING HELD 27 SEPTEMBER

5345 The Chairman had attended the meeting at which a representative from Postwatch had given a presentation on the method for Post Office closures. Members were pleased to note that Sherfield Post Office would not be closed. On behalf of the BDAPTC membership, Cllr Martin Biermann had written to Barry Ford of BDBC following the consultation on traffic calming. Most of the Borough's proposals were supported with the exception of "recommended 20 mph" advisory notices. The meeting had been preceded by a period of silence in memory of Sheila Allen, long-standing member of the Association, who had died the day before.

The Clerk would ask Peter Eade to update the Parish Council on outstanding road works in the village.

LM

10. TO RECEIVE VERBAL REPORT ON BDBC CLIMATE CHANGE SUMMIT HELD ON 14 SEPTEMBER

5346 Sandy Johnston had attended the workshop but a report would be produced by the Borough in due course, which could be circulated to members.

11. TO CONSIDER SUGGESTION OF APPROACHING B&Q FOR ASSISTANCE WITH WORK ON THE GREEN

5347 Members agreed with the suggestion of seeking assistance with tidying the car park area. With a slight modification to the draft letter, a request would be sent by the Clerk.

LM

12. TO RECEIVE INVITATION TO APPLY FOR POPPI GRANT & PROMOTION OF HERITAGE GRANT, 2008

5348 It was suggested that wildlife information boards could be purchased with POPPI grant aid, and so the Clerk would contact Alison Cross from Hampshire and IoW Wildlife Trust for advice.

LM

13. TO RECEIVE INVITATION TO BDBC HOUSING FORUM, 27 NOVEMBER

5349 Members interested in attending should reply by 1 November.

14. TO CONSIDER REVIEW OF BDBC LICENSING POLICY

5350 It was agreed that Parish Councils should have more involvement when licensing applications are received. It was noted that the government is reviewing the policy of allowing 24 hour licensing. Sandy Johnston offered to complete the Borough Council's questionnaire by 1 November.

SJ

15. ROADS, TRAFFIC AND FOOTPATHS

5351 Percy Sims reported that the pathway between St Leonard's Church and the slip road into the

village had become very overgrown and was in a bad condition. The Chairman/Clerk would contact Jason Lewis to see whether improvements could be made. In addition, Sandy Johnston reported that he is completing an assessment form for all footpaths and rights of way in the parish and would make mention of the footway.

BB/LM

SJ

5352 A resident had written to complain of poor parking along the Bramley Road during the Sunday Loddon Sports football match. It was agreed that the police would be asked to look at this problem.

LM

5353 It was reported that people are parking in the driveway of resident living close to the football pitches. It was agreed that quotations would be obtained for "Residents Parking Only" signs.

LM

5354 With regard to the naming of the new development in Breach Lane, the covenant restricting the use of the name "Rectory" had been removed and Bruce Batting would contact the Borough Council to see whether there is a wish to give the properties the address of "Rectory Gardens", as originally suggested.

BB

It was resolved to continue the meeting beyond 9.30pm.

16. TO RECEIVE FINANCIAL REPORT

5355 A report for September had been circulated:

2007/2008	HSBC A/C	Bank of Ireland Deposit A/C	Consols	Grand Total	Uncleared cheques (HSBC)	Uncleared receipts (HSBC)
Bal B/F from Aug	8,284.11	53,513.69	24.17	61,821.97	1,058.48	
*Credits Sept	32,590.28	240.11	0.00	32,830.39		
*Debits Sept	14,325.62	14,000.00	0.00	28,325.62		
Balance C/F	26,548.77	39,753.80	24.17	66,326.74		
					Uncleared Balance	
					27,607.25	

HSBC Bank Statement at 30 September 2007: £27,607.25

*** Inc. transfers & donation of £2,500 for football pavilion fund from Fete profits + 2nd half precept**

The following payments were approved:

£746.49	Clerk salary
£131.54	Litter Warden salary
£232.79	Tax and NIC
£305.50	BDBC - in budget - roundabout maintenance (incl. £45.50 vat)

LM

The first draft of the precept 2008/9 document had been tabled for consideration, based on the half-year budget report. It was noted that the BMX track work could go ahead this year using funds from the Playground reserves. The document included some recommendations for diverting funds from this year's budget, to allow adequate funding for emergency work on the village hall. The document would be given consideration by the FGP Committee.

FGP Ctte

17. TO AGREE ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

5356 Items to be received at least five days before the next meeting.

18. TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON BURIAL GROUND

5357 The Borough Solicitor had indicated there were one or two queries remaining but it was thought that completion would take place in the very near future.

All

19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

5358 Next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 14 November, 19.30 hours, venue to be confirmed. Meeting closed: 21.50 hours.