

MINUTES OF THE SHERFIELD-ON-LODDON PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE GARDEN ROOM OF THE VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 25TH MARCH 2003

Present

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

In attendance

Roger Gardiner (Borough Councillor)
Marion L Morse (Parish Clerk)
Lucy Marshall

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3615 Apologies for absence were received from Keith Chapman, County Councillor and Marilyn Tucker, Borough Councillor. Chris Horton hoped to attend but would be late to the meeting. In her letter, she expressed her thanks to Marion Morse, who would be standing down as Parish Clerk after this meeting.

The Chairman welcomed 9 members of the public to the committee, who wished to contribute to Item 13 of the agenda, "Village Green Committee".

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

3616 There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 03

3617

Minute 3604 – With regard to the A33 roundabout, it was reported that the Highway Department had advised the tree wardens that the SSSI classification had now been withdrawn.

Minute 3611 – Harry Moore requested an extract from his earlier report to be included in the minutes. This was arranged and the minutes have since been signed.

Following these amendments, the minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the proceedings.

4. PROPOSED EXTENSION TO ST LEONARDS CHURCH

3618 The PCC has written to Croudace Homes, seeking financial support for an extension. If required by the PCC, the Parish Council will support their approach to the developers.

ACTIONS

5. UPPER LODDON RIVER FLOOD STUDY

3619 The Chairman reported that a study was being made of flooding in the surrounding area and he asked members again to approach local residents for information about flooding.

All

6. FLOOD ACTION PLAN

3620 Richard Gaiger reported that his plan was almost complete and would be available to members at the next meeting.

RG

7. WELCOME PACK

3621 Tracy Lander-Sims and Nick Robinson reported that this is well underway. It was thought that new residents on the Taylor Farm Estate could be expected in December. Although Jacqui Skillett who is assisting with the preparation of the Welcome Pack has already been in touch with Croudace, the Chairman will be writing to the Managing Director of Croudace for information when more details are available.

BB

8. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

3622 The Borough has produced a document, which will be circulated. Marion Morse is waiting for registration.

BB/MM/LM

9. OWNERSHIP OF ALLOTMENTS

3623 John Dodd produced a copy of the 1929 Conveyance of the allotments for the Parish Council, showing that two small areas had later been sold off. As original documentary evidence of ownership had not been found, the Chairman agreed to ask the bank to double check and then would register the allotments with Land Registry.

BB

10. SHERFIELD PARK SURFACE WATER DRAINAGE

3624 Ivan Gosden reported that he had written to Andrew Hunter MP regarding the water drainage from Sherfield Park onto his property, and is awaiting a response. He hoped that a site visit would be arranged. It appears, also, that the lower end of Bow Brook will become very full due to drainage from the new site and it was reported that water has risen on the east side of the A33.

11. THE RECTORY DEVELOPMENT SURFACE WATER DRAINAGE

3625 It was reported that the Berkeley Homes development cannot go ahead until the sewerage and drainage systems in the vicinity had been updated. The Chairman is to meet with Ian Wetherall of the Area Surveyors Office, Hampshire County Council, to clarify where water is currently being channelled. Regarding the development plans, Tracy Lander-Sims would copy information to the Chairman regarding the removal of a clause which would have provided protection for the trees on the site, and an issue of moving of boundaries.

BB

TL-S

12. TRAFFIC CALMING

3626 Minutes of the public meeting had been distributed. A comment about traffic priority at Goddards Lane had been attributed to John Dodd. He reported that this had not been his comment, but believed it had been made by Peter Blake.

LM

The Chairman confirmed that plans showing the final approved scheme would be available for public perusal. An article would appear in the next Loddon Link. He agreed to speak to Richard Hague regarding access to plans of the approved scheme.

BB

13. VILLAGE GREEN COMMITTEE

3627 There had been some misunderstanding surrounding the Parish Council's need to create a sub-committee, which would form an administrative link between the Parish Council and the long-standing Village Green Committee. After much discussion regarding the terms of reference of the current Village Green Committee, and its function following the adoption of the PC's Standing Orders last year, the following arrangement was set out by the Chairman:

The Village Green Committee should continue to act as it does now, but it should become an Advisory Committee, possibly with an amended name, eg; Friends of the Village Green, and report to a committee of the Parish Council, called the Village Green Committee, which would obtain estimates for works, deal with Health and Safety issues, method statements, risk assessments, etc and prepare annual schedules of works. In order to maintain a link between the two committees, the "Friends of the Village Green" committee would have a member co-opted onto the Village Green Committee, which would report to the Parish Council and then implement approved works.

Committees of the PC are bound by Standing Orders and the rules applying to declarations of interest. Committees can, therefore, only be made up of Parish Councillors and must be attended and minuted by the Parish Clerk. Under this system, the existing Village Green committee would be able to continue to have less formal meetings with an opportunity for broader discussions.

The Chairman concurred that minutes have in the past indicated that the Village Green Committee is a committee of the Parish Council but confirmed that, under the Standing Orders, that is incorrect.

Membership of the committee will be proposed at the AGM, early in May, the meeting at which committees are elected annually.

