

**MINUTES OF SHERFIELD-ON-LODDON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE GARDEN ROOM OF THE VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2004**

**Present**

Bruce Batting (Chairman)  
John Dodd (Vice Chairman)  
Richard Gaiger  
Ivan Gosden (Vice Chairman)  
Sandy Johnston  
Tracy Lander-Sims  
Harry Moore

**In attendance**

Lucy Marshall (Parish Clerk)  
Cllr Roger Gardiner  
Cllr Marilyn Tucker  
Inspector Adrian Gatehouse (for agenda item 4)  
WPC Mandy Jewell (for agenda item 4)

Four members of the public were present during the meeting.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**3911** The Chairman welcomed Borough Councillors Gardiner and Tucker and Inspector Gatehouse and WPC Jewell to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Chris Horton.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**3912** Ivan Gosden and Tracy Lander-Sims declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 9 and agreed to be excluded from the discussion during that item.

**3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 JANUARY 2004**

**3913** The minutes of the last meeting were approved as a true record of the proceedings and were signed by the Chairman.

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

**3914** Inspector Gatehouse thanked the Parish Council for inviting him to attend. He explained that he is responsible specifically for rural areas across the Borough, and is supported by 37 constables, 4 sergeants and a civilian officer, and works from both Tadley and Whitchurch police stations. He explained that there is 24 hour policing available throughout the rural areas. His 9 rural beat officers are almost always involved in rural crime issues and are rarely used elsewhere. There is an emergency response vehicle and 3-4 other vehicles for the rural area.

Inspector Gatehouse explained that policing is performance-related and crime figures and outcomes within different counties are compared. Priorities are for crimes of violence, dwelling burglary and vehicle crime. He reported figures for Sherfield-on-Loddon, as follows:

|                         | Year to Dec 03 | Previous Year |
|-------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Dwelling burglaries     | 0              | 2             |
| Assaults                | 1              | 1             |
| Vehicle crime           | 6              | 6             |
| Criminal damage         | 1              | 1             |
| Theft from outbuildings | 1              | 4             |

**ACTIONS**

He explained that just 7% of recorded crime on WPC Jewell's beat was from Sherfield plus a few other small parishes - 93% was from Bramley, which it was supposed was due to the railway connection there.

It was important to note that even perceptions of crime are now formally recorded by the police. He confirmed that if a member of the public thinks or knows that a crime has been committed, it should be reported even if the "victim" is reluctant to contact the police. Inspector Gatehouse explained that the police need to have information in order to be able to deal with crime and antisocial behaviour, and explained the frustration officers have when they are criticised for taking no action, as they cannot act without information from the public.

Inspector Gatehouse reported that he has a budget of £20,000 for rural beats. There are currently some "reassurance policing" initiatives within the farming community. Motoring offences have lower priority, although he acknowledged that in some cases there can be a link with other criminal activity.

The Chairman explained that the Parish Council receives reports of drug abuse and dealing in the village. WPC Jewell reported that she is aware of no unusual activity at the moment, and confirmed that she regularly visits at night those places where activity has been reported in recent months. No further reports have been received from residents close to the bus shelter in Goddards Lane.

With regard to the effectiveness of teen shelters, Inspector Gatehouse had no information to give, although he knew of other parishes having them installed. He reminded the Council that a shelter will not prevent antisocial behaviour - it would probably continue but preferably within an area where culprits could be seen. He said it was equally important not to site the shelter too close to residents, as this could cause a nuisance.

The Chairman had tabled plans of the new football pavilion, which included an office for part-time use by the beat officer. Inspector Gatehouse and WPC Jewell agreed that this would be welcomed and agreed to consider and comment on the plans. It was reported that Mobile Offices were successful and still in operation in the Borough.

At the close of the discussion, Inspector Gatehouse said that he would be pleased to return if requested, to discuss local concerns and issues again.

## **5. TO CONSIDER AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDER 34**

**3915** A proposal to change a phrase within SO 34 (a) from "at least 8 members" to "all members" had been circulated. After discussion, it was agreed that the new wording should be "at least 6 members". This was proposed by John Dodd, seconded by Ivan Gosden and accepted by all those present. It was also unanimously agreed that a reference to the date that the Standing Orders were adopted should be included in the document, together with the date of amendment.

