

MINUTES OF SHERFIELD-ON-LODDON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE LIDDELL HALL AT 19.30 HOURS ON WEDNESDAY 8 JUNE 2005.

Present

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

In attendance

Lucy Marshall (Parish Clerk)
WPC Mandy Jewell

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

4364 Apologies for absence were received from Chris Horton.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

4365 Tracy Lander-Sims declared a personal interest in agenda item 6(e).

3. TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11 MAY 2005

4366 The minutes of the last meeting were approved as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

4. TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF CRIME AND DISORDER

4367 The Neighbourhood Watch report for May had been enclosed with the agenda. WPC Jewell reported that someone posing as a Water Board employee had called at a house in Goddards Close and had asked to come in. They were refused access and the caller had gone away. Residents should be aware of suspicious doorstep callers.

OPEN FORUM

No members of the public were present, and so the meeting continued.

5. TO REPORT RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF VACANCY FOR PARISH COUNCILLOR, SHERFIELD-ON-LODDON WARD

4368 Guidance notes produced by HAPTC on filling a vacancy had been circulated. The Electoral Services Department at BDBC had reported that no applications for a bye-election had been received, and so the vacancy may be filled by co-option. Members of the public would be advised of this and would be invited to put themselves forward for consideration. Councillors would consider who in the village might wish to join the Parish Council.

6. TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

(a) Planning Committee

4369 The minutes of the meeting held on 17 May had been circulated. In addition, a further meeting of the committee had met immediately prior to this meeting of the Parish Council:

BDB/60632 Location: Phase 4, Taylors Farm, Sherfield-on-Loddon

Proposal: Erection of 86 No. one, two, three and four bed units with associated roads and parking.

PC Decision: No objection.

ACTION

LM
All

BDB/60892 Location: Cheshunt Lodge, Bramley Rd, Sherfield

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

PC Decision: No objection. It was noted, however, that any driveway leading to the proposed new parking area within the property would traverse the Village Green, public footpath and ditch and the owners might additionally need to seek approval from other relevant bodies.

BDB/60592 (amendment) Location: The Meadows Mobile Home Park, Bramley Road, Sherfield

Proposal: Erection of a garage block of 3 no. garages following demolition of existing.

PC Decision: No objection.

BDB/60955 Location: Ashwood Pines, Reading Road, Sherfield-on-Loddon

Proposal: Demolition of existing garages/sheds and erection of a garage/tractor shed.

PC Decision: No objection, with proviso that the new building is not to be used for residential accommodation.

BDB/61051 Location: White Hart, Reading Road, Sherfield-on-Loddon

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

PC Decision: No objection.

Notice of Intent

(1) NoI TCA 1869 to reduce crown on 1 willow by 40% reduce crown on 2 birches by 30% and reduce crown on 3 firs by 30% at Holt Cottage, Sherfield Green.

For report – No objection by Borough Council.

(2) NoI TCA 1871 to reduce crown to Robinia by 10-15% at Beaumaris, Sherfield Green.

For report – No objection by Borough Council.

(3) NoI TCA 1875 to fell 1 weeping willow, 1 apple tree and 1 cherry tree at Summerfield, Sherfield-on-Loddon..

For report – No objection by Borough Council.

Approvals

BDB/60391 & /60388 Location: 2 Goddards Farm Cottages, Goddards Lane, Sherfield

Proposal: Erection of a single storey rear extension and repairs to existing windows.

BDB/60707 Location: Rose Cottage, Wildmoor, Sherfield-on-Loddon

Proposal: Erection of a part single storey, part two storey side extension, first floor rear extension and increase to height of existing roof.

BDB/60592 Location: The Meadow Mobile Home Park, Bramley Road, Sherfield.

Proposal: Erection of a garage block of 3 no. garages following demolition of existing.

Certificate of Lawfulness - Granted

BDB/60740 Location: Land to the rear of 24 Thyme Close, Thyme Close, Chineham.

Proposal: Application for a certificate of lawfulness for enclosure of open space to be included within the garden curtilage.

