

MINUTES OF SHERFIELD-ON-LODDON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE LIDDELL HALL AT 19.30 HOURS ON WEDNESDAY 13 JULY 2005.

Present

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

In attendance

Lucy Marshall (Parish Clerk)

Six members of the public were in attendance.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

4390 Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Richard Gaiger, Marilyn Tucker, WPC Mandy Jewell and Chris Horton.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

4391 There was none.

3. TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8 JUNE 2005

4392 The minutes of the last meeting were approved as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

4. TO DISCUSS BOUNDARY ISSUES, BERKELEY DEVELOPMENT AT THE RECTORY

4393 Reverend Christopher Russell and Geoff Belsham of the Baptist Church were welcomed to the meeting. It was clear that although earlier records stored in Winchester show the parcel of land belonging to the Chapel, it had since been registered, in 2003, by the Church of England. It was too late now to contest this action and instead an agreement had been reached between the two churches regarding the boundary.

The strip of land behind the chapel ran along the back of the Four Horseshoes boundary and it was hoped that the brewery could be persuaded to review whether it had claimed the land honourably.

Road safety and lack of parking was of concern to everyone. The most recent plan for the development showed parking bays for Post Office customers within the development, although it was felt that these would instead be taken up by residents in the new houses. The Chairman reported that the Highway Authority was not content with the proposal from the outset, but felt that there were insufficient grounds on which to refuse the application, which would be approved at appeal, leaving the County Council to pay the appeal costs. However, amendments to the original scheme are being incorporated in a section 278 Highway Agreement.

Water drainage too was of concern, as work would be required to divert floodwater from entering the foul sewer by the White Hart public house.

The land for development is now up for sale.

ACTION

Revd Russell and Mr Belsham were thanked for coming to the meeting.

OPEN FORUM

The Open Forum session was brought forward and the meeting was temporarily adjourned.

5. TO CONSIDER NOMINATIONS FOR CO-OPTION FOR VACANCY FOR PARISH COUNCILLOR, SHERFIELD-ON-LODDON

4394 Two residents had put themselves forward for consideration. The Council agreed that further time was required before making a decision and so this item was deferred until the next meeting. The candidates' letters would be copied to Councillors.

LM
P Council

6. TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF CRIME AND DISORDER

4395

Neighbourhood Watch: The report for June had been enclosed with the agenda. It was noted that Sherfield is very fortunate to maintain a low crime rate. The monthly NW reports will be included within the Loddon Valley Link whenever space permits.

Community Safety Forum, meeting held 27 June: Sandy Johnston reported on the meeting he had attended. A new Antisocial Behaviour Coordinator had been appointed. It was reported that Basingstoke has a drugs and alcohol referral group and a mediation service has now been set up to assist groups of people seeking solutions to their problems and differences. A useful leaflet had been produced and the Clerk would contact the publisher to ask whether these would be circulated to all households.

LM

Notice of 2 vacancies, independent members to Hampshire Police Authority: Anyone wishing to be considered for these vacancies may contact Hampshire Police Authority for more information. Closing date for applications; 29 July.

7. TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

(a) Planning Committee

4396 The minutes of the meeting held on 6 July had been circulated.

Application No: BDB/61178

Location: 2 The Briars, Reading Road, Sherfield-on-Loddon.

Proposal: Erection of an extension to provide a Granny Annexe and erection of a detached double garage.

PC Decision: The Committee agreed that poorly thought-out internal layout should be highlighted to the Planning Officer, viz a viz no internal access to toilet facilities from within the "Granny Annexe" extension.

Application No: BDB/61050

Location: White Hart, Reading Road, Sherfield-on-Loddon.

Proposal: Display of new pictorial sign in existing free standing pictorial post.

PC Decision: No objection.

Application No: BDB/61290

Location: The Meadow Mobile Home Park, Bramley Road, Sherfield-on-Loddon.

Proposal: Erection of a double garage and workshop to replace existing.

PC Decision: No objection.

Approvals

Application No: BDB/60477

Location: Sherfield Place, Reading Road, Sherfield-on-Loddon.

Proposal: Change of house type to plots 212, 213 to 222, 227 to 230, 235, 236, 243 and 244. Amendment to planning permission BDB/56850.