LM

## **6. TO RECEIVE REPORT ON RURAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING SEMINAR**

**3916** The Chairman and Tracy Lander-Sims had attended a seminar in Silchester on 3 February, attended by HRH The Princess Royal.

The Rural Housing Trust, organisers of the event, will conduct rural housing surveys on behalf of Parish Councils. Once the need for affordable housing has been established, the RHT will work with the Parish Council on all aspects of planning, funding and development of a housing scheme. However, the Chairman reported that 30% of the new housing in Sherfield Park is officially designated affordable housing and it would seem

that there is not the need or space for further affordable housing within Sherfield currently.

## **7. TO DISCUSS HOW TO PROGRESS THE PARISH PLAN**

**3917** As previously reported, an application to the Countryside Agency for grant aid had been unsuccessful. The Chairman reported that he had spoken with a neighbouring parish regarding the possibility of making a “cluster” application for funding, but he was of the opinion that this would probably not be the way forward.

Details of a Community Enhancement Grant Scheme from the Borough Council had recently been received and Tracy Lander-Sims agreed to investigate the chances of applying for the grant to cover the costs of Sherfield’s Parish Plan.

TL-S

## **8. TO REPORT PROGRESS ON THE PRODUCTION OF A PARISH FOOTPATH MAP**

**3918** Sandy Johnston was hopeful that a map of the golf club and its footpaths would soon be available. Volunteers had agreed to follow his suggested local walks, in case amendments are necessary. The text would then be submitted for inclusion in the parish footpath map. Sandy Johnston would be contacting Matt Beal of HCC next week to progress the draft document. Croudace had been asked whether they would be willing to contribute to the cost of the map and also for their view on linking the pavements between St Leonard’s Church and the entrance to Sherfield Park. A reply is awaited. In the meantime, it was noted that a Pedestrian Access Improvement Grant is available from the Design and Implementation Team at BDBC. Also, the Hampshire Pathway Association is supportive of the idea.

## **9. TO DISCUSS THE PROVISION OF THE NEW BURIAL GROUND**

**3919** As they had declared an interest, Ivan Gosden and Tracy Lander-Sims were not involved during the discussion. The Chairman had been in contact with Ian Harris at BDBC and reported that when the present churchyard becomes full the PCC will write to the Home Office to have it closed. The Parish Council will then be served notice to take over maintenance of the churchyard. The Parish Council can appeal and pass the responsibility over to the Borough Council. This would mean that burials would in future take place at Worting Road Cemetery. He also reported that, since his correspondence regarding provision for burial grounds using Section 106 funding, the Borough Council are now considering whether they should create a fund specifically for churchyard provision, as they have done with other major areas of necessary expense, eg; BEST policy for transport. The Chairman felt that the earlier suggestion of purchasing the Rectory was probably not feasible because of its high market value.

The Council agreed that parishioners should be aware that if there is no extension to the churchyard, burials would take place at Worting Road Cemetery. It was also agreed that when the Parish Council is re-formed after the June elections, arrangements should be made to liaise with the Parochial Church Council, when hopefully further information about the new Borough Council fund would be available.

LM/BB

## **10. TO CONSIDER LETTER FROM RESIDENT REGARDING TETRA MAST AT SCATS GARDEN CENTRE**

**3920** A letter from John and Gill Fearon had been circulated in which they were seeking the Parish Council’s support to have the TETRA mast removed. They and other villagers were concerned about the possible dangers to health within a 2 km radius of the mast, based on results from published studies.

The Chairman read aloud the Parish Council’s letter of objection, submitted in response

to the original planning application. Prior to the planning application, the Parish Council had also suggested the mast should be sited away from residential areas. These views had been disregarded and permission was granted by the Borough Council for the mast to be erected at Scats Countrystore, next to a dwelling and close to North Foreland Lodge School on the edge of the Conservation Area.

