

MINUTES OF SHERFIELD-ON-LODDON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE GARDEN ROOM OF THE VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2003

Present

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

In attendance

Lucy Marshall (Parish Clerk)
Marilyn Tucker (Borough Councillor)

4 members of the general public were in attendance.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3762 Apologies for absence were received from John Dodd, Borough Councillor Roger Gardiner, Chris Horton, WPC Jewell.

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Tucker to the meeting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3763 None was reported.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8 JULY 2003

3764 Minute 3735, traffic calming: The Chairman wished to record that he had reported the broken traffic calming installation to James Holt on 26 June. With this amendment, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a true record of the proceedings.

4. REPORT ON WELCOME PACK

3765 Tracy Lander-Sims and Nick Robinson would be meeting with Jacqui Skillett tomorrow night. A document would be produced for the next Parish Council Meeting.

5. REPORT ON PARISH PLAN

3766 Tracy Lander-Sims agreed to report on progress at the next Parish Council Meeting.

6. TO DISCUSS QUALITY PARISH AND TOWN COUNCIL SCHEME

3767 A document from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, dated June 2003, had been circulated to all Parish Councillors. It was agreed that Sherfield-on-Loddon Parish Council should apply for "Quality" status next year, once the Clerk had obtained the approved qualification.

7. TO DISCUSS CONSULTATION PAPER ON INDEMNITIES FOR RELEVANT AUTHORITY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

3768 Another Consultative Document from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister had been received and responses were being sought on a series of proposals within the document. The closing date for submissions is 6 October. It was agreed that a small working party should be formed to consider the proposals in detail, and this would comprise Harry Moore, Bruce Batting, Ivan Gosden and Dick Gaiger.

8. TO DISCUSS UPDATE ON DOUBLE TAXATION WITHIN THE BOROUGH

3769 A report had been considered by the Scrutiny Committee and had been forwarded to the Cabinet. Further research would be carried out. The main areas of concern were cemeteries and burial grounds, recreation and sports grounds, play areas, bus shelters and traffic calming. As part of the exercise, it was recommended that improvements be made to communication between the Borough and the Parishes. Also, it had been recommended that the Borough Grant should be increased. The report is available.

ACTIONS

LM/BB

TL-S/NR

TL-S/DG

BB

9. TO DISCUSS BOROUGH COUNCIL GRANT AID TOWARDS RURAL GATEWAY FEATURES

3770 A letter from Richard Wareham had been circulated. Bruce Batting reported that he had contacted Mr Wareham who had confirmed that only £23,000 is available to share between all Parishes in the Borough, for road lining and signage only and could not be diverted towards other traffic calming features. There is a standard village gateway sign which was available to parishes, and it was suggested that a sign could be placed at the southern end of the village, although it was thought that this could conflict with the traffic calming measures soon to be installed. Response by 27 September.

BB

10. TO DISCUSS MEMBERS' (COUNCILLORS') ALLOWANCES

3771 Councillors were reminded that it is possible to claim allowances. New regulations were being introduced and a copy of the Statutory Instrument is now available.

11. UPDATE FROM COUNTRY WATCH

3772 A document from Country Watch had been circulated. The Chairman reported he had attended a meeting recently, at which the Local Plan to 2016 had been discussed. The proposed major development at Manydown on the West side of Basingstoke, which appeared to have support of the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Borough Council, would probably be contested by Cluttons, who would be seeking to sell, for development, four farms covering two river valleys from the rear of the incinerator round to The Hatch at Old Basing. Country Watch, with assistance from several parishes including Sherfield-on-Loddon, is building up a "fighting fund" to pay for legal fees if necessary. The Readingstoke Action Group/CPRE's action at the Public Inquiry into the proposal to build 10,000 houses at Grazeley is a good example of what such an organisation can do, but it must be remembered that this action cost £220,000.

The Borough is producing a biodiversity study of the region, but it was recognised that a far more detailed study of the local area is necessary, and expert assistance from the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust is being sought.

12. TO CONSIDER PROPOSAL TO RENT A SKIP FOR ALLOTMENTS

3773 John Dodd had suggested that a skip is hired and placed within the centre of the allotments, providing allotment holders with somewhere to dump rubbish from the plots. Skip companies charge each time a skip is emptied, not by period of hire. It was felt that providing access is suitable, the Finance and General Purposes Committee would consider a quotation.

JD

Members were very pleased with the new chain link fencing at the pedestrian entrance, which had recently been provided by the Borough Council.

13. TO DISCUSS RE-SITING OF BOTTLE BANKS

3774 The bottle banks had been moved from the football car park to the public car park in Reading Road, opposite Mill Close, as they were considered unsightly in a very public part of the village, they were taking up much needed car parking spaces by the football field, broken glass was a safety issue for people using the public space, and the area would need to be cleared soon for the rebuilding of the football pavilion.