Application No: BDB/60892

Location: Cheshunt Lodge, Bramley Road, Sherfield-on-Loddon

Proposal: Erection of front porch and conversion of garage to living accommodation with external alterations to doors and windows.

It was felt that the Borough's Tree Officer should be made aware that the new driveway will be positioned directly over the tree roots of a protected Horse Chestnut tree.

BB

Refusals

Application No: BDB/59181

Location: Ellis Farm, Wildmoor, Sherfield-on-Loddon

Proposal: Erection of 1 no. dwelling

BT's proposal to remove the cash facility from the telephone box at Church End had received no objection by the Committee. BT had advised that very few calls were made from the box, probably due to the rise in the use of mobile phones. It was noted that operator services, emergency calls, reverse charge, credit card and charge card facilities will still be available to customers wishing to use the box.

Savills had exhibited plans for Vodafone mobile communications base stations, the first to be located at Whitmarsh Lane Chineham, on the opposite site of the lane to an existing mast, and the second not far from the existing T-Mobile mast by at the entrance to MoD property, Sherfield Park. The Chairman explained that if telecom companies share masts, the height of the masts would need to increase by a further 5 metres to be effective. The proposals have yet to be submitted to the Planning Department.

(b) Finance and General Purposes Committee

4397 Minutes of the meeting held on 28 June had been circulated.

War Memorial Clearance: DSO had been asked to clear the weeds from behind the War Memorial. Money had been allocated within the precept for this exercise.

Centre Brook trees: Quotations would soon be obtained for cutting back willow trees along centre brook next year. One tree required work to be carried out this autumn and the Clerk would obtain quotations.

LM

Oak Saplings: Some of the smaller oak saplings on middle green had been removed at the suggestion of Alison Cross of Hampshire and IoW Trust. A quotation is awaited from the Bulpitt Brothers for removing five larger trees and Alison Cross would advise with regard to treating the stumps.

Golden Pond: It had been discovered that New Zealand Pigmy Weed is growing within the pond. This is a fast growing, very invasive plant and if left untreated will result in the eradication of the pond's native flora and fauna. Advice on herbicide treatment is awaited from Alison Cross, who will be liaising with the Environment Agency.

Cutting Green: The Bulpitt Brothers had been asked to cut the Green twice a year. A quotation for the removal of cuttings is awaited.

Track to Greenway: It was reported that the posts and tape had been removed. Quotes for placing tree trunks, barriers and telegraph poles to deter people from regularly using the track, had been considered, but it was agreed that no action should be taken at present and the situation would be monitored. However, quotations for “emergency access only” signs were still awaited. John Dodd agreed to cut a ditch close to the entrance of the track.

Ditch work: The Bulpitt Brothers had quoted £100 for filling a small ditch to allow access to an area of the Green behind the tennis courts. Council was reminded that £1,500 is within this year’s budget for ditch work. Quotation proposed for acceptance by Ivan Gosden, seconded Bruce Batting, unanimously agreed. The Bulpitts had also quoted £500 for repair to a collapsing pipe headwall behind the tennis courts. However, the Clerk is awaiting a reply from Jason Lewis as it is thought that the piping is the responsibility of the Highway Authority.

LM

The Committee had provisionally agreed to meet again on 23 August.

(c) Leisure Facilities Committee

4398 The minutes of the meeting held on 28 June had been circulated. The concrete spur leading to the playground had been installed at a cost of £400. Sandy Johnston reported that new equipment could not be purchased until Section 106 money from the Rectory development had been released, and this would not happen until the development commences.

With regard to the broken lock within the tennis court gate, the Clerk had obtained two telephone quotations and one written quotation:

BRER, Bramley – written quote £50

Basingsstoke Locksmiths, May Place - £50.50 first hour labour only, incl vat.

AA Able Locks UK - £54 + vat for labour, up to £15 parts

Bruce Batting proposed BRER locksmiths to carry out the repair, seconded Ivan Gosden, unanimously agreed.

LM

New nets and a winder were on order.

Council agreed that issues relating to allotments could be considered as part of the terms of reference of the Leisure Facilities Committee.

