

MINUTES OF SHERFIELD-ON-LODDON PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE LIDDELL HALL ON WEDNESDAY 13 APRIL 2005.

Present

Bruce Batting (Chairman)
Ken Clark
John Dodd
Richard Gaiger
Ivan Gosden (Vice Chairman)
Maurice Lambden
Tracy Lander-Sims
Sandy Johnston
Lorraine Smith

In attendance

Lucy Marshall (Parish Clerk)
WPC Jewell

One member of the public was present during the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

4311 Apologies for absence were received from Brian Archer, Calleva Ward Councillor Marilyn Tucker and Chis Horton.

The Chairman read aloud a letter from a member of the public in which the Parish Council was congratulated on its work over the last few years and thanked for reducing the precept this year.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

4312 There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

4313 The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 9 March 2005 were approved as a true record of the proceedings and were signed by the Chairman.

4. TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF CRIME AND DISORDER

4314 The Neighbourhood Watch report for February had been enclosed with the agenda.

With regard to the Community Safety Forum, Sandy Johnston reported that crime figures are down, although violent crime has increased; harassment is now classified as violent crime. The Community Warden scheme is proving to be successful in Basingstoke.

OPEN FORUM

The meeting was temporarily adjourned to allow questions from the general public.

5. REPORTS

(a) Planning Committee

4315 The minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 18 March had been circulated:

NEW APPLICATIONS:

Application No: BDB/60452

Location: Wyevale Garden Centre, Wildmoor Lane, Sherfield-on-Loddon

Proposal: Relief of condition 1 of planning permission BDB/46808 to allow time extension for commencement of the works.

PC Decision: No objection.

Application No: BDB/60439

Location: 3 Devonshire Cottages, Sherfield Green, Sherfield-on-Loddon

Proposal: Erection of two storey side and single storey rear extension

PD Decision: No objection.

Application No: BDB/60388

Location: 2 Goddards Farm Cottages, Goddards Lane, Sherfield-on-Loddon, Hook

Proposal: Erection of a single storey rear extension.

Councillor Gosden left the room while this application was considered.

PC Decision: No objection.

APPROVALS (FOR REPORT):

Application No: BDB/59928

Location: White Hart, Reading Road, Sherfield-on-Loddon, Hook, RG27 0BT

Proposal: Provision of a terracotta tile and oak lattice floor finish to bar area (retrospective)

Application No: BDB/60388

Location: 19 Goddards Close, Sherfield-on-Loddon, Hook

Proposal: Erection of a single storey rear extension and detached garage.

Application No: BDB/57699

Location: Land at Sherfield Park, Sherfield-on-Loddon, Hook

Proposal: Construction of an underground balancing pond.

A letter had been written to Youngs Brewery with regard to the size and position of the planters installed in the front car park of the White Hart public house. The Enforcement Team from the Borough Planning Department would be investigating whether there had been a breach of planning regulations.

The Department had also been alerted to the deposit of scrap metal/vehicles on MoD land, adjacent to Goddards Farm; it appeared that this was the intended site for the Channel 4 television series "Scrapheap Challenge".

Savills had again approached the Parish Council with proposals for a new Vodaphone mast and this will be discussed at the Planning Committee meeting tomorrow night.

The Chairman had received suggested amendments from the Borough Council, following the Parish Council's submission to the Local Plan Inquiry. It was agreed that Country Watch would be asked for advice.

With regard to the Rectory development, the Chairman reported that Section 278 is to be agreed with the Highway Authority, Hampshire County Council. It appeared that the Berkeley Homes development would be going ahead, and a compromise boundary between the site and Breach Lane Chapel had been agreed with the Church of England. There was strong concern about road safety, as access to the development is so close to the A33 roundabout. The Chairman agreed to discuss safety measures with Peter Eade, Assistant Chief Engineer.

Loddon Sports had written with new proposals for an extension and this would be considered at tomorrow night's Planning Meeting.

(b) Finance and General Purposes Committee

4316 The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 26 April, 8.45pm, Cricket Pavilion.

(c) Leisure Facilities Committee

4317 The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 26 April, 7.30pm, Cricket Pavilion.

(d) Village Green Committee

4318 The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 19 April, 7.30pm, Cricket Pavilion.

(e) Allotments

4319

To consider acceptability of electrified fencing on allotment plots:

The Council was advised that the allotment tenant proposed to install a further barrier around the electrified fence once she had completed planting around the outside of the chicken run. It was also her intention to put up further warning notices. The Councillors were aware that there is no specific reference to electrified fencing within the allotments acts or within the Parish Council's Allotment Agreement. The fencing carries an 8 volt charge. It was confirmed that the insurance company would not be prepared to cover the Parish Council should any claim be made.

It was proposed to allow electrified fencing within the allotment gardens, provided there is additional fencing surrounding it; 3 were in favour, 5 were against and there was one abstention, motion rejected. The Clerk would write to the tenant to advise her of this decision.

