

MINUTES OF SHERFIELD-ON-LODDON PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE LIDDELL HALL ON WEDNESDAY 8 DECEMBER 2004.

Present

Brian Archer
Bruce Batting (Chairman)
Ken Clark
John Dodd (Vice Chairman)
Richard Gaiger
Ivan Gosden (Vice Chairman)
Maurice Lambden
Sandy Johnston
Lorraine Smith

In attendance

Lucy Marshall (Parish Clerk)

Two members of the public were also in attendance.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

4216 Apologies for absence were received from Tracy Lander-Sims, Calleva Ward Councillors Marilyn Tucker and Roger Gardiner and WPC Jewell.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

4217 There was none.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

4218 The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 10 November were approved as a true record of the proceedings and were signed by the Chairman.

4. PRESENTATION BY ALISON CROSS, PROJECT OFFICER, LODDON AND EVERSLEY HERITAGE AREA

4219 The Chairman introduced and welcomed Alison Cross to the meeting.

Ms Cross outlined the work of her organisation and explained that with 20,000 members, the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust is a major wildlife conservation group in the South. The organisation has a biodiversity information team who collect data and their research studies are used when planning applications are due for consideration. There is a conservation advice team giving free advice about how to manage the diverse habitats within the region. The Hants and IoW Wildlife Trust own 6,000 acres of land in Hampshire, most areas being open to the general public. The aim of the trust is “linking life and landscape” and they work with other organisations such as the Environment Agency, Forestry Commission and local councils to achieve this aim.

Ms Cross explained that there is a Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan for some species, and she advised the committee that her records show notable plant and animal species having been identified in Sherfield in recent years. It was explained that species are under threat from habitat loss, fragmentation, degradation and lack of information/co-ordination. With this in mind, biodiversity strategies had been created for the Forest of Eversley, an ancient designated area which includes Sherfield-on-Loddon, and for the Loddon Catchment, which includes areas of Hampshire where tributaries of the River Loddon arise. Copies of these documents are available from the Hants and IoW Wildlife Trust website.

The area of the Village Green had recently been designated as a SINC by the local authority and this was discussed. It was explained that the Hants and IoW Wildlife Trust would be

ACTIONS

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pleased to advise and support management of this area, recognising that the Green is also an area for recreation and leisure. It was thought that the area for designation is due for re-assessment next year.

The Heritage Area Project aims to raise awareness by holding workshops, monitoring and surveying land and leasing land. It promotes the regeneration of hedgerows, which help to link fragmented areas of habitat, and offers grants to assist groups wishing to restore areas of parkland or wetlands, plant new woodland, etc.

Ms Cross explained that Basingstoke Council has produced a "Living Landscapes Strategy" but has no plan at present to produce an action plan. She reported that Hook has started its own action plan as part of the parish plan, although pointed out that this involved much hard work and commitment from local people.

The Chairman thanked Ms Cross for her interesting presentation and said that he was sure the Parish Council would seek her further advice on land management issues within the parish.

5. TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF CRIME AND DISORDER

4220 Sandy Johnston had circulated press reports on the recent Crime and Disorder Audit and new licensing laws. He spoke of concern regarding the closure of May Place centre in Basingstoke and of the fear that the result would be an increase in people living "rough".

He had received a police newsletter which contained an article on the safety of "Tetra" communication masts. It was noted that the Tetra mast had been removed from Scats Garden Centre in Sherfield.

An update on reported crimes in local villages had been received from WPC Jewell and tabled at the meeting. It was noted that recent break-ins in the village, plus travelers in the car park had not been included in the document. Sandy Johnston agreed to discuss these incidents with WPC Jewell. It was confirmed that Neighbourhood Watch organisers usually advise local residents when an incident has occurred.

SJ

6. TO REPORT RESULT OF 2004 CALOR VILLAGE OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

4221 The Chairman reported that he and the Clerk had attended an award ceremony in London on the previous day, and had been pleased to receive the plaque for best village in Southern and South East England, together with a cheque in the sum of £1,500. The overall winner was St Neot in Cornwall. The Chairman read aloud a letter he had received from the Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane, congratulating the village on its achievements, and this would be posted on the village noticeboard and reproduced in the Loddon Valley Link.

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The Chairman wished to record sincere thanks on behalf of the Parish Council for all the contributions made towards the competition by so many people in the village.

OPEN FORUM

There were no questions from the general public.

7. REPORTS

(a) Planning Committee

4222 The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 8 and 30 November had been circulated:

BDB /59503 Redlands, Reading Road, Sherfield-on-Loddon, Hook, RG27

Proposal: Erection of 8 bedroom detached dwelling with attached garages, swimming pool and ancillary landscaping following demolition of existing dwelling and outbuildings.