John Fearon was present and was invited to speak to this item. He said that any objection cannot be on health grounds, but should be taken heed of if there is a perceived fear. He said that several police stations are no longer using TETRA communications as officers using the equipment have complained of headaches.

It was agreed that the Parish Council should write to Andrew Hunter MP in support of Mr and Mrs Fearon's protest, although John Fearon said that the Borough Council had written to Andrew Hunter, indicating that they are not willing/able to take steps to have the mast removed.

BB

The Chairman would contact a friend who works in the telecom industry for more information on TETRA communications.

BB

Councillors discussed how Scats Countrystore, which almost certainly receives rent for the mast, could be pressured into asking for the mast to be removed. A plan of action is to be agreed.

BB

#### **11. TO DISCUSS PARKING ALONG BRAMLEY ROAD**

**3921** It was noted that several cars have damaged their tyres on the new pinch points along the Bramley Road. The Chairman would speak to James Holt about the problem.

BB

A letter had been received from Jacqui Skillett, complaining that cars had parked on the pavement along Bramley Road during a Sheffield FC match, blocking the pavement and obscuring site lines from driveways. Bruce Batting had spoken with Sheffield Football Club about the problem and would also be contacting Loddon Sports.

BB

A letter from Mrs Harper regarding parking outside her home along the Bramley Road would be circulated to Councillors for consideration.

LM  
P Council

#### **12. TO REPORT ON THE MEETING OF THE FOOTBALL PAVILION STEERING GROUP HELD 4 FEBRUARY 2004**

**3922** Minutes of the recent meeting were circulated and a floor plan was tabled. Unfortunately, the architect involved with the project would be unable to complete the plans due to personal circumstances. The Chairman would be arranging for the plans to be completed, with minor amendments, so that they can be submitted to the Planning Department as soon as possible. Legal advice about applying for Secretary of State approval was being sought from George White at BDBC, who had been involved with the Parish Council's project to lay the tarmac car park by the football field ten years ago. There will be a need to formally approach DEFRA and the Mitchell company who own the land. Next meeting of Steering Group, Wednesday 3 March.

BB

LM

#### **13. TO RECEIVE DETAILS OF BDBC RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS GRANT**

**3923** Details of the grant had been circulated. Closing date for applications 19 March. The Village Hall would be advised to apply for the grant as works can include "improvements to rural car parks".

SJ

#### **14. TO DISCUSS USE OF PC GRANT FOR SHERFIELD VILLAGE HALL**

**3924** The Parish Council had previously agreed to award a grant of £2,000 to the Village Hall in 2004/5 for kitchen refurbishment. However, there is now some urgency to complete the resurfacing of the rear car park in time for the June elections, and it was agreed that the Village Hall Management Committee could spend the grant money on the car park. It was suggested that this may also give more weight to any application they make for Borough Grant funding.

#### **15. TO CONSIDER REQUEST FOR A DONATION FROM TADLEY CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU**

**3925** A letter requesting a donation had been received. The Parish Council was reminded that a donation of £50 was made to Tadley CAB in September 2003, and at that time it had been agreed that the Parish Council would support Basingstoke CAB in the following year, if asked. This decision was upheld.

LM

#### **16. TO DISCUSS HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S DESIGNATION OF SHERFIELD GREEN AS A SITE OF IMPORTANCE FOR NATURE CONSERVATION (SINC)**

**3926** Details of SINC classification had been circulated, together with a map showing that the northern section of the Green between Goddards Lane and Bramley Road was to be classified as such. It was noted that advice and grants could be sought to maintain the area. Ivan Gosden reported that his experience of SSSI classification, which he felt was comparable, was that it could be burdensome, limiting what may be carried out within the area. On this advice, it was agreed that the Parish Council would not request the remainder of the Village Green to be classified as a SINC. It was noted again that the Mitchell company owns the land and would also need to be informed by Hampshire County Council.

#### **17. TO DISCUSS ELECTORAL REVIEW OF HAMPSHIRE CC, DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE BOUNDARY COMMITTEE**

**3927** It was noted that changes affect Crondall and Bishopstoke. No response necessary.

#### **OPEN FORUM**

The meeting was adjourned so that items not appearing on the agenda could be discussed.

#### **18. PLANNING: UPDATE AND NEW APPLICATIONS**

**3928** There had been no new applications since the Planning Meeting held on 26 January. However, the Chairman reported that the Planning Department are arranging a site visit to the Laurels, Wildmoor Lane, Sherfield (BDB /57386). The application would then go to the Borough committee in March. He also reported that the development at Kingswood/Pointers would be discussed at tomorrow night's meeting at the Borough.

#### **19. REPORTS**

##### **(a) PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**3929** The minutes of the meetings held on 26 January had been circulated. Decisions reached by the Parish and Borough Councils were as follows:

**Location:** Utopia, Wildmoor Lane, Sherfield-on-Loddon. (BDB /57400)

**Proposal:** Erection of replacement dwelling.

PC decision: No objection.

Notification received: Felling of four dead/dying/dangerous spruce trees to the rear of 6-9 Bramley Road, Sherfield. Replacement trees required, species to be agreed.

LM/BB

Masts: The Planning Committee had considered this issue. Information to appear in the Loddon Valley Link.

**(b) FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE (FGPC)**

**3930** There had been no meeting since the last PC meeting.

**Estimates, Cricket Pavilion and Outfield:** It was agreed that these would be considered at the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, to be held on 24 February. It was noted that the Parish Council may now be too late to seek a Borough Amenity Grant in the current financial year.

FGP Ctte

Ivan Gosden asked that lengthy documents be circulated with the agenda, rather than tabled at meetings.

**(c) VILLAGE GREEN COMMITTEE**

**3931** There had been no meeting since the last PC meeting.

**Trees:** It was reported that the fallen balsam poplar had been removed by Bulpitt Brothers at a cost of £100, which was accepted by the Parish Council. It was noted that the poplar had been planted to commemorate the Queen's Coronation. Harry Moore reported that the Tree Officer at the Borough had advised that no further cutting of the surviving portion of the tree would be necessary.

The Bulpitt Brothers would also remove a fallen tree close to Hafod, and they had removed the lower branches of a tree overhanging the access barrier to the football pitch, to allow 4metres for emergency vehicles. Sandy Johnston was very pleased with the new post and rail barrier, although the Chairman felt more parking space should have been allowed for residents, close to the concrete path. There is a pedestrian gap at each end of the barrier, and it was suggested that a further gap could be made for access by football teams. However, this may be overcome if the pavilion is moved to the other end of the car park.

The Chairman reported that water is collecting at the base of the newly planted trees along the concrete path, and he agreed to ask Barry Bulpitt to fill these with soil.

BB

Harry Moore asked the Parish Council to consider hiring a chipper to dispose of the branches brought down by recent bad weather. After discussion, it was agreed that the branches should be burnt.

**Ditches:** Dave Miller to begin work on the Ditch behind Dove Cottage tomorrow.

**Ditch 1 Headwall and Leaf Clearance:** A quotation from the Bulpitt Brothers had been received: Headwall with sandbags, £500, leaf clearance ditch 1, £50. Ivan Gosden proposed that these quotations be accepted, seconded by Dick Gaiger and agreed by all those present.

LM

The Clerk was asked to obtain a quotation from the Bulpitt Brothers for the removal of the fallen brick headwall in ditch 3. She would also contact Ben Stoopman to discuss insurance and agree a starting date for the repair to the Hennis Ditch bridge.

LM

Next meeting – 17 February.

**(d) ALLOTMENTS**

**3932** John Dodd reported that the skip was now in use. Two vacant plots had been taken on and one of the new allotment holders wished to have his plot rotovated. The Clerk would obtain an estimate from DSO. The Parish Council was reminded that, in November, it had approved a payment of £40 to have plots 4 & 5 rotovated for an allotment holder.

LM

John Dodd would be marking up the allotment plots with numbered posts.

JD

**(e) TENNIS COURTS**

**3933** No report.

**(f) CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA**

**3934** No report.

**(g) BRAMLEY SCHOOL**

**3935** Tracy Lander-Sims reported that the Head Teacher had agreed to forward information of relevance to the Parish Council on a routine basis.

