

**MINUTES OF SHERFIELD-ON-LODDON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE GARDEN ROOM OF THE VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2003**

**Present**

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

**In attendance**

Lucy Marshall (Parish Clerk)

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**3730** Apologies for absence were received from Bruce Batting, Borough Councillor Roger Gardiner, Chris Horton, WPC Jewell.

In the absence of Bruce Batting, John Dodd chaired the meeting.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**3731** Tracy Lander-Sims expressed a personal interest in the development of the Rectory, as her property adjoins the land being developed.

**3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10 JUNE 2003**

**3732** The minutes of the last meeting were approved as a true record of the proceedings and were signed by the Chairman.

**4. MATTERS ARISING**

**(a) Sherfield Park Surface Water Drainage**

**3733** Nothing to report from Bruce Batting. Ivan Gosden reported that the MoD had been asked to dig out the ditch which crosses their property and which is to take some surface water from the development.

Harry Moore read out a letter from BDBC relating to a Framework for sustainable drainage systems (SUDS). The framework sets out recommendations on how to prevent or reduce pollution and surface water runoff, although it is to be applied mainly to new site developments. BDBC will be making a response to the Framework but others may comment if they wish. The closing date for comment is 15 August. The clerk had just received a copy of the SUDS Framework document and this would be circulated to Parish Council members.

Regarding the ditch by Cheshunt Cottage, it was reported that Bruce Batting had said that the Scheme of Management shows that the tarmac area does not form part of the Village Green. However, the Council wished to have documentary evidence showing who owns the land. Guidance on how to deal with flooding in the area needed to be sought from Basingstoke Council and Thames Water and this would be arranged by the Clerk.

**ACTIONS**

LM

LM

**(b) Rectory Development**

**3734** It was reported that the Baptist Chapel had withdrawn its objection to the Berkeley Homes development, including the area of land between the Rectory and the Chapel. It appeared that some pressure had been put on the Baptist Church to change its mind and this was received with concern by Council members.

**(c) Traffic Calming**

**3735** Tracy Lander-Sims reported that a traffic calming unit on the Bramley Road had been broken for some weeks and a car had run into it on Friday, causing two tyres to burst. Ivan Gosden and Tracy Lander-Sims had contacted James Holt at Hampshire Highways and had been promised that the unit would be repaired overnight. This had not happened. Cones had been placed around the hazard by traffic police in the meantime. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact James Holt to insist that action is taken immediately.

LM

With regard to progressing to permanent traffic calming features, it was thought that Bruce Batting had not written to Richard Hague at Winchester, however he had been in contact with James Holt and would meet him to finalise plans for perusal by the general public. However, the Council agreed that the Clerk would write to the Highways Department to find out why our traffic calming project is taking so long to complete. Lucy Marshall would also make reference to the damaged traffic calming measure on the southern approach to the A33 roundabout .

LM

**(d) Senior Management Arrangements**

**3736** A revised document had been circulated with the papers for the meeting. It was not clear whether Bruce Batting had written to object to the proposals set out in the previous document, however it was noted that the new recommendation is to retain the Acting Chief Executive/Director of Community Services for a fixed-term period of two years whilst developing a Strategic Management Board to take over in September 2005. Council members were still of the opinion that a Chief Executive should be retained/appointed as the proposed arrangements appeared to be excessively bureaucratic. Bruce Batting would be asked to confirm whether he had discussed the issue with Cllr Marilyn Tucker and the HAPTC.

BB

**5. REPORT ON PARISH PLAN**

**3737** Tracy Lander-Sims reported that a Notice of Intent would be dispatched to the Countryside Agency after the summer holiday period, as very little action could be taken in the meantime. Estimated costs and expenses would be submitted to the Finance and General Purposes Committee for inclusion in the precept for 2004.

**6. REPORT ON THE BASINGSTOKE LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP EVENT**

**3738** Sandy Johnston reported on the presentation which he attended on 2 July at Eastrop Park. It had been very upbeat and positive, reporting that the new Festival Place had been given an award for best new centre. The vision for the development of Basingstoke over the next 10 years is very clear and areas for improvement have been highlighted.

**7. REQUEST FOR PC GRANT FROM VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**3739** Esme Ward, Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) had written to Bruce Batting asking the Parish Council to provide a grant of £3000 for the purchase of a new kitchen in the Village Main Hall. The Finance and General Purposes Committee had recommended that Nick Robinson should ask the VHMC to provide a detailed specification of what they are wishing to purchase and, at the same time, submit a request for any financial support they might need for 2004, in advance of the precept being set. This was endorsed by the Parish Council who confirmed that funding couldn't be made available until next April at the earliest, and Nick Robinson agreed to raise this at the VHMC meeting on 10 July.