PC Decision: It was agreed on 8 November that the Chairman would find out more about Redlands before a decision was made. Research revealed that the timber and thatch 3 storey house was built in 1906 by Boulton and Paul, then aircraft manufacturers. This information was conveyed to the Conservation Division of the Planning Department at the Borough Council, but the Conservation Division had already decided that the house and outbuildings should be classified as buildings of local interest, in order to preserve them. At its meeting on 30 November, the Committee's decision was to object to the planning application, as the proposal involved the demolition of a building of local interest.

Proposed Vodafone Base Station at 44633 Redlands Farm

Proposal received direct from FPD Savills.

Proposal: To provide 2G and 3G coverage to the A33 North of Basingstoke and to the rapidly expanding residential development to the west of the A33. Reply required by 12 November.

PC Decision: Objection. Recommend "sharing" approved mast at Whitmarsh Lane, Chineham.

With regard to the proposed changes to the White Hart Public House, it was noted that the application would be considered by the Development Control Committee on the evening of 8 December, unfortunately clashing with this meeting.

BDB /59660/1 Ye Old Winton Cottage, Sherfield Green, Sherfield-on-Loddon, Hook.

Proposal: Erection of a single storey extension to south elevation to form garden room and covered link and porch to garage.

PC Decision: No objection.

BDB /59702 Searchers Cottage, Wildmoor Lane, Sherfield-on-Loddon, Hook, RG27.

Proposal: Erection of detached double garage/store.

PC Decision: No objection.

BDB /59530 10 Goddards Close, Sherfield-on-Loddon, Hook, RG27.

Proposal: Erection of a single storey front extension.

PC Decision: No objection.

BDB /59761 Land west of Cufaude Lane, adjacent to Taylors Farm, Chineham, B'stokes.

Proposal: Relief of condition 2 & 3 of BDB /51760 to extend time period for submission of reserved matters and time limit for commencement of work.

PC Decision: No objection.

Notice of Intent:

TCA 1761 to fell 11 leylandii and 1 pear at Winton Cottage, Sherfield Green.

For report: No objection by Authority.

TCA 1787 to reduce and reshape by 20% 1 birch reduce height by 2 ft 1 conifer and reduce beech hedge by 1.5ft at Withington, Bramley Road.

PC Decision: No objection.

Approvals:

BDB /59346 Well House, Reading Road, Sherfield-on-Loddon, Hook, RG27

Proposal: Relief of condition 1 of planning permission BDB 46206 to extend the time limit for the commencement of works for change of use from garage and store to studio flat with office over. 5 years granted.

BDB /59533 26 Otterbourne Walk, Sherfield-on-Loddon, Hook, RG27

Proposal: Erection of a rear conservatory.

BDB /59141 Globe House, Goddards Lane, Sherfield-on-Loddon, Hook, RG27

Proposal: Erection of a two storey side and two storey rear extension. Erection of a side conservatory and a detached double garage.

BDB /58949 10 Bow Grove, Sherfield-on-Loddon, Hook, RG27

Proposal: Conversion and single storey front extension to garage. Erection of new porch with pitched roof. Creation of parking space.

BDB /59243 & BDB/59376 White Hart, Reading Road, Sherfield-on-Loddon, Hook, RG27

Proposal: Display of 5 no static externally illuminated fascia, post and freestanding signs.

BDB /59371 Land to the rear of 6-9 Bramley Road, Sherfield-on-Loddon, Hook, RG27

Proposal: Amended siting of dwelling approved under planning permission BDB 52769

BDB /59205 & 59206 The Walled Garden, Wildmoor Lane, Sherfield, Hook

Proposal: Demolition of outbuilding and erection of three bedroom wing and double garage.

Application No: BDB /59336

Location: 13 Northfield Road, Sherfield-on-Loddon, Hook, RG27

Proposal: Erection of attached single garage to side elevation.

(b) Finance and General Purposes Committee

4223 The precept would be discussed under agenda item 8. It was agreed that the next FGP Committee meeting would be held in the Cricket Pavilion at 8.45 pm, Thursday 6 January, immediately following the Leisure Facilities Committee.

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(c) Leisure Facilities Committee

4224 The minutes of the meeting held on 24 November had been circulated. Sandy Johnston reported that he had met a representative from Park Leisure and would meet with Wickstead next week. He hoped to have quotations from four companies to present at the next meeting of the Leisure Facilities Committee, to be held 7.30pm, Thursday 6 January.