(d) Village Green Committee

4399 The minutes of the meeting held on 21 June had been circulated. Since the meeting, two quotations had been received for the removal of a willow bough which is overhanging the viewing platform by Jubilee Pond. Broadleaf Tree Management £190 plus vat, Woodcutters £260 no vat. John Dodd proposed Broadleaf Tree Management to carry out the work, seconded Brian Archer, unanimously agreed.

LM

(e) Allotments

4400 An allotment holder had made enquiries about keeping a pet pig on their plot. The Council agreed that this would not be acceptable, and that the allotment agreement paragraph relating to the keeping of hens and rabbits should include a statement that “no other animals may be kept on the allotments”. This was proposed by Tracy Lander-Sims, seconded John Dodd, unanimously agreed.

LM

A new tenant had written to request Council's permission to erect a metal shed of 186 x 104 cm on a 202 x 119 cm base on their plot. Proposed for acceptance by Tracy Lander-Sims, seconded John Dodd, unanimously agreed.

LM

Barry Bulpitt had cleared vacant and newly taken plots, as his quotes had been cheaper than DSO who would charge £40 regardless of the size of the plot:

Plot 38, strim and rotovate (£20)

Plot 17, strim and rotovate (£20) – new tenant will pay half.

Plot 6 & 7, rotovate (£40) – new tenant will pay half.

Derelict plot at allotment Bow Gardens end, strim and weedkill along fence boundary (£40).

The tenant of plots 6 & 7 had arranged for strimming prior to rotovation, and had incurred a charge of £20. The Parish Council agreed to pay half of that cost.

LM

Brian Archer agreed to assist John Dodd with placing numbered posts on all plots.

JD/BA

It was noted that the tenant of plot 3 had not responded to the request for Public Liability Insurance cover, nor had they erected additional barriers or extra signage. It was agreed that the tenant would be given a further month to respond and produce a copy of the Insurance agreement.

LM

(f) Schools

4401 It was agreed that a visit to Sherfield School could be arranged after the summer holidays.

Bramley School had had a successful Fete last weekend.

(g) Village Hall

Request for financial support for repairs to Village Hall roof

4402 The Secretary of the Village Hall Management Committee had written seeking financial support from the Parish Council for urgent repairs to the Village Hall roof. The total cost would be in the region of £1,400. It was reported that they had been unable to secure grant funding elsewhere.

It was confirmed that the Parish Council has a power to contribute to premises for the use of clubs and societies (LG(MP)Act 1976, para 19). It was suggested that quotations received for new tiles and flashing should be re-addressed to the Parish Council to hopefully make possible the recovery of VAT. It was agreed that the Parish Council's Finance and General Purposes Committee and Village Hall Management Committee should meet to discuss in greater detail their ongoing cash-flow difficulties and it was hoped that a meeting could be organised next week. In the meantime, Bruce Batting agreed to speak with June Balcome to see whether Section 106 funding which had already been agreed for improving access to the Hall, could be diverted to this more urgent work. Ivan Gosden proposed that the Parish Council finds £1,400 from this year's budget to loan to the Village Hall, seconded by Bruce Batting, agreed.

BB

Sandy Johnston reported that three businesses had expressed an interest in renting the hall cottage when Precious Petals moves to new accommodation later in the year. Active Tots had been a regular booking and they would also be leaving the Village Hall in a few months' time. New clubs and events were being considered.

The Village Hall Management Committee had asked the Borough Council's contractors to inspect the tarmac car park, which they felt had been poorly laid.

8. TO DISCUSS DESIGN AND CONSERVATION AWARDS 2005

4403

Paul Johnston had written suggesting that the Parish Council applies for Best Environmental Improvement Scheme for the work undertaken on the Ponds some years ago. Proposed Bruce Batting, seconded Brian Archer, unanimously agreed.

LM

9. TO DISCUSS CONTACT FROM HAMPSHIRE VILLAGE INITIATIVE ORGANISERS; GOLDEN POND

4404 Anna Longley of Hampshire County Council had written to ask whether the Parish Council wished to re-apply for a grant under the Hampshire Village Initiative for work to the Golden Pond. The Clerk had explained that the PC no longer wished to have the pond clay lined, and also advised her of the need to treat the pond to eliminate the pigmy-weed. Mrs Longley explained that the grant could not be given for the treatment but that re-stocking the pond next year could be considered and she asked to be kept informed of developments.

