

MINUTES OF SHERFIELD-ON-LODDON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE GARDEN ROOM OF THE VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 13 JANUARY 2004

Present

John Dodd (Vice Chairman – in the Chair)
Richard Gaiger
Ivan Gosden (Vice Chairman)
Sandy Johnston
Tracy Lander-Sims
Harry Moore

In attendance

Lucy Marshall (Parish Clerk)
Cllr Marilyn Tucker

Eight members of the public were present during the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3881 Apologies for absence were received from WPC Mandy Jewell, Cllr Roger Gardiner and Chris Horton.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3882 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 9 DECEMBER 2003

3883 The minutes of the last meeting were approved as a true record of the proceedings and were signed by the Chairman.

4. TO RECONSIDER THE POSITION OF THE BOTTLE BANKS

3884 Three residents objecting to the current site of the bottle banks were present and were invited to contribute to the discussion.

It was reported that the Borough Council had commented on two alternative sites in the village; Longbridge Mill car park and the A33 slip road. They were of the opinion that either could be considered acceptable, but recommended consultation with residents. After discussion, the Parish Council felt that neither of the two alternative sites was ideal and both had disadvantages which outweighed the advantages of having recycling bins in the village. It was noted that the Parish retains bottle banks within the car park at Wyevale Garden Centre. It was agreed that the Borough should be urged to make arrangements for house to house collection of glass.

In light of the discussion, Harry Moore proposed that the Borough should be asked to remove the recycling bins from the Reading Road car park, this was seconded by Richard Gaiger and accepted by all those present.

It was reported that Bramley Parish does not have bottle banks and consequently use the bins in Sherfield. Efforts would be made to prevent people from continuing to leave glass and rubbish once the bins had been removed. Advertisements would appear in the Loddon Link and the Gazette and notices would be placed in the Reading Road car park, the PC notice board and other sites in the village.

ACTIONS

LM

LM

5. TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF LAW AND ORDER

3885 It was reported that Inspector Gatehouse would be attending next month's meeting together with WPC Jewell.

Basingstoke Police Countrywatch had warned local parishes that travellers were soon to be moved on from Silchester common and would therefore be looking for a new site.

The Parish Council had previously agreed to remove the bench from the bus shelter, Goddards Lane, on a temporary basis. The Clerk reported that A J Bate had quoted £140 for the removal of the bench and £150 to replace the bench with some repairs at a later date. Members of the Council reconsidered their decision and believed that the bench should remain in place. Inspector Gatehouse would be asked for his views on how to deter drug abusers from using the bus shelter.

P Council

6. TO REPORT RESIGNATION OF CLLR NICK ROBINSON

3886 It was reported that Nick Robinson had resigned as Parish Councillor due to family and work commitments. As the resignation had been received within 6 months of the next election, there would be no requirement to elect or co-opt, although the PC could choose to co-opt a new member into the vacancy. It was agreed that the vacancy would not be filled.

Nick had been the PC representative on the Village Hall Management Committee, had been a member of the Planning Committee and had reported on the activities at Bramley School. Sandy Johnston agreed to take over as PC representative on the Village Hall Management Committee and Tracy Lander-Sims agreed to report on Bramley School and would also fill the vacancy on the Planning Committee.

SJ
TL-S

7. TO DISCUSS THE WELCOME PACK AND PARISH FOOTPATH MAP

3887 The map would be put into production as soon as possible, and it was agreed that the PC website address would be included on the document.

It had been the proposal of the Finance and General Purposes Committee to abandon the Welcome Pack, as progress had been slow to date and further work was still required. It was also felt that information contained within the pack could be found within the Loddon Valley Link and the PC website. Tracy Lander-Sims confirmed that Jacqui Skillett, who had been co-opted to assist with the production of the pack, was in support of abandoning the project.

However, Richard Gaiger believed that the Parish Council could still welcome new residents and it was agreed that artwork and text used for the draft pack could be incorporated easily into the new footpath guide, to be distributed within Sherfield Park. Sandy Johnston, Tracy Lander-Sims and Richard Gaiger agreed to progress this arrangement.

SJ/TL-S/
RG

8. TO DISCUSS THE PARISH PLAN

3888 Tracy Lander-Sims reported that Bruce Batting had offered to speak to neighbouring Parish Councils about submitting a cluster application, which it seemed would provide a greater chance of being successful with a grant application to the Countryside Agency. The matter would be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting.

BB
P Council

9. TO DISCUSS THE PROVISION OF THE NEW BURIAL GROUND

3889 As they had declared an interest, Ivan Gosden and Tracy Lander-Sims were not involved during the discussion. It was reported that Bruce Batting had hoped to

discuss the need for a new burial ground with Ian Harris at the Borough Council, but had been unable to do so before going away on holiday. The chairman reported the suggestion of purchasing the Rectory in Breach Lane in order to provide a new burial ground. There were mixed views about its position in relation to the existing churchyard and the likelihood of the Parish being able to compulsorily purchase the land which now has planning approval for a small housing development. The suggestion would be taken forward and the item would be placed on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

BB
P Council

10. TO APPROVE ARTICLE ON CONTROL OF DANGEROUS DOGS FOR INCLUSION IN LODDON VALLEY LINK

3890 The Council was informed of an incident on the Village Green where a German Shepherd had attacked a horse and rider. The dog owner had failed to call the dog off, but had instead criticised the rider for being on the Village Green. It was clear that the dog owner was in the wrong, according to byelaws and the Dangerous Dogs Act. A proposed form of wording for inclusion in the Loddon Valley Link was approved.

LM

11. TO DISCUSS PAYMENT OF PARISH COUNCILLORS' ALLOWANCES

3891 The report by the Parish Remuneration Panel had been circulated for information. The report contained the recommended basic allowance for councillors, plus suggested allowances for travel and subsistence. The Clerk reminded Council that there is no provision in the 2004/5 for councillors/chairman's allowance but it could be considered for future years. All councillors were of the opinion that they did not currently wish to receive an allowance.

12. TO DISCUSS TELECOM DEVELOPMENT

3892 Draft supplementary planning guidance for Telecommunications development and the (BDBC) Council's land policy for dealing with applications for the installation of telecommunications equipment on Council owned land had been circulated for comment by 6 February. The Parish Council did not wish to submit a response.

The chairman reported that a mobile 'phone mast was being installed at the side of the A33, opposite the White Hart Pub. The Clerk had made enquiries and reported that planning permission is not required for masts under 15m, although there may be some exceptions. (After the meeting, it was discovered that a planning application for the mast had originally been refused, but allowed after appeal. The mast would be 12.5 meters in height).

13. TO DISCUSS 3 YEAR COUNCIL PLAN AND BUDGET STRATEGY

3893 The Borough Council's strategy had been circulated for comment. It was noted that comments received before 27 January will be taken into consideration by Cabinet before the plan is referred to Council in February.

Under Priority Objective 3, page 18, several tasks were of particular interest to the Parish, including crime and disorder, environmental improvements and biodiversity strategy. It was also noted that the Borough aims to "continue to improve recycling rates by new initiatives and new ways of collecting rubbish". This was clearly of current concern within Sherfield and it was agreed that a response should be made, strongly urging the Borough to introduce kerbside collection of glass, and reference would be made to the pilot scheme currently underway within Rushmoor Borough Council.

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14. TO DISCUSS A COMPACT FOR ORGANISATIONS WORKING IN BASINGSTOKE AND DEANE

3894 Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council were developing a local compact, a method for improving local partnership working. Comments were invited by 6 February. The Parish Council did not wish to submit a response.

OPEN FORUM

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

15. PLANNING: UPDATE AND NEW APPLICATIONS

3895 There had been one new applications since the Planning Meeting held on 2 January – BDB/57400, Utopia Wildmoor, replacement dwelling. This would be given consideration by the Planning Committee at its next meeting.

16. REPORTS

(a) PLANNING COMMITTEE

3896 The minutes of the meetings held on 18 December and 2 January had been circulated. Decisions reached by the Parish and Borough Councils were as follows:

BDB /57351 - 6 Goddards Close, Sherfield-on-Loddon.