BB

14. INTERNAL AUDIT

3628 An audit prepared by David Hitchens of Cryer and Co Chartered Accountants had only just been received by the Chairman. He explained that an external audit would still be required by the District Auditors, but he hoped that their charge would be lower than last year, due to the work already carried out by Cryer and Co. It was confirmed that the report covered the year to March 2002, so some assets which appeared on the statement were no longer held by the PC.

Tracy Lander-Sims proposed that the accounts be accepted and the fee of £175 paid. This was seconded by Nick Robinson and accepted by those present.

MM/LM

15. PARISH COUNCIL WEB-SITE

3629 Alix Scott from BDBC has assisted two parish councils with creating web-sites and the Chairman asked whether Sherfield PC wished to ask for her assistance. This was agreed.

BB

It was noted that Geraldine House-Barklie had already set up a website called "Sherfield-on-Loddon.com" and had kindly offered the Parish Council the use of this site.

The Chairman suggested that having a website with this name could encourage people to report their findings of the various flora and fauna in the Loddon Valley which would assist in the preparation of a Biodiversity Study of the Loddon Valley.

16. ST LEONARDS FESTIVAL OF FLOWERS – DONATION

3630 The festival would take place on 5/6th July. Sandy Johnston reported that many local companies have made generous donations. The Chairman proposed that the PC should donate £100 to the event and this was seconded by John Dodd.

BB/MM/LM

17. VILLAGE FETE

3631 The Fete would be held on Saturday 7th June. The second planning meeting would take place on 7th April and ideas would be welcomed. Funds raised would go towards the Village Hall Car Park and the charity Headway. All Village Hall users will be contributing to the event.

OPEN FORUM

The meeting was temporarily adjourned and members were given the opportunity to discuss issues not appearing on the agenda.

18. PLANNING

3632 New Applications: The Chairman advised that all new applications were as listed. He answered questions on planning applications from members.

Decisions made by Borough Council: As listed.

19. REPORTS

3633 Village Green Committee Report: This item had largely been covered under item 13 of the agenda. The Chairman reported that he had received a cheque for £150, being half the cost of the trees felled in October 2000 adjacent to Orchard Lea. It had been agreed that half of the trees were on the village green and the other half were privately owned.

A reference to the destruction of saplings on the village green would appear in the Loddon Link.

It was requested that the possibility of moving the PC notice board to a more prominent position be investigated. This was proposed by Harry Moore and seconded by Nick Robinson.

BB/MM/LM

3634 Allotments: John Dodd asked whether he should follow up BDBC's offer to carry out some fencing around the allotments. The Chairman replied that this would not be necessary and confirmed that Brian Saunders of BDBC will arrange this in the next financial year.

John Dodd reported that rats had been seen on the allotments. This would be dealt with by a local man.

He confirmed that allotment posts would be numbered.

3635 Tennis Courts: Sandy Johnston reported that £12 had been taken for use of the courts. Rubbish will be cleared away and the grass around the courts will be cut.

3636 Children's Play Area: Sandy Johnston reported that the new equipment for young children had been installed but safety approval from BDBC will be granted in a few days' time. It has been proposed that older children need equipment within the play area, and a 30 m aerial runway will be considered when funds become available.

3637 Bramley School: Nick Robinson reported that maternity cover has been arranged for a teacher at Bramley School, later in the year.

3638 Village Hall: Nick Robinson reported that the Village Hall Management Committee were considering smoke detection equipment throughout the buildings and will be looking for PC support. He had also learned from the meeting that the PCC were requesting double yellow lines outside the village hall. The Chairman reported that the highway authority will be fitting posts along the kerbside to prevent cars from parking on the pavement outside the hall.

3639 Football Pavilion: An estimate of £14, 525 had been received for the building of a new foundation for the pavilion. The Chairman will obtain a second estimate. Once agreed, planning approval and building regulations will be sought.

BB

20. ROADS, TRAFFIC & FOOTPATHS

3640 John Dodd was concerned at the apparent lack of dropped kerbs for wheelchair users in the village. He agreed to research this further on behalf of the committee.

JD

21. FINANCE

3641 With regard to a VAT cost on the play equipment, Sandy Johnston agreed to ask BDBC whether this will be paid by them.

SJ

3642 Harry Moore asked whether the Litter Warden's salary had been reviewed recently. The Chairman confirmed that the Borough gives a fixed hourly rate and the PC agrees the rate of pay.

3643 Statement of Accounts/Approval of Payment: It was proposed by Ivan Gosden and seconded by Nick Robinson that the statement of accounts and payments be approved. The Parish Council unanimously agreed this.

22. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

3644 The next meeting of the Sherfield-on-Loddon Parish Council will be held in the Garden Room of the Village Hall on Tuesday 8th April 2003 at 1930 hours.

"THANK YOU" TO MARION MORSE

The Chairman reminded those present that Marion would be standing down as Parish Clerk after this meeting. He wished to express his appreciation, on behalf of Council members, for her long service, hard work and patience in the face of the many new regulations she had been required to deal with. Wishing her every happiness, the Chairman presented Marion with a leaving gift.