Unfortunately, a resident from Premier House had been disturbed by the noise of the banks being emptied each week at 7 am, and by people using the banks early in the morning, and had written to object to the new position of the banks. The Chairman explained that five other properties had been closer to the banks in their previous position and he suggested that the bins could be moved to the left of the car park, so that the hedgerows and trees in front could help to deaden the noise and to hide them from view. He also suggested that the Borough could be asked to empty the banks at a later time. Ivan Gosden proposed that these measures should be implemented and this was seconded by Harry Moore. A letter would be sent to the resident explaining the decision. It was also agreed that arrangements should be made to move the remaining litter bins and shoe bank to the new site.

LM

14. TO DISCUSS HEDGING ALONG GODDARDS CLOSE

3775 Complaints had been received regarding hedges overhanging the pavement along Goddards Close. It was agreed that Sentinel Housing Association would be notified of the problem and asked to respond, and letters should be sent to private home owners too. It was felt that the County Council might have a responsibility, as the hedges overhang public highway, but a response would be awaited from the Housing Association in the first instance.

BB/LM

15. TO CONSIDER BUS SHELTER IN GODDARDS LANE

3776 A resident had reported youths misusing the bus shelter along Goddards Lane and asked if the Parish Council would consider how to deter them. His own suggestions had included regular policing of the area, installing gates and locking the shelter overnight, or installing a CCTV camera. These were not considered to be feasible options. The Parish Council discussed the need to provide an area somewhere in the village for teenagers to meet and this would be included in the Parish Plan.

16. TO DISCUSS BOLLARDS BY VILLAGE HALL

3777 The Village Hall Management Committee had requested that the “No Parking” signs be replaced on the wall. It had been suggested that rather than spoiling the appearance of the new wall, metal bollards could be installed along the edge of the pavement, and James Holt from Hampshire Highways was investigating this option.

17. TO CONSIDER REQUEST FOR DONATION BY BASINGSTOKE CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

3778 It was felt that this is a very worthy organisation and deserving of support. However, it was thought that a donation had been made some time ago to the Tadley Citizens Advice Bureau. The Clerk agreed to check the records and report to the Finance and General Purposes Committee before a decision is made.

LM

OPEN FORUM

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

18. PLANNING: UPDATE AND NEW APPLICATIONS

3779 A document was tabled showing applications considered since the last Parish Council meeting, together with the minutes of the last Planning Meeting, held 1 September. Part of the Section 106 agreement had been circulated, the Chairman read aloud the full provisions being made within the Sherfield Park development, which were disappointing and were not directed towards facilities within the village.

With regard to Laings development at Kingswood and Pointers, the revised arrangement was an improvement, although a further garage needed to be added to the block. The Chairman was making enquiries about installing a mini-roundabout at the end of Wildmoor Lane at the entrance to the development, without street lighting.

Regarding the Borough’s rejection of a developers plan to build key worker accommodation on the unused area of Chineham Business Park, the Clerk read out the explanation given at the Parish Liaison Committee meeting for this decision.

Sandy Johnston agreed to investigate the situation regarding the Rectory development.

SJ

19. REPORTS

(a) Planning Committee

3780 This had been discussed under minute 3779.

(b) Finance and General Purposes Committee (FGPC)

3781 The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 19 August had been circulated previously to the Parish Council. With regard to Minute 3, Harry Moore asked if Ben Stoopman could be asked to provide a quotation for repairing Hennis Bridge. This was agreed. With regard to the license fees, Ivan Gosden is progressing the revised arrangements for the cricket license. It was noted that the White Hart Cricket Club will not continue next season. It was

HM/BB
IG

suggested that Barry Bulpitt is asked to quote for leveling the piles of topsoil around the village, and this was agreed.

LM

(c) Village Green Committee

3782 The issue of re-painting names on the war memorial had not been resolved. Clarification was needed from John Dodd.

JD

A planting scheme for the sides and rear of the war memorial had been tabled. This was approved by the Council and the Chairman agreed to progress the project.

BB

(d) Allotments

3783 Ivan Gosden had received a quotation to remove the rubbish on plots 1 and 2. A second quote from DSO is awaited and these will be considered by the Finance and General Purposes Committee next week. The Chairman announced the annual allotment holders meeting would take place on 23 September at 8pm in the Garden Room. New inscriptions would be made for the Best allotment trophy and plaque at a cost of £3.53.

LM

LM

(e) Tennis Courts

3784 Sandy Johnston presented tennis court booking fees of £45 to the Clerk. He reported that a resurfacing treatment costing £297 pa could be purchased, which would prevent stones from breaking loose from the court surface, although he thought that an annual treatment was probably not necessary. He was awaiting other costs associated with the courts and hoped to present these to the Finance and General Purposes Committee. Trees were overhanging the courts and might need to be cut back soon. Fencing remained in good condition. There had been no further discussions regarding tennis coaching in the village.

(f) Children's Play Area

3785 Councillors had met at the play area, prior to the meeting, to inspect the equipment. Sandy Johnston reported that the annual inspection had highlighted that the swings were too close to the gateway. A solution might be to move the gate. The report had recommended providing a barrier around the swing area. It was suggested that Ben Stoopman could be asked to quote for renovating the wendy house. (It was later noted that if existing equipment is repaired, it must fulfil the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act). Regarding the requirements of the DDA, this was still confusing, and Sandy Johnston had been to a conference run by Saltex and would be meeting someone from Wickstead Leisure. He was also consulting with people with disabled children for their views. The DDA would be an issue when considering the installation of the proposed aerial runway.