Proposal: Erection of a detached single garage. **Decision:** No objection.

BDB /57386 - The Laurels, Wildmoor Lane, Sherfield-on-Loddon, RG27 0JD.

Proposal: Erection of a two storey side extension. **Decision:** Objection.

BDB /57390 - 48 Northfield Road, Sherfield-on-Loddon, RG27 0DN.

Proposal: Erection of a front porch. **Decision:** No objection.

Approvals

BDB/57010 and BDB/57008 - Wayback, Greenway, Sherfield-on-Loddon.

Proposal: Erection of a single storey rear extension.

(NB: PC had not objected.)

BDB/56850 - Sherfield Place, Reading Road, Sherfield-on-Loddon.

Proposal: Erection of 54 No. houses and flats with associated car parking, new accesses and estate roads following demolition of Sherfield Place.

(NB: PC had not objected.)

BDB/56940 - North Foreland Lodge School, Reading Road, Sherfield-on-Loddon.

Proposal: Change of use from boarding school to either a boarding school, a day school, or a mixed use of a boarding and day school.

(NB: PC had not objected.)

BDB/57116 - St Anthony's Cottage, Church End, Sherfield-on-Loddon.

Proposal: Erection of a two storey side extension with roof light on rear elevation. Construction of pitched roofs over existing dormers on front elevation.

(NB: PC had not objected.)

Appeals withdrawn

BDB/53808 & BDB/53809 - Sherfield Place, Reading Road, Sherfield-on-Loddon
Proposal: Erection of 27 dwellings with associated car parking and estate roads.

(b) FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE (FGPC)

3897 The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 6 January had been circulated.

War Memorial and Roundabout: The FGPC's recommendation to accept DSO's quote for further planting to both areas (£705 +vat) was agreed.

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Headwall ditch 1: It was the FGPC recommendation that an additional £160 requested by Mr Sambrook for digger hire was unacceptable. This was supported by the Parish Council. A quotation for a sandbag wall had been request from B Bulpitt.

LM

Tree Warden: The Council agreed that the Village Green Committee would be asked if they wish to volunteer a member to replace Vanessa Attwood, who had recently retired from the post.

HM

(c) VILLAGE GREEN COMMITTEE

3898 The minutes of the meeting held on 16 December had been circulated.

Trees: Harry Moore reported that trees were on order and a map is available showing the proposed site for planting. A cutting from a 2000 year old yew tree was now sufficiently established to be planted out on the green.

Hedging: Hedging plants from Hopes Grove were expected next week. The Clerk had arranged to borrow a cat scan and would ask for it to be delivered by the end of this week.

LM

Post and rail, Football car park: It was reported that a gas pipe had been located along the proposed line for the new railing and consequently the line of posts had to be moved to follow the edge of the tarmac. Barry Bulpitt would install hinged barrier at the entrance, for emergency access to the green.

Jubilee Pond pathway: A letter from Paul Johnston had been circulated, confirming that the repairs carried out to the path edging were acceptable under the terms of the grant.

(d) ALLOTMENTS

3899 John Dodd reported that the skip was now on site.

(e) TENNIS COURTS

3900 Sandy Johnston reported that court fees of £10 had been collected, and this was passed to the Clerk.

(f) CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

3901 A representative from Park Leisure would be visiting next week to replace the black tape which had been removed from the "noughts and crosses" game on the play unit.

(g) BRAMLEY SCHOOL

3902 Nothing to report.

(h) VILLAGE HALL

3903 A tarmac surface is to be laid in the car park. The collapsing chimney stack had now been removed. Confirmation from Environmental Health about the proposed new kitchen is still awaited. The next meeting of the VHMC will be held on Tuesday 20 January.

(i) FOOTBALL PAVILION

3904 Tony Sumner and Russell Spencer of Sherfield FC were present and were invited to contribute to the discussion.

It was reported that Harry Moore, John Dodd and Ivan Gosden had visited the car park and had reconsidered the site for the new pavilion. They felt that a very suitable site would be closer to the Bramley Road, on the site of the existing main car park.

