

MINUTES

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SHERFIELD-ON-LODDON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9 FEBRUARY AT 7.30 PM IN THE LIDDELL HALL

PRESENT: Ivan Gosden (Chairman); Alan Ball; Ken Clark; John Darker; Sally Hennessey; Sandy Johnston; Bruce Jones; David Leivesley; Loraine Smith.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Julie Collins (Clerk); Borough Councillor Ranil Jayawardena; WPC Mandy Jewell; one member of the public.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from: Bruce Batting; Borough Councillor Rhydian Vaughan.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2011 were confirmed as a true record of the business that took place and signed by the chairman.

4 MATTERS OF CRIME AND DISORDER

The Neighbourhood Watch report for January was tabled and noted.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Councillor Jayawardena reported as follows:

- the Borough Council's annual budget meeting will take place on 10 February at which a freeze in the level of council tax will be approved. This has been achieved with no reduction in front line services.

6 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was duly signed and received from John Darker. It was **resolved** to appoint him to the Planning Committee.

7 DECLARATION OF PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS

Members noted a report prepared by the clerk following information from the Monitoring Officer advising that all members will have a prejudicial interest when matters relating to the village hall are put before them at council meetings in view of their role as corporate trustees. To avoid this conflict, it will be necessary for councillors to make individual applications to the Standards Committee for a dispensation permitting them to make decisions relating to village hall matters at parish council meetings.

8 RESPONSE FROM CROUDACE HOMES

Members received a response from Croudace Homes to the council's request for early provision of the retail units at Sherfield Park. The letter had been forwarded by James Arbuthnot's secretary in his absence and it was agreed that no progress could be made until a response is received from the MP himself, hopefully, by the next meeting.

9 TRAINING CALENDAR

Members received the training calendar from Hampshire Association of Local Councils for the period April – June and approved Mr Darker's attendance at the Core Skills for New Councillors session on 25 June at a cost of £25.

10 LODDON LINK

The following items were agreed for inclusion in the next Loddon Link article:

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- Increase in tennis charges from 1 April
- Advance notice of the annual parish meeting in May
- Request for volunteers for work on the village green
- Request for volunteers to assist with the village fete

11 SAFETY REPORT

The monthly safety report for January was tabled – no items were identified for attention.

12 FINANCE REPORT

It was **resolved** to accept the following report:

Sherfield-on-Loddon Bank Accounts Summary at 31 January 2011

Financial year ending 31 March 2011	Petty Cash £	HSBC Current A/C £	HSBC Deposit A/C £	Total £
Balance b/f from Dec	13.24	6026.53	45047.07	51086.84
Income – credits received	Nil	10559.50	2.09	10561.59
Expenditure – cheques presented, bank transfers & petty cash payments	2.46	7650.85	10000.00	17653.31
Balance c/f to Feb	10.78	8935.18	35049.16	43995.12

Approval for Payments due in February

Payee/description	Cheque no	Amount £
Clerk's salary	101319	1050.80
Litter Warden's salary	101320	139.29
HM Revenue & Customs - tax & NI	101321	344.94
Hampshire Pension Fund – pension contributions	101322	330.92
J Collins – reimbursement for stationery & ink cartridges	101323	77.18
Petty cash top-up	101324	40.00
Sherfield Village Hall – storage fee (£300) & room hire (£57.00)	101325	357.00
Total		2340.13

It was **resolved** to accept a revised quote from Ian Woods for the control of moles on the Green in the sum of £50 per month to include the cricket pitch.

13 REQUEST FROM VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR A SHORT-TERM LOAN

Members considered a request from the village hall management committee for a short term loan of £8721 to enable the invoice for the installation of solar panels to be settled pending the receipt of confirmed grant aid from the Loddon and Eversley Local Action Group. HALC and the internal auditor have advised that, in their opinion, a loan made under S.19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act for solar panels would not fall within the definition of “provision of recreational facilities” – a requirement of the Act. However, members were of the opinion that the installation of solar panels is an important factor in securing the future “provision of recreational facilities” in the village hall and **resolved** to make a loan under this power on condition that it is repaid in full immediately upon the receipt of the grant aid (to be the subject of a written agreement).

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14 TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

- (a) Planning Committee – minutes of the meeting of 12 January had been circulated and were noted;
- (b) Leisure Committee – minutes of the meeting held on 19 January tabled and ratified;
- (c) Finance and General Purposes Committee - minutes of the meeting held on 19 January tabled and ratified;
- (d) Village Fete Committee – minutes of the meetings held on 1 February were tabled and ratified;
- (e) Village Hall Management Committee – nothing to report;
- (f) Village Green – nothing to report;
- (g) Allotments – nothing to report;
- (h) Play area, BMX track and tennis courts – Sandy Johnson reported that repairs to the BMX track will be undertaken soon;
- (i) Football and cricket grounds – nothing to report;
- (j) Sherfield Park Community Association – David Leivesley reported as follows:
 - The football and room tariffs have been agreed for 2011/12;
 - Additional sponsorship is being sought for the Community Centre;
 - The hand-over of the Community Centre will be in mid-April with the official opening being on 7 May.
 - The advert for a manager has, so far, had a good response.
- (k) Schools – nothing to report.

In view of the business to be discussed, viz matters relating to the pay and conditions of staff, it was **resolved** to exclude the press and the public.

15 STAFF MATTERS

It was **resolved** that the clerk should receive mileage allowance at the Inland Revenue approved rate for all official business excluding attendance at the monthly full council meeting and that a clause to this effect should be added to her contract.

16 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 9 March 2011 at 7.30pm in the Liddell Hall.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm.