

MINUTES OF SHERFIELD-ON-LODDON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE GARDEN ROOM OF THE VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 13 APRIL 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)

Three members of the public were present during the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3982 Apologies for absence were received from WPC Jewell, Councillor Gardiner and Chris Horton.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3983 Richard Gaiger declared a personal interest in agenda item 12, as the letter had been sent by his son.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9 MARCH 2004

3984 Minute 3970 was incorrect as Cllr Gaiger had agreed to remove the fallen tree from the green on the first weekend after Easter. The minutes of the last meeting were then approved as a true record of the proceedings and were signed by the Chairman.

4. TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF CRIME AND DISORDER

3985 A document on teen shelters from Thames Valley Police had been circulated. Also, councillors had been advised that Paul Hayes, antisocial behaviour coordinator at BDBC had offered to assist the Parish Council with providing shelter and/or other facilities for young people in the village.

It was agreed that views of young people should be sought before proposing new equipment/schemes. Sandy Johnston agreed to provide the Clerk with information gathered some years ago, when a skateboard ramp had been considered but rejected by the village. Lucy Marshall would also find out whether the cost of employing Youth Options for a two hour "youth club" session for the purposes of conducting an audit of needs could be funded through the Borough's Community Safety/Enhancement Grants. It was agreed that with any project/equipment, the Council would need to be sure that there is a sufficient demand for it, that a suitable site can be found for it and that sufficient funds are available.

At this point, the agenda was taken out of sequence and item 12 was included in the discussion.

12. TO CONSIDER A LETTER FROM 3 RESIDENTS REQUESTING SKATE BOARD HALF PIPE

3986 Councillors welcomed the ideas from the three young people. It was noted that a skate ramp had been considered in the recent past, but rejected 9-1 as no suitable site could be found for it in the village. The suggestion that it could be installed on land between the

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village and the church was not favoured, as it was felt to be too remote. There was also concern that a skate ramp would be used almost exclusively by boys, and it was suggested that leisure provision should appeal to both sexes. It was agreed that a reference should be made to the planned review of leisure facilities for the young in the Loddon Valley Link and it could be commented upon at the Annual Parish Meeting in May.

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It was agreed that agenda item 16 should be considered at this point.

16. TO DISCUSS “OPEN FORUM” SESSION

3987 The Chairman confirmed that Open Forum is included on the agenda each month to provide a ten minute session where members of the general public may put forward questions to the Parish Council. He stressed that Councillors with extra issues for discussion should not raise them during Open Forum but should request that they are included on the agenda for the next available meeting.

5. UPDATE ON PARISH COUNCIL “LOGO”

3988 The designers of the Breach Lane sculpture had agreed to the limited use of their design for PC headed paper. Any further use would need prior approval and they had suggested a fee of £150. The Clerk had written suggesting that in lieu of a fee, a full advertisement and acknowledgement could be included on the PC webpage, if the logo is to be used elsewhere. A reply is awaited. In the meantime, it was agreed that should this suggestion be rejected by the artists, then parishioners could be asked to design a new logo.

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6. UPDATE ON BDBC NEW APPROACH TO TRAFFIC CALMING AND TO RECEIVE LETTER FROM PARISHIONER

3989 A response from the Parish Council to the BDBC paper on traffic calming had been circulated for information – no acknowledgement had been received. Additionally, a letter from a resident close to the Bramley Road junction had been received, in which it was suggested that a pinch point should be re-introduced to slow traffic as it approaches the crossroads from the southern end of the Reading Road. The Chairman confirmed that a cobbled imprint is still awaited outside the Four Horseshoes Public House and the Clerk agreed to telephone Richard Hague of Hampshire County Council. It was agreed that if the cobbles do not sufficiently reduce the speed of through-traffic, a further build-out may need to be reconsidered.

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7. UPDATE ON REPORT ON RAIL PASSENGERS COMMITTEE MEETING, 30 MARCH

3990 Cllr Johnston had asked his friend Richard Elphick to attend the meeting but, due to the very short notice, he had been unable to go. However, Mr Elphick had indicated that he would be happy to be contacted again for future events/consultation.

8. UPDATE ON MUSEUMS ROADSHOW

3991 It was reported that the organisers would make contact with the Parish Council again in the summer with a view to arranging a one-week roadshow between October 2004 and May 2005.

OPEN FORUM

Meeting adjourned for the general public to pose questions to the Parish Council.

9. REPORTS

a. Planning Committee

3992 Minutes of the meeting held on 29 March had been circulated.

BDB /57950 Little Court, Church End, Sherfield-on-Loddon RG27 0JB

Proposal: Erection of new boundary 1.8 metre high close boarded fencing.

PC Decision: It was thought that as the proposal is Permitted Development, as the fence is nowhere near the highway. No objection.

BDB /57958 Land at Sherfield Park, Sherfield-on-Loddon

Proposal: Construction of access road.

PC Decision: No objection.

BDB /57937 Sherfield House School, North Foreland Lodge, Reading Road, Sherfield.

Proposal: Internal alterations including installation of a lift in existing light well.

PC Decision: No objection. However, the Parish Council would highlight the need to introduce traffic management measures, bearing in mind the school will open as a day school in September, with up to 1000 pupils. It was noted that a Listed Building notice had been served on the property.

BDB /57885 (and Listed Building/Conservation Area application ref: BDB / 57882)

Four Winds, Sherfield Green, Sherfield-on-Loddon, RG27 0EE.

Proposal: Construction of pitched thatched roof over existing flat roof to rear elevation, alterations to existing windows, thatched canopies over doors to side and rear elevations and internal alterations.

PC Decision: No objection.

Notice of Intent

Notice of Intent TCA 1636 to reduce in height and shape by approx 15-20% and lightly thin remaining canopy 1 Eucalyptus at Greenview Cottage, Sherfield Green.

PC Decision: No objection.

Notice of Approval

The Council as LPA grants planning permission for:

BDB/56407 Land at Pointers & Kingswood, Wildmoor Lane, Sherfield-on-Loddon.

Proposal: Demolition of two existing dwellings.

BDB/57400 Utopia, Wildmoor Lane, Sherfield-on-Loddon.

Proposal: Erection of replacement dwelling.

BDB/57386 The Laurels, Wildmoor Lane, Sherfield-on-Loddon.

Proposal: Erection of a two storey side extension.

Appeals withdrawn

Application No: BDB/54881 and 54930 Land at Pointers & Kingswood, Wildmoor Lane, Sherfield-on-Loddon.

Proposal: Erection of 1 No. five bedroom dwelling and 5 no. four bedroom dwellings with associated garaging, following demolition of two existing dwellings. Creation of new access to Wildmoor Lane.

Since the meeting, the Borough Council had written to suggest naming the two access roads to the new “Kingswood/Pointers” development Wildmoor Walk and Wildmoor Mews. However, reference to Wildmoor was thought to be too confusing, as Wildmoor Lane is located on the other side of the A33. The area for development had been known as “Ham’s Corner” for at least three generations and so it was agreed that the Parish Council would recommend numbering the houses 1 to 9, Ham’s Corner.

b. Finance and General Purposes Committee

3993 No report.

BB

c. Village Green Committee

3994 It was confirmed that the larch trees are now ready to be planted. A quotation for planting is awaited from Barry Bulpitt.

An email had been received from Mr Mathews asking whether he could donate a bench to the village in memory of his parents who had lived in Sherfield for 40 years and who had both recently died. It was suggested that a bench on the cricket field needed replacing but the proposal would be given further consideration by the Village Green Committee at its meeting next week. For the future, it was suggested that if a seat is placed around the Jubilee Tree, it could become a memorial seat and could hold several brass plaques.

VGCTte

It was noted that a tree branch had fallen into Horse Pond.

A quote of £50 had been received from Barry Bulpitt for the removal of a fallen headwall in ditch 3. This was approved.

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With regard to a pothole at the end of the concrete path by Green View, Ivan Gosden agreed to contact Ian Welch.

IG

d. Football Pavilion Steering Group

3995 The floor area of the proposed pavilion would be marked out with posts to provide a clear indication to parishioners of the position and size of the final structure. A note would be included in the Loddon Valley Link. Drawings had been submitted to the Planning Department. Parishioners will have an opportunity to comment on the plans during the consultation period and a formal notice would be placed on the noticeboard as soon as it is received. In the meantime, plans can be viewed in the window of Dodds Garage and by contacting the Chairman or Clerk.

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e. Cricket Pavilion

3996 A decision on the Parish Council's Grant application is expected by Thursday 15 April. Joe Bate had agreed to provide a 3 layer roofing system for the same price as a two layer system. He had provided a quote of £85 for installing a loft hatch and surround within the ceiling of the pavilion. This was accepted.

f. Allotments

3997 The second skip was now full and needed to be replaced at a cost of £130 plus vat. This was approved. Further consideration would be given to managing and removing waste from the allotments. Bruce Batting agreed to contact Brian Saunders to find out the current rates for allotment hire within the rest of the Borough. It could be that the fees would need to increase but there was a need to clarify how much notice had to be given before increasing charges.

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g. Tennis Courts

3998 Sandy Johnston agreed to contact the contractor to agree a date for treating and repainting the courts.

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h. Children's Play area

3999 Dunlop Playground Services had completed their annual inspection on behalf of the Borough Council and their report had been circulated to councillors. Sandy Johnston said that when money becomes available, necessary action could be taken to improve the condition of the play equipment.

SJ

Park Leisure would be asked if they could adjust the height of the scootabout, in accordance with the recommendation in the report.

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i. Bramley School

4000 No report. School holiday.

j. Village Hall

4001 A letter of thanks had been received for the Parish Council's offer of a grant for £2,000.

10. ROADS, TRAFFIC AND FOOTPATHS

4002 It was reported that there are many deep potholes along Goddards Lane by Little Bowlings Farm. Bruce Batting agreed to contact Peter Eade and Ian Wetherall of Hampshire Highways.

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Footpath between Plantation and land belonging to Little Bowlings Farm – it was reported that this pathway is very muddy and almost impassible. Richard Gaiger agreed to see what action can be taken.

RG

Pavement by 7 Bow Grove. It was reported that tree roots are pushing up the pavement. The Clerk would contact the relevant authorities.

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Pathway between St Leonard's church and Sherfield Park – the Clerk would find out whether the Parish Council's request for a Pedestrian Access Improvement Grant had been successful.

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Parish Footpath Map – It was reported that the first draft would be ready very soon.

11. TO CONSIDER DRAFT REVISION TO STANDING ORDERS

4003 A draft revision based on the 2003 NALC model Standing Orders had been circulated for consideration. Under 2b, it was agreed that the wording should be substituted, adopting the phrase within the NALC document. Also, under Standing Order 82 it was agreed that the reference to note 2/86 should be replaced with reference to Legal Topic Note 56. The adoption of the revised Standing Orders was proposed by Ivan Gosden, seconded by Sandy Johnston and agreed by all present.

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ITEM 12 had been considered earlier during the meeting.

13. TO RECEIVE REPORT ON TETRA MAST CAMPAIGN

4004 A meeting had been held at John and Gill Fearon's house on 31 March to discuss steps to be taken to have the mast at Scats Countrystore removed. Support for any boycott or demonstration would be on an individual basis, and not by the Parish Council as a corporate body. As guidelines had not been breached at the time of approval, there would be no point in pursuing action on planning grounds.

Posters and an article for the Loddon Valley Link were being prepared, to ensure that anyone who may be affected is aware of the health hazards associated with the radiation from TETRA masts.

14. TO DISCUSS BRAMLEY TERRITORIAL ARMY CAMP EXERCISES

4005 Ivan Gosden reported disturbances at his farm by army exercises at Bramley Camp. Low flying Chinook helicopters and use of flares were causing nuisance at night and it was believed that regulations were not being adhered to by the army. Ivan Gosden agreed to

detail the recent disturbances and a letter on behalf of all residents would be sent to the commanding officer.

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15. TO CONSIDER INVITATION TO APPLY FOR CALOR VILLAGE OF THE YEAR

4006 It was noted that Chris Horton had been involved with the successful application made two years ago, and it was agreed to ask her if she would be willing to co-ordinate an application this year.

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ITEM 16 had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

17. TO DISCUSS CONSULTATION DOCUMENT: LOCAL INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGATIONS OF MISCONDUCT

4007 Consultation documents from the ODPM and the Standards Board had been circulated. The Parish Council unanimously agreed that no response need be submitted.

18. TO CONSIDER NORTH HANTS HOSPITALS NHS FOUNDATION TRUST APPLICATION

4008 Details of the proposed Trust had been circulated to Parish Councillors. It was apparent from the application form that support could be given by individuals only.

19. TO CONSIDER INSURANCE FOR VILLAGE FETE, 12 JUNE

4009 In order to guarantee public liability cover, the running of the annual village fete is the sole responsibility of the Parish Council. Enquiries had been made into additional bad weather insurance and the Clerk agreed to review the contents of the proposed policy with Sandy Johnston.

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The insurers had advised that companies employed by the Parish Council to provide or operate activities at the fete which could be considered hazardous, ie; bouncy castles, quad bikes, must have their own adequate public liability cover to at least £5 million.

GEMS had agreed to sponsor a childrens's farm/zoo corner and Laing Homes would be paying for a bouncy castle. The Clerk agreed to contact Jane Brydges to discuss payment arrangements.

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The Clerk would make enquiries into increasing the Parish Council's public liability cover from £5 million to £10 million.

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20. FINANCE REPORT

4010 The Clerk had tabled a report summarising income and expenditure for March, and a list of payments for approval:

	HSBC A/c	General Investment A/c	Consols	Grand Total	Uncleared HSBC
Balance B/F Q4	11,051.49	21,575.55	24.17	32,651.21	
Income Jan/Feb/Mar	7,383.84	498.88	0.00	7,882.72	0
Outgoing Jan/Feb/Mar	10,131.83	4,000.00	0.00	14,131.83	1355.72
Balance C/F to Fy04	8,303.50	18,074.43	24.17	26,402.10	9,659.22

HSBC Bank statement at 31/03/04: £9,659.22

Approval of Payments

£626.42	Clerk salary (incl. 1 month allowance)
£141.44	Litter Warden (new rate £5.44/hour, from April 04)
£85.08	Inland Revenue
£293.75	Audit Commission (Paid 31.3.04)
£302.25	Bruce Batting (Paid 31.3.04 – Planning Application submission and copies of plans)
£30.00	Village Hall room bookings (PC 1 st Qtr, VGC 20/4/04, FGPC 27/4/04)
£14.87	Petty Cash (files and stamps purchased Mar 04)
£13.00	HAPTC (5 x £2 “Good Cllrs Guide”, £3 for 10 x Declarations of Acceptance forms)

Approval of payments was proposed by Ivan Gosden, seconded by John Dodd and approved by all present.

The Clerk wished to transfer £4,000 from the current account, back to the Savings Account, as the anticipated major expense of repair to the pavilion had been postponed, and precept payment will be received into the current account this month. This was proposed by Ivan Gosden, seconded by Harry Moore and agreed by Council.

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End of year summary/draft accounts

The first draft of the annual accounts for 2003/4 had been tabled. Councillors were invited to contact the Clerk with any questions. David Hitchins, internal auditor, would be carrying out the annual audit this month and a further draft would be produced for consideration.

21. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT NEXT MEETING

4011 The order of agenda items had been rearranged for this meeting. Councillors agreed that the new format should continue to be adopted for the time being.

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It was agreed that “Sherfield School” would become a standing item for report at each meeting.

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22. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

4012 The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in the Garden Room at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 11 May 2004.

Annual Parish Meeting – 8 pm Friday 21 May.
Parish Council Elections – Thursday 10 June.
Annual Parish Council Meeting – to be agreed.

Meeting closed 9.40 pm.