The Planning Committee had discussed progress of the Rectory development and this had been recorded in the minutes of the 17 May meeting as follows: ‘The Chairman read aloud a letter from a resident seeking PC support for her objection to the development. She had also written to Cllr Tucker, with a signed petition, suggesting that planning consent should be revoked. Cllr Tucker had agreed to discuss this matter with the Borough Council’s Solicitor. It was confirmed that the Parish Council had strongly objected to the development proposal when it was first put forward, but unfortunately there seemed little that could be done, now that approval had been given. However, members of the Planning Committee agreed that a letter of reply should be sent to the resident, offering support where possible and enclosing the Parish

Council's response to the original planning application. With regard to confusion surrounding land ownership, it was agreed that Reverend Russell of the Baptist Church should be invited to attend a meeting to discuss the matter with Councillors."

Parish Councillors supported the Planning Committee's views and the Clerk would invite Revd Russell to the July meeting of the Parish Council.

LM

(b) Finance and General Purposes Committee

4370 The next meeting of the FGPC will be held on 28 June.

(c) Leisure Facilities Committee

4371 The next meeting of the LFC will be held on 28 June.

(d) Village Green Committee

4372 The next meeting of the VGC will be held on 21 June.

It was reported that the diseased Horse Chestnut tree had been removed by Woodcutters, at a cost of £465, following advice for immediate action by the Tree Officer.

With regard to the building work currently underway at Globe House, the Chairman reported that the owner is taking steps to keep the site as tidy as possible. There appeared to be no evidence of birds nesting in the conifer trees but, as a precaution, the owner would not fell the trees until the autumn. John Dodd agreed to speak to the owners of the hedge opposite Globe House and ask for the new growth to be cut back, to allow better access through Greenway. The Chairman would ask the owner of Globe House to confirm whether fencing or planting would replace the security fencing, once the building work had been completed.

JD

BB

With regard to keeping vehicles off the "firebreak" track, the Clerk was awaiting a reply from Barry Bulpitt for wooden barriers and had also obtained quotations for tree trunks, as requested at the last meeting. The Forestry Commission had quoted £50 for providing two tree trunks, 1 x 3.1m and 1 x 3.75m, which the Parish Council would need to collect. The cost would rise to £200 if the Forestry Commission were to deliver the trunks. It was agreed that the Clerk would obtain a quotation for laying telegraph poles.

LM

(e) Allotments

To review Parish Council view of allowing electrified fencing within the allotment garden

4373 The Legal Topic Notes from NALC had been circulated. It was the view of some Parish Councillors that the notes were vague and not particularly helpful.

The Chairman reminded the Council that the tenant had researched best methods for keeping hens safe, but had failed to apply for permission in writing to the Parish Council. Given her misunderstanding that she had been given verbal "approval", the Chairman wished to put forward a new proposal that the allotment tenant be allowed to keep the electrified fencing, but with several conditions:

- The tenant must accept that she would be liable should any claim be made as a result of having electrified fencing in a public place, and must therefore obtain public liability insurance cover to £5 million whilst the electrified fencing remains on the allotments – documentary evidence is required.
- The fencing remains well within the plot, with an additional barrier/fence around the outside.
- The voltage charge is not increased beyond the current charge of 12 volts.
- There is ample signage attached to the electrified fence, providing clear warning for passers by.
-

The Parish Council agreed that this is a one-off permission, and the allotment agreement would be amended to state that “no tenant, with the single exception of the current tenant of plot 3 whilst she remains a tenant of that plot, shall be permitted to install electrified fencing within the Allotment Gardens (dated 08/06/05)”.

The proposal was seconded by Ivan Gosden, and agreed unanimously.

LM

To consider proposal to amend Paragraph 3(xii) of the Allotment Agreement

4374 It was proposed that the agreement is amended to read “Do not use barbed wire on the allotment site”, in line with the Borough Council’s allotment agreement document. This was unanimously agreed.

LM

John Dodd reported that he would be installing the Allotment Gardens Noticeboard next week and it was agreed that it should be placed towards the middle of the central pathway.