The Allotment Agreement had been amended last summer, but would be reviewed again. John Dodd and Maurice Lambden were asked to set up a committee and put forward proposals for changes to the Agreement for consideration at the next, regular Parish Council meeting.

With regard to the enclosure of plot 50, currently used as a garden for a property adjoining the allotments, the Chairman agreed to write a letter to the tenant explaining that it must be maintained as an allotment plot.

(f) Schools

4320 The Parish Council was grateful to Judy Watkins, School Governor, Bramley School, for her recent report which had been circulated to Councillors for information.

(g) Village Hall

4321 Sandy Johnston reported that a boiler had been replaced in the Village Hall. Also, funding for disabled access is being investigated.

To report BDBC offer to provide second user access to PC Website for independent editing of the Village Hall Page: It was reported that the Village Hall Management Committee wished to develop the Halls' web-pages. The IT Department at the Borough Council had offered to set up a second user access to the Village Hall pages of the Parish Council's Village Website. The Department had also indicated they would provide free training for the second user if necessary. This was approved by the Parish Council.

To consider request for funding 10% costs (£90) for Summer Playscheme: The Parish Council had been asked to provide a 10% contribution to the Sherfield Summer Playscheme this year. In the past, costs had been met in full by the Borough/County but local contributions were now required. On behalf of the Village Hall, Jacqui Skillett had tried to organise a scheme and had estimated that 10% of the total costs amounted to £90.

The scheme would run for 5 days, two hours per day. There would be no fee for those attending, although donations would be welcomed.

After discussion, it was agreed that Jacqui would be asked to provide details of staffing and staff requirements, a full breakdown of the estimated costs, and an indication of whether the scheme would be repeated in future years.

This would be given further consideration by the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

6. TO RECEIVE SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT, PLAY AREA

4322

Dunlop Service's safety inspection had been carried out in March and a report had been circulated to Councillors.

Some of the issues had since been addressed, as new equipment had been installed.

However, pathways to play equipment as part of the DDA would need to be considered by the Parish Council. The DDA section of the report would be given careful consideration by the Leisure Facilities Committee at its next meeting.

With regard to the new Combat Cableway, it was felt that the seat needed to be raised.

The ground within the play area had been badly affected by the molehills. It was suggested that the Village Green Volunteers might be asked to move the soil from the mole heaps to fill in potholes which children had dug within the area.

7. TO DISCUSS CONDITION OF DOMESTIC OIL STORAGE TANK, POPLAR CLOSE

4323 Residents of Poplar Close were concerned about the safety of the large communal oil tank within the close. The domestic heating oil supplier had been identified and details had been passed to Environmental Health to make further enquiries.

8. TO RECONSIDER ESTIMATES RECEIVED FOR THE REMOVAL OF THE WILLOW BRANCH OVERHANGING HORSE POND

4324 Since the last meeting, the Clerk had confirmed with Barry Bulpitt that he would be willing to remove the branch for £125, as per his quote last summer.

Bruce Batting and Richard Gaiger agreed to remove the branch themselves in May.

9. TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON TRAFFIC CALMING PLANTERS

4325 The Chairman thanked Ivan Gosden for taking delivery of the planters, and then moving them to the traffic calming units. Volunteers had planted the boxes last week for which the Parish Council was grateful. Members of the WI will be watering and weeding the boxes as necessary.

10. TO RECEIVE QUOTATION FOR TWO BENCHES

4326 Ben Stoopman had quoted £85 per bench, installation by Bulpitt Brothers would be £130 per bench. The total cost, using Calor Money as previously agreed, would be £430. This was proposed by Ivan Gosden, seconded by Sandy Johnston and agreed by all present. John Dodd had some ironwork which could be used for the benches and he would discuss this with Ben Stoopman.

11. TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON NEW PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

4327 The new installations had been completed and the area was being well used by children.

12. TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON PROGRESS OF DEFRA APPLICATION, CENTENARY PAVILION

4328 Lord of the Manor approval had been obtained, as required by DEFRA. With one further issue over car parking almost resolved, it was thought that final approval would soon be forthcoming.

It was reported that Don Campbell had succeeded Russell Spencer as President of the Club.

13. TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON MOLEHILLS, VILLAGE GREEN

4329 Both Loddon Sports and Sherfield FC had contributed £60 towards the cost of removing moles from the northern section of the Green.

14. TO RECEIVE APM AGENDA AND DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT

4330 Draft documents had been circulated for consideration.

It was agreed that the Annual Report should be tabled at the APM. With regard to the Agenda, it was agreed that Alison Cross would be invited to make a presentation on the Loddon and Eversley Heritage Area Project. If she is not able to attend, there would be no other speaker.