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(d) Village Green Committee

4225 The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 14 December.

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(e) Allotments

4226 John Dodd reported that the skip had been delivered but there had been difficulties with placing it in a suitable location. He felt that it would be extremely difficult to remove the skip once full.

Ground near the northern entrance to the allotments had been damaged by the vehicle delivering manure. It was suggested that there should be an area of hard standing with a back wall which could be used for manure and could also be the site for allotment waste.

JD

The new noticeboard had been delivered and arrangements would be made to have this installed in the near future.

JD

A new chicken run had been placed on one of the allotments, but it was agreed that the tenant would be asked to replace the unsightly plastic covering with mesh.

JD

(f) Schools

4227 Brian Archer reported that Loddon School, not Sherfield School as previously reported, would be holding a public musical event in March.

(g) Village Hall

4228 The Village Hall Committee had received confirmation from the Borough that Section 106 money from the Mill House development would be given for the refurbishment of the kitchen.

The Chairman read aloud a card from Kathleen Gaiger, inviting Councillors to the “Celebration of Christmas” event, to be held in the Hall, 5.30-7.30 pm on 20 December.

8. TO AGREE PRECEPT FOR 2005/6

4229 The third draft of the budget for next year’s spending had been circulated.

The Chairman had discussed the pathway between Northfield Road and Reading Road with Steve Raw at BDBC. Widening and resurfacing between the Mill Close flats and Old Bywlcyn would cost approximately £4,369.40, and to continue around the back of Old Bywlcyn would bring the cost to £7,627.10. Steve Raw was confident that a 75% grant would be available to the Parish Council. It was therefore agreed that the budget figure should be raised from £500 to £1,000 for this project.

LM

With regard to the wooded area offered by Mansers, the Clerk confirmed that she had spoken with Mr Manser who had explained that due to the complicated nature of the lease agreement, his solicitor would not be in a position to suggest a fee for another few months. The Clerk had advised Mr Manser that the Parish Council would need to know the legal costs involved before committing to the lease.

Manser & Son Ltd would not be repairing or replacing the fencing between the land in question and the A33 and so if a lease is adopted and the fencing is to be repaired, this will be an additional cost for the Parish Council.

The predicted carry-forward figure of approximately £10,000 at the end of the current financial year was due to unexpected grants and fee payments and due to unspent funds including Parish Plan and insurances.

It was calculated that a precept of £20,000 would be required, a lower figure than for the last two years. In addition to the brought forward figure, several of next year’s projects could be paid for by S106 funding from various local developments, helping to keep the precept at a low figure. Ivan Gosden proposed that a figure of £20,000 is requested for next year’s precept, seconded Richard Gaiger, agreed by all those present.

LM

9. TO CONSIDER REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE VILLAGE GREEN COMMITTEE

4230 Brian Archer’s revised suggested terms of reference for the committee had been circulated.

It was agreed that the Parish Council and Village Green Committee should work together for the good of the village and the document helped to set out how the liaison between volunteers, Village Green Committee and the Parish Council could work. It was confirmed that not all Village Green Committee members are also volunteers.

The document was proposed for acceptance by Ken Clark, seconded by Brian Archer and agreed by all, and would be presented to the Village Green Committee next week.

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10. TO AGREE LIST OF TASKS TO BE PRESENTED TO THE VILLAGE GREEN VOLUNTEERS

4231 A list of tasks had been compiled by Brian Archer, from suggestion given to him by the Village Green Volunteers.

John Dodd wished to remove dying willows behind his garage, and the Clerk would arrange to have a notice of intent form submitted to the Tree Officer.

LM

It was reported that the 'phone box opposite the Post Office has had the telephone removed. The Clerk would make inquiries with British Telecom.

LM

With regard to the privet hedging behind the War Memorial, it was confirmed that these had been planted several years ago. Some of the privet plants were in poor condition and it had been suggested that these needed to be replaced. However, it was thought that their position beneath the large trees accounted for their stunted/slow growth. It was agreed to reconsider the matter in the Spring.

The path behind the Village Hall needed to be cut back and the volunteers would be asked to do this next month. It was again noted that the paving is very narrow.

BA

The Clerk confirmed that the insurers were content for strimmers to be used, but the Parish Council has a responsibility to ensure the machinery is in good working order and that users must wear protective clothing. It was understood that the Parish Council's strimmers are stored by John Attwood.

The list was approved with the exception of (a) pollarding trees and (b) fitting boards along the path, which Bruce Batting and Ivan Gosden had previously agreed to look at. Proposed Richard Gaiger, seconded Loraine Smith, agreed.