(g) Bramley School

3786 The new term has started. The school has acquired a playing field at the back of the school and work is underway.

(h) Village Hall

3787 The Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee has been asked to produce a detailed quotation for the new kitchen which will be considered by the Finance and General Purposes Committee. She has agreed to make enquiries regarding having the extinguishers from the two Pavilions included in the annual inspection at the Hall. The next meeting of the VHMC will be held on Tuesday 16 September.

(i) Cricket Pavilion

3788 Two contractors have been asked to subject quotations for repair of the cricket pavilion. The Chairman would be asking a third contractor to submit at quote.

BB

Football Pavilion

3789 The Chairman tabled plans for the new pavilion together with details of the micropile foundations, which, he explained, were less damaging to tree roots than standard foundations. He believed the Jubilee tree had a further 50 years life. The roof structure of the pavilion still needed to be agreed to comply with building regulations. He asked the Parish Council to approve the submission of the drawings for Planning Consent and

Conservation Area Consent. His estimated costs for these two applications, for the printing of plans, for Building Regulation Approval, for the Pre-Tender Health and Safety Plan and for the Appointment of a Planning Supervisor were between £1,500 and £2,000. The Parish Council's earmarked funds for this project would cover these costs.

There followed discussion about the limited space provided by the pavilion. Nick Robinson was disappointed that the building's design prevented its use for any other functions, as, he believed, had been the original intention, and this view was supported by Harry Moore. The Chairman explained that the earlier discussions for a meeting room had been when the plans were for a two storey building. The Football Association rules regarding segregation of teams and separate facilities for the referee were very strict and, consequently, the floorplan showed many small rooms which could not be opened up to create a larger space.

Ivan Gosden proposed accepting the quotations for planning submission, and this was seconded by Tracy Lander-Sims.

BB

Plans would be submitted and building estimates would be obtained. One other company produces micropile foundations and they will also be approached for a quotation.

BB

20. ROADS, TRAFFIC AND FOOTPATHS

3790 Bruce Batting is currently in discussion with Hampshire County Council's Area Surveyor about the possibility of flooding in the vicinity of Cheshunt Lodge and along the Bramley Road.

21. FINANCE REPORT

3791 The Clerk had tabled a finance report, showing balances of all accounts at 30 August 2003.

	HSBC A/c	General Investment A/c	Consols	Grand Total
Balance B/F Q2	9,696.53	21,575.55	24.17	31,296.25
Income Jul/Aug/Sep	3,764.81	0.00	0.00	3,764.81
Outgoing Jul/Aug/Sep	2,671.49	0.00	0.00	2,671.49
Balance C/F to Q3	10,789.85	21,575.55	24.17	32,389.57

HSBC Credits for Jul/Aug 2003: £3,764.81 (include litter grant, new bridge grant, tennis court fees and VAT rebate.)

HSBC Debits for Jul/Aug 2003: £2,671.49 (including £640.14 uncleared cheques)

Approval of Payments

£354.66	Bruce Batting – Parish Council's contribution towards football and cricket outfield grass cutting, second half of 2002/3 period and first half of 2003/4 period. A summary of invoices had been tabled at the meeting with the finance report.
£900	Bulpitt Brothers – (a) Piping by War memorial £600 (NB: Borough grant aid for this project will follow) and (b) crown lifting trees along centre path £300.
£50	Bulpitt Brothers – one third Cricket outfield cut during July (£36) and one third Football pitches cut during July (£14)
£120	Bulpitt Brothers – Removing old seat, installing new seat by Horse Pond.
£50	Country Watch subscription
£20	Hampshire Playing Fields Association subscription
£34.75	Petty cash paid to end August

£129.25	Hampshire Drain Cleaning Services (initial clearance of drain behind Jubilee Cottage)
£35	HAPTC, New Clerk's Training Day, Thursday 2 nd October
£29.38	Lucy Marshall – For purchase of second hand filing cabinet from HBS office furniture and interiors
£17	Village Hall – Room Hire, £8 for VGC meeting 12 August, £9 for PC meetings held 8 July and 12 September (£4.50 each).
£457.84	Clerk Salary
£133.35	Litter Warden Salary
£38.16	Inland Revenue
£195	Cryer and Co, Accountants (an increase of £20, due to increased hours required this year.)

These payments were proposed by Ivan Gosden and seconded by Nick Robinson.

Accounts 2002/3

The Annual Accounts for 2002/3 had been prepared by David Hitchins and were tabled for consideration by the Parish Council. Members were asked to consider these and present any questions to the Clerk within the next few weeks. The Accounts would be brought forward for ratification at the October meeting.

22. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT NEXT MEETING

3792 (a) It was agreed that a photograph of the Parish Council should be included in the webpage. (b) Standing Order 13, regarding employees terms and conditions, would be considered by the Finance and General Purposes Committee and then referred to the Parish Council. (c) Approval of Accounts.

LM

23. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

3793 The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in the Garden Room at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 7 October 2003.

LM

Meeting closed 10.05 pm.