NR

The Council then discussed the Village Hall car park resurfacing project and agreed that the VHMC should be encouraged to apply for a Borough Grant once again, with support from Cllrs Tucker and Gardiner.

NR

**8. REQUEST FOR DONATION FROM BASINGSTOKE CORONARY CARE SUPPORT CLUB**

**3740** A request for a donation had been received from this local health care organisation. It was felt that this was a worthy cause and as it was stated that 3 people from the parish attend the support club, a sum of £50 should be donated from Parish funds. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Borough Council to say that the Parish Council expects them to make a contribution too. Lucy Marshall would copy her letter to the Basingstoke Coronary Care Support Club, suggesting that they ask other Parish Councils to do the same.

LM

**9. TO DISCUSS COMPLAINTS RECEIVED RE; NEGLECTED COUNCIL PROPERTY**

**3741** Bruce Batting had received complaints about the condition of a council property in Goddards Close. It appeared that the tenant was no longer living in the house and the Parish Council was asked whether Oakfern Housing Association should be informed. The source of the complaints was unclear and it was agreed that no decision would be taken without further information from Bruce Batting.

**OPEN FORUM**

The meeting adjourned for discussion of topics not appearing on the agenda.

**10. PLANNING**

**3742** A document showing current applications and decisions by the Borough Council had been circulated. A new application for a conservatory at 7 Pound Meadow had just been received (BDB/ 56186).

**11. REPORTS**

**(a) Planning Committee**

**3743** No report.

The following applications have been considered by the Planning Committee:  
BDB/55429 – Rectory. Object to permeable car parking surfaces.

BDB/55903 – Phase 2, Taylors Farm. Landscaping. No objection.  
 BDB/55852 – Phase 3, Taylors Farm. 59 houses, roads, car parking. No objection.  
 BDB/54766 – Longbridge Mill. Signs. Objection, too large, not suitable for listed building.  
 BDB/55924 – Laurels, Wildmoor. Objection, extension size, position, no car parking, not in keeping.  
 BDB/55963 – Chestnut Cottage, Green. Objection, extension size, no car parking, imbalanced.  
 BDB/55973 – Walled Garden. Wall around pool, boiler room, pavilion. Out of keeping but no objection as would only ever been seen by owners.

**(b) Finance and General Purposes Committee (FGPC)**

**3744** The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 24 June had been circulated to the Parish Council. Ivan Gosden, Chairman of that committee, drew Council’s attention to item 5 on pages 3 and 4 of the minutes and asked everyone to submit estimates for projects to be carried out next year, by 19 August at the latest. Sandy Johnston agreed to submit a report on the condition of the cricket pavilion to the next FGPC meeting, 19 August.

All  
 SJ

**(c) Village Green Committee**

**3745** The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 17 June had been circulated previously. Particular items for report and consideration were as follows:

**3746 Court Farm House:** After discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council should erect posts and smooth wire on the Village Green side of the ditch. Estimates would be obtained for work to be carried out in the winter. The Clerk would also reply to Mr and Mrs Lansley.

LM

**3747 Parking on the Green:** Nick Robinson was concerned that cars park regularly on the green opposite Southview Cottages and the Guest House. He suggested that dragons teeth could be put in place, with removeable posts for use by the cricket club. However, some felt that this would cause problems for residents who need to find parking places. It was noted that a breakdown vehicle parks regularly on the green and John Dodd agreed to find out where the owner lives/works.

JD

**3748 Footpath between Reading Road/Northfield Road:** This area had been strimmed and cut, and so no further action was necessary.

**3749 Grass Cutting front of Tennis Courts, Playarea, Behind Hall, etc:** A quotation from the Bulpitt Brothers had been received and tabled. Their quote for the extra grass cutting was £1,160 per annum, Mike Barnes’ quotation for the same work was for £638 per annum. The Parish Council was in agreement that Mr Barnes should be given the contract and the Clerk would write to both parties. This was proposed by Tracy Lander-Sims and seconded by Nick Robinson.

LM

**3750 Removal of old bench and fixing new wooden bench at Horse Pond:** The Bulpitt Brothers had quoted £120. As volunteers could not be found to do the work, the Parish Council agreed to accept the quotation. This was proposed by Harry Moore and seconded by John Dodd. John Dodd agreed to remove the plaque from the bench before it is taken away.

LM  
 JD

**3751 Crown lift ornamental trees by centre path:** The quotation from the Bulpitt Brothers had increased from £200 (in precept) to £300, due to extra plant growth to be removed at this time of year, and extra trees now being included in the job. Acceptance of the quotation was proposed by Harry Moore and seconded by Dick Gaiger. It was agreed that the Clerk would ask Mr Bulpitt to trim some branches from the trees overhanging Goddards Lane, by the Tennis Courts.