15. TO DISCUSS "A CODE FOR THE FUTURE", A REVIEW BY THE STANDARDS BOARD FOR ENGLAND

4331 A consultation document and questionnaire had been circulated to Parish Councillors. No action.

16. TO DISCUSS THE IMPLICATIONS OF SINC CLASSIFICATION

4332 Details of the SINC classification had been circulated. It was apparent that this is not a statutory classification, such as SSSI. It

was agreed that Alison Cross' report on management of the Village Green would be considered again at the Finance and General Purposes Committee. The Clerk agreed to ask Mrs Cross whether Grant funding might be available to pay for the picking up of grass cuttings, following mowing of the Green.

17. TO DISCUSS FORMULATING A RESPONSE TO THE SOUTH EAST PLAN CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

4333 The Closing Date for responding to SEERA is 15 April. The Chairman will endeavour to submit response on behalf of the PC, and individuals are encouraged to respond.

18. TO RECEIVE VERBAL REPORT ON BDAPTC MEETING, 14 MARCH 2005

4334 Sandy Johnston had attended the meeting and reported that most of the discussion had focused on the South East Plan and the effect of increased development within the Borough and County. There had been shared concern that infrastructure, ie; roads, sewerage, refuse disposal, must be improved in order to cope with demand following housing expansion in the next 10 years.

19. TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON "MANSEY'S LAND"

4335 The Chairman had discussed the offer of land with Clive Manser, who wished to have an answer quickly from the Parish Council. It was agreed that legal advice should be sought from the Borough Council with regard to stamp duty and land value and the Chairman would discuss this with colleagues. The Council was aware of the need to spend money on tree works and repairs to fencing. However, it was felt that this piece of ground would be of benefit to the village.

In principle, Councillors were supportive of the idea of purchasing the land and making necessary improvements, using Section 106 funding currently available.

It was proposed that the land is purchased for £5,000.00, subject to contract and survey report, using Section 106 money, proposed Ivan Gosden, seconded Maurice Lambden, agreed.

20. TO REPORT ON RESPONSE TO BDBC SECTION 106 CONSULTATION EXERCISE

4336 The Chairman had responded to John Guppy on behalf of the Parish Council, highlighting the need for Parish Councils to be consulted at an earlier stage when Section 106 agreements are being discussed. He also stressed the need for developers to contribute towards space for larger burial grounds, where large housing developments are built. This argument was supported by members of the Parish Council.

21. ROADS, TRAFFIC AND FOOTPATHS:

4337

To receive update on walks leaflet

Sandy Johnston reported that the leaflet is currently with the designer.

To receive update on pathway between Sherfield Park and St Leonard's Church

It was reported that the County Council had made an approach to Peter Eade to see whether, in principle, the Highway Authority could undertake the construction of the missing footway, if and when funds become available. The Clerk would contact Andrew Winmill of Hampshire County Council for an update of the situation.

John Dodd reported that he had cordoned off an area of the Green, to prevent vehicles from straying from the "firebreak" track which leads to Greenway. It was felt that the track should be made useable by adding scalplings, in case emergency access is required, and that a notice should make it clear that the track is for emergency use only. This would be given full consideration by the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

At this point, Sandy Johnston proposed extending the meeting beyond 9.30pm, seconded Loraine Smith, agreed.

22. FINANCE REPORT

4338 A report on income and expenditure for the final quarter had been circulated. The balances of all accounts at 31 March 2005 are shown in the table below:

2004/2005	HSBC A/C	General Investment A/C	Consols	Grand Total	
Balance B/F from Q3	17,659.11	22,074.43	24.17	39,757.71	Uncleared (HSBC)
Income Jan/Feb/Mar	561.16	669.26	0.00	1,230.42	1,302.21
Outgoing Jan/Feb/Mar	5,510.30	0.00	0.00	5,510.30	Cleared Balance
Q4 Balance	12,709.97	22,743.69	24.17	35,477.83	14,012.18

HSBC Bank Statement at 31/3/05 = £14,012.18

Approval of Payments

£725.98	Clerk salary (increased hours – 20 hrs/wk x £9.30/hr) (NB: Annual expenses as for last year: £800, also taxable thus included in monthly PAYE.)
£113.18	Litter Warden (New hourly rate set by Borough Council - £5.58/hr x 6 hrs/wk - 100% grant paid to PC)
£239.76	Inland Revenue
£5.00	HAPTC publication: “The Provision and Management of Village Halls”.

Approval of payments proposed John Dodd, seconded Richard Gaiger, agreed.

1st Draft annual accounts 2004/5

A first draft of the annual accounts for 2004/5 had been tabled for consideration. The Parish Council’s cash books would be given to the auditor, David Hitchins, later in the week.

23. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

4339

- Standard AGM agenda items.
- Annual Accounts 2004/5 – for approval

Future meetings: To consider donation to Loddon Sports to provide accommodation for Race Night at Sherfield Village Hall.

24. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

4340 The next meeting of the Parish Council (AGM) will be held in the Liddell Hall on Wednesday 11 May at 7.30 pm.

APM to be held in the Village Hall on Friday 20 May at 8 pm.

Meeting closed 9.45 pm.