LM

10. TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON BDAPTC MEETING 13 JUNE

4405 Sandy Johnston reported that Paul Turner had resigned as Chairman of the Basingstoke District Association of Parish and Town Councils. The meetings continued to be poorly attended. There continued to be extreme concern and anger that SEERA is not addressing the need for improved infrastructure as part of the plan to build 560,000 new houses in the South East in the next 20 years.

11. TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON VILLAGE RECIPE BOOK

4406 Tracy Lander-Sims reported that she hoped the book would be ready for printing by the end of next week.

TL-S

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

4407 Final approval for the new pavilion is still awaited from the Secretary of State. It was agreed that Darren Owen should be formally instructed to begin work as project manager.

BB/LM

At this point in the proceedings, Ken Clarke proposed that the meeting continue for a further half hour, seconded by Ivan Gosden, agreed.

13. TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON "MANSERS LAND"

4408 The Chairman reported receiving verbal confirmation from the Borough Council that the land can be used for community use. The Chairman agreed to obtain more information from Clive Manser and his solicitors regarding the sale and transfer of land.

BB

14. ROADS, TRAFFIC AND FOOTPATHS

To receive update on Walks leaflet

4409 Every resident had received a copy of the new map with the most recent issue of the Loddon Valley Link. Councillors wished to record their thanks to Sandy Johnston for his work in producing the document with assistance from Hampshire Paths Partnership. The sum of £505.50 had been paid, this being half costs for the design and production of 5,000 copies.

To report accident on concrete path, Middle Green

4410 It was reported that someone had tripped along the concrete path, injuring their hand and knee and damaging their glasses. A claim for repair costs amounting to £324.90 had been forwarded to the Parish Council's insurers.

The path would be checked again in case there are any holes which need to be filled.

LM

To report temporary traffic regulation order

4411 Temporary roadworks had been completed along Goddards Lane and resurfacing work would soon begin along Mill Lane. Brian Archer reported that he had complained to the Highway Authority after the lay-by had been left in a poor state following work along Goddards Lane.

To report repair to path/track outside Loddon School

4412 It was reported that the track had been improved although there continued to be a flooding problem. Cllr Gosden agreed to speak to the Rights of Way Officer.

The Parish Council was informed that an Environment Agency officer had inspected the communal oil tank in Poplar Close and had been satisfied with its current state of repair. Their advice was that the oil supply company should be informed of any future concerns with regard to the padlocking of the tank enclosure. The resident who had originally complained about the tank had been informed.

Stagecoach had confirmed that all posts in Sherfield and along the A33 within the Parish would be replaced and would include timetables. The bus stop at the top of Redlands Hill had been inspected, and it had been decided to retain it on the No. 44 route, as the inspector believed that the line of sight is satisfactory.

15. TO REPORT CHANGE OF LICENSEE, LONGBRIDGE MILL

4413 The Parish Council had been notified of a change of licensee application from Christian Werner Ender. The transfer application would be heard at Alton Court on 3 August.

16. FINANCE REPORT

4414 A report on income and expenditure for the first quarter had been tabled. The balances of all accounts at 30 June 2005 are shown in the table below:

2005/2006	HSBC A/C	General Investme nt A/C	Consols	Grand Total
Bal B/F from Q4, 2004/5	12,709.97	22,743.69	24.17	35,477.83
Income Apr/May/June	11,896.09	0.00	0.00	11,896.09
Outgoing Apr/May/June	10,335.15	0.00	0.00	10,335.15
Balance C/F	14,270.91	22,743.69	24.17	37,038.77

Uncleared cheques: £535.33

HSBC Bank Statement at 30 June 2005 = £14,806.24

Approval of Payments

£725.98	Clerk salary
£113.18	Litter Warden
£239.76	Inland Revenue
£6.12	Petty Cash (stamps)

Approval of payments proposed by Brian Archer, seconded by Ivan Gosden, unanimously agreed.

LM

A budget report for the first quarter had been tabled for information.

17. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

4415

Councillors were asked to advise the Clerk if they had items for discussion at the next meeting.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

4416 The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in the Liddell Hall on Wednesday 10 August 2005 at 19.30 hours.

Meeting closed 21.40 hours.