BA/LM

It was suggested that Alison Cross could be invited back to meet the volunteers at a future date to discuss ideas for managing the green.

LM

11. TO APPROVE SCHEDULE OF INFORMATION, FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

4232 The Clerk had attended a workshop in Winchester where assistance had been given to complete a schedule of information which would be provided for the general public, detailing documents available and the fees to be charged. Two documents were not currently available but could be included at a later date. The rate used by many Parish Councils is 20 pence per sheet.

Ivan Gosden proposed adopting the schedule, seconded by Maurice Lambden, agreed. The Clerk would submit the form to the Information Commissioner.

LM

12. REPORT ON A MEETING TO DISCUSS S106 COMMUNITY FACILITIES AT SHERFIELD PARK

4233 The Chairman, Cllr Archer and the Clerk had attended a meeting with June Balcombe to discuss the way forward in designing a new community building. It was probable that the building would not be built for another three years, until the 250th house is occupied. A consultation period would begin in the New Year and would include residents in Sherfield and Chineham. The Sherfield Village Hall Management Committee would also be consulted.

Sandy Johnston reported that Hampshire Paths Partnership is giving further consideration to installing a pathway link between Sherfield Park and the village.

13. ROADS, TRAFFIC AND FOOTPATHS

4234 Sandy Johnston reported that a draft is almost ready for consideration.

He also reported that Michael Johnn, Rights of Way Officer, had said that he would investigate ways of dealing with the flooded area in the lane next to Loddon School.

It was reported that vehicles had been using the “firebreak” track to gain access to Greenway and the ground was now badly churned up. The Chairman said that people should be discouraged from using this route when the ground is wet although it was noted that it is sometimes necessary to use the track whatever the weather if a delivery lorry is blocking Greenway.

It was suggested that a sign for Hams Corner should be installed by the Wildmoor Walk development, and the Clerk would make a request to Shirley Brewer at BDBC.

LM

A 30mph sign had been removed from the southern entrance gateway again.

The Clerk reported that Peter Eade had been asked to repair the section of Goddards Lane that leads to the farm. Jason Lewis, Assistant Engineer, had cleared the gutter drains along the old Reading Road to see whether that will improve the problem of flooding by the ponds, and he had also been asked to move traffic calming signs away from the War Memorial area.

14. FINANCE REPORT

4235 A report had been tabled, detailing S 106 funds available. These had been included within the precept calculations. The Parish Council had been advised that the sum of £14,060 for community facilities is now available from developers contributions for the new housing at Wildmoor Walk and at the Rectory, although it was noted that no building work had begun on the site of the Rectory. June Balcombe of BDBC had requested project proposals by 20 December. It was hoped that some of the money could be given towards the new pavilion, which would include a meeting room. The Clerk would ask whether a clearer definition of “Community Facilities” could be made available. It was noted that the future of Sherfield FC was now in doubt, as fewer club members were willing or able to take on active roles within the Club.

LM

Quotations from Barry Bulpitt for works on the Green had been tabled. The following were proposed for acceptance by Ivan Gosden, seconded by Loraine Smith, and agreed:

Crown lift trees on green and remove dead wood = £500
Remove stump and fallen tree at top of allotment = £60

LM

It was agreed that Alison Cross would be asked to arrange an assessment of the flora and fauna within Golden Pond and so a decision on whether to accept the quotes for improving flow of water to Golden Pond would be deferred.

LM

The balances of all accounts at 30 November 2004 are shown in the table below:

2004/2005	HSBC A/C	General Investment A/C	Consols	Grand Total		
Balance B/F from Q2	12,316.18	22,074.43	24.17	34,414.78	Uncleared (HSBC)	Uncleared (Gen Inv)
Income Oct/Nov	4,180.41	0.00	0.00	4,180.41	110.42	0.00
Outgoing Oct/Nov	4,378.26	0.00	0.00	4,378.26	Cleared Balance	
Q3 Balance	15,039.81	22,074.43	24.17	37,138.41	15,150.23	22,074.43

HSBC Bank Statement at 30/11/04 = £15,150.23

Approval of Payments

£626.20 Clerk salary
£110.42 Litter Warden
£157.02 Inland Revenue
£5.88 Petty Cash

Approval of payments was proposed by Brian Archer, seconded by Maurice Lambden, agreed.

LM

15. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

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- Budget report, third quarter.

LM

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

4237 The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in the Liddell Hall on Wednesday 12 January at 7.30 pm.

LM

Meeting closed 9.45 pm.