**(h) VILLAGE HALL**

**3936** An extraordinary general meeting of the Village Hall Management Committee will be held on Thursday 12 February to discuss finance/car park.

**(i) FOOTBALL PAVILION**

**3937** Discussed under item 3922.

**(j) CRICKET PAVILION**

**3938** Quotations to be discussed at FGPC meeting, 24 February.

**20. ROADS, TRAFFIC AND FOOTPATHS**

**3939**

**Traffic Calming:** Richard Hague had written to confirm that a "Village Access Only" sign would only be appropriate if there is just one route into and out of the village. He had been unable to locate the sign with similar wording at Hartley Wespall. Harry Moore agreed to pass on details of the location of the sign.

HM

Mr Hague had also advised that if a one-month trial goes ahead outside the Village Hall, black and white posts would be used. He said that over-ridable cobbled imprints would be possible as a permanent feature there, although his advice was to use a kerbed structure if there is a perception of speeding at this location. Although some members were against the idea of introducing black and white posts to the village again, others felt that the Parish Council should do all it can to reduce speeding traffic through the village. This sentiment was supported and it was agreed that, once the imprints have been installed at the sides of the road by Holly Cottage, Hampshire Highways would be asked to proceed with the trial.

LM/BB

**Flooding:** The Clerk had written to Peter Eade, Chief Engineer, regarding flooding across the Reading Road near the duck pond. A reply is awaited.

**Sandbags:** Dick Gaiger reported that 50 empty sandbags had been supplied by the Borough Council, and would be stored at Little Bowlings Farm. The Borough would not supply free sand for filling the bags. Bruce Batting agreed to ask Barry Bulpitt to quote for supplying sand.

BB

## 21. FINANCE REPORT

**3940** The Clerk had tabled a finance report, showing balances of all accounts at 31 January 2004:

|                              | HSBC A/c         | General Investment A/c | Consols      | Grand Total      | Uncleared HSBC  |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------------|--------------|------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Balance B/F Q4</b>        | <b>11,051.49</b> | <b>21,575.55</b>       | <b>24.17</b> | <b>32,651.21</b> |                 |
| Income Jan                   | 955.20           | 0.00                   | 0.00         | 955.20           | - 428.11        |
| Outgoing Jan                 | 4,185.08         | 0.00                   | 0.00         | 4,185.08         | 3,951.84        |
| <b>Balance C/F to Feb 04</b> | <b>7,821.61</b>  | <b>21,575.55</b>       | <b>24.17</b> | <b>29,421.33</b> | <b>3,523.73</b> |

HSBC Bank statement at 31/01/04: £11,345.34

### Approval of Payments

- £15.00 Sheffield Village Hall, VGC mtg 17/2/04, FGPC mtg 24/2/04.
- £100.00 Bulpitt Brothers of Bramley – Removal of fallen tree trunk, Village Green
- £326.27 Clerk salary (£313.60 plus £12.67: deducted employers NIC in error last month).
- £137.28 Litter Warden
- £169.73 Inland Revenue
- £5.00 Fee for Clerk to attend B&D Training Workshop on Community Safety Awareness, Thursday 4 March, 7-9 pm (NB: Councillors may attend, no charge.)
- £10.75 “The Local Council Clerk’s Guide” by Paul Clayden, Shaw & Son.

#### Quotations previously approved:

- £2,350 DSO, BDBC – War Memorial Planting – **PAID** 30/1/04
- £145 Bulpitt Brothers – Tree Planting, incl £45 to be spent from Laings Fund – **PAID** 30/1/04
- £600 Bulpitt Brothers – Post and railing football ground – **PAID** 30/1/04
- £400 Bulpitt Brothers – Bramley Road ditch leaf clearance (£300) and Planting Hedging by ‘phone box (£100) – **PAID** 30/1/04

Payments were proposed for acceptance by Ivan Gosden and seconded by Harry Moore.

## 22. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT NEXT MEETING

**3941** There were no specific items suggested.

## 23. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**3942** The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in the Garden Room at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 9 March 2004.

Meeting closed 9.40 pm.