LM

**3752 Notice board/s:** The Finance and General Purposes Committee had recommended that a decision on purchasing a new board should be deferred until the installation of the new pavilion, as it was felt that this would be an ideal site for public notices. This was agreed by the Parish Council.

**(d) Allotments**

**3753** John Dodd reported that a new fence is to be installed on Monday 14 July. Ivan Gosden agreed to discuss the removal of rubbish on plots 1 and 2 with John Dodd.

IG / JD

It was noted that some plots were still vacant. It was suggested that Bramley School might be interested in having a plot for science studies, and Tracy Lander-Sims agreed to suggest this to the Head Teacher.

TL-S

**(e) Tennis Courts**

**3754** Sandy Johnston reported takings of £107 from the Tennis Courts, which he passed to the Clerk. He also reported that a tennis coach wished to have regular use of the courts for childrens lessons. The Parish Council agreed to await more information about frequency, times, and lesson fees before making a decision about a charge.

SJ

**(f) Children's Play Area**

**3755** Sandy Johnston reported on the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act to provide access and equipment suitable for disabled people, coming into force November 2004. He confirmed that all new equipment purchased must comply with the Act. There was lengthy discussion and it was agreed that the matter should appear as the first item of the agenda at the next PC meeting. Members were asked to meet at the playground before the start of the meeting to inspect the equipment for themselves.

All

**(g) Bramley School**

**3756** Bramley School Summer Fete is to be held on Saturday 12 July.

**(h) Village Hall**

**3757** Nothing further to report. Next meeting of the Management Committee, Thursday 10 July.

**(i) Football Pavilion**

**3758** The subject of the annual license fee for both cricket and football clubs had been discussed at the Finance and General Purposes Committee. It had been recommended that the license fee should, in future, be based on the number of matches played. More information was required before considering fees for next year.

IG  
LM

## **12. ROADS, TRAFFIC AND FOOTPATHS**

**3759** It was reported that the Clerk had written to Peter Eade, Assistant Chief Engineer, regarding flooding along Wildmoor Lane. A reply is awaited. The Rights of Way Officer had been contacted regarding broken/fallen finger posts and he had agreed to send a team to fix these shortly.

## **13. FINANCE REPORT**

**3760** The Clerk had circulated a finance report, showing a budget statement for the first quarter, and balances of all accounts at 30 June 2003.

	<b>HSBC A/c</b>	<b>General Investment A/c</b>	<b>Tennis A/c</b>	<b>Allotments A/c</b>	<b>Consols</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>
<b>Balance B/F Q1</b>	<b>6,128.19</b>	<b>14,459.64</b>	<b>4,108.52</b>	<b>2,210.89</b>	<b>24.17</b>	<b>26,931.41</b>
Income Apr/May/June	27,017.76	7,115.91	-4,108.52	-2,210.89		27,814.26
Outgoing Apr/May/June	23,449.42					23,449.42
<b>Balance C/F to Q2</b>	<b>9,696.53</b>	<b>21,575.55</b>			<b>24.17</b>	<b>31,296.25</b>

HSBC Credits for June 2003: £7.40 (interest)

HSBC Debits for June 2003: £1,632.99 (including £605.93 uncleared cheques)

### **Approval of Payments**

£10.00	Village Hall – Room Hire, FGPC 24 June.
£141.00	Audit Commission – fee for audit 2001-2002
£376.00	C L Tipper – Wood Chippings (in Precept)
£435.00	B Stoopman – Centre Brook bridge (not in Precept)*
£7.44	Petty Cash paid end of June
£462.78	Clerk Salary
£133.35	Litter Warden Salary
£33.22	Inland Revenue

\* BDBC shortly to pay £391 grant, so effectively £44 to come from Parish Council funds.

### **Audit for 2002-03**

The Audit Commission has sent forms for completion for the period 2002-2003. The Chairman has passed these to David Hitchins of Cryer and Co. The auditors had agreed to charge the same fee as last year, £175. The Parish Council approved Cryer and Co as auditors for the year.

Proposed by Ivan Gosden, seconded by Harry Moore.

## **14. CORRESPONDENCE**

There were no items of correspondence for discussion.

## **15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**3761** It was agreed that there would be no Parish Council meeting in August, next meeting 9 September. Due to holiday arrangements, it was agreed that the Village Green Committee meeting be brought forward to 12 August and the FGPC meeting be brought forward to 19 August.

LM

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.40 pm.