Tony Sumner and Russell Spencer were in favour of the suggestion, and hoped that speedy progress could now be made, as the future of the club depends on the replacement of the pavilion. It was confirmed that plans are being drawn up by an architect, but the same “footprint” could be used for this latest suggested site.

It was suggested that office space could be provided within the building for Parish Council and Police use.

Further guidance would need to be sought from planners and confirmation from DEFRA as to whether special permission is required to resite the pavilion within the area designated as village green. It would also be important to consult, at an early stage, those residents who would be mostly affected by the proposal.

LM

(j) CRICKET PAVILION

3905 Quotations are awaited from four contractors. Quotations are also to be obtained for work on the outfield.

LM

17. ROADS, TRAFFIC AND FOOTPATHS

3906 Flooding: Dick Gaiger reported that he would try to obtain a quantity of sand-filled bags from the Borough Council to be stored within the village. There appeared to be three areas within the village which regularly flood and could require sandbagging after prolonged heavy rain.

RG

Harry Moore reported flooding across the Reading Road close to the chicane. It was agreed that the highway authority should be asked to rectify the problem.

LM

3907 Traffic calming: The Clerk had tabled an update on traffic calming from James Holt. It was noted that Mr Holt believed that the pathway outside the Village Hall would be too restricted if bollards are installed along the edge of the pavement. Also, he had said that a “Village Access Only” sign would be unacceptable as it is a public highway and a route to other villages. This was disputed by Councillors who cited other villages with such signs, including Hartley Wespall. This would reported back to Mr Holt.

LM

Hampshire Highways had indicated that, if required by the Parish Council, they were prepared to trial a buildout for a month in front of the Village Hall, as originally agreed at the public meeting held in the spring of 2003, with a view to installing a cobbled “imprint” as a permanent feature. It was agreed that if the temporary measure is to be black and white posts, then the Parish Council would decline the offer. The Clerk would make further enquiries and report to the next Council meeting.

LM
P Council

18. FINANCE REPORT

3908 The Clerk had tabled a finance report, showing balances of all accounts at 31 December 2003, together with a budget statement for the previous quarter.

	HSBC A/c	General Investment A/c	Consols	Grand Total	Uncleared HSBC
Balance B/F Q3	19,033.14	21,575.55	24.17	40,632.86	
Income Oct/Nov/Dec	710.21	0.00	0.00	710.21	0
Outgoing Oct/Nov/Dec	8,691.86	0.00	0.00	8,691.86	571.73
Balance C/F to Q4	11,051.49	21,575.55	24.17	32,651.21	

HSBC Bank statement at 31/12/03: £11,623.22

Approval of Payments

£25.00	Sherfield Village Hall, final qtr PC mtgs, FGPC mtg 6/1/04, VGC mtg 18/12/03.
£28.20	Refund John Dodd, sign ordered from Aldermaston signs, football club car park.
£16.27	Refund Lucy Marshall, reflective jacket for Litter Warden (PC will then be reimbursed by Borough Council, added to final quarter grant request).
£137.28	Litter Warden
£303.29	Clerk's salary
£180.04	Inland Revenue - Tax (£156.48) and NIC (£23.56)

Payments were proposed for acceptance by Harry Moore and seconded by John Dodd.

The Clerk had tabled a document showing anticipated income/expenditure for the final quarter and requested the transfer of £4,000 from the Investment Account to the cheque account, to cover costs until grants and VAT repayments have been received. This was proposed by Ivan Gosden and seconded by Tracy Lander-Sims.

LM

19. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT NEXT MEETING

3909 (a) Ditch leading to southern end of Ditch 1 to be reopened, (b) Seat in bus shelter, (c) Teen shelter, (d) Parish Plan, (e) Burial ground, (f) Parish map/pack, (g) Traffic calming.

LM

20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

3910 The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in the Garden Room at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 10 February 2004.

Meeting closed 9.30 pm.