JD

It was reported that plots 6 and 7 had become very overgrown and weeds and nettles were growing through the fence causing an obstruction along the pathway to the north-western boundary. It was agreed that the Clerk would obtain a quotation for spraying and then rotovating the plots; the plots had recently been taken on by a new tenant and it was agreed that the Parish Council would pay half the costs for spraying and rotovating. Similarly, plots had recently been rotovated for new tenants, and the Parish Council would contribute half the costs.

LM

It was agreed that a skip should be hired for the allotment gardens.

LM

(f) Schools

4375 No report.

(g) Village Hall

4376 The new scheme “POSH” had been launched. Sandy Johnston reported on the various forthcoming events, as listed in the Loddon Valley Link, and new groups and projects were getting off the ground. The roof of the main hall needed to be repaired. Tracy Lander-Sims reported that following two days of hot weather, the tarmac in the car park did not seem to be wearing very well. Sandy Johnston agreed to look at the problem.

SJ

(h) Village Fete – Saturday 11 June

4377 It was agreed that visitor parking should be allowed on the Village Green, off Goddards Lane, next Saturday. There would be no parking permitted within the Village Hall car park, nor along Bramley Road.

7. TO CONSIDER SUGGESTION OF PIPING SMALL DITCH, LEADING TO MAIN DITCH BEHIND TENNIS COURTS

4378 Ivan Gosden reported that Barry and Roy Bulpitt could not gain access to part of the Green for grass cutting, unless a shallow ditch is piped and filled. Also, he reported that the concrete supporting the main drain pipe behind the courts had fallen away. It was agreed that Barry would be asked to quote for (a) piping and filling the shallow ditch, and (b) shoring up the main drain using cement-filled sand bags.

LM

8. TO CONSIDER REQUEST BY MEMBERS OF WI TO PURCHASE BARK CHIPPINGS FOR TRAFFIC CALMING PLANTERS

4379 In order to retain moisture within the planters, volunteers had requested the purchase of bark chippings. It was agreed that 2 x 70litre bags should be purchased from Wyevale Garden Centre, at £4.99 per bag.

LM

9. TO CONSIDER INSTALLATION OF TIMETABLES AT STAGECOACH BUS STOPS WITHIN SHERFIELD-ON-LODDON

4380 Sandy Johnston and Martin Biermann had organised through Stagecoach the installation of bus stops outside the Sherfield Park development. However, it had been noted that most stops within the village have no timetable. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact John Speakes of Stagecoach and request a timetable for each stop in the village. He would also be asked whether the bus stop at the brow of the hill, opposite Redlands, could be removed for highway safety.

LM

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

4381 No further contact from DEFRA since 29 April. It was assumed that the Open Spaces Society and English Nature would have been given a deadline for comment on the application by DEFRA, and so the Chairman agreed to ascertain when a response would be forthcoming.

BB

With regard to project managing, Darren Owen had written detailing his services and providing an indication that his total costs would be £9,000 although the project would incur other consultants' and survey fees, bringing the total cost to about £12,000. The Chairman had yet to ask Mr Owen for an indication of his costs, in the event that the application is rejected by DEFRA.

BB

It was agreed that the Football Club should be kept informed of progress.

11. TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON "MANSERS LAND"

4382 The Chairman confirmed that some of the area is highway land and he is awaiting advice from the Planning Department with regard to what the Parish Council might or might not be able to do with it.

BB

12. ROADS, TRAFFIC AND FOOTPATHS

To receive update on walks leaflet:

4383 Final copy is awaited.

SJ

To receive update on pathway between Reading Road and Northfield Road:

4384 The Clerk had contacted Steve Raw of BDBC with regard to widening the pathway. He had advised that the costs currently stood at £4,369.40 for the section of pathway from the Mill Close flats to the first bend, and £7661.50 for the entire length of the pathway. The figures did not include cutting back hedges. The Parish Council had allocated £1,000 from this year's precept for the project, on the earlier advice that grant funding would be likely. However, Mr Raw now advised that grant funding would not be available until the next financial year. It was agreed that the project should be deferred until next year

LM

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

4385 The Clerk reported that Andrew Winmill, Transport Planner at Hampshire County Council, had visited the site and had discussed the "missing footway" with Hampshire Highways North. It appeared that the highway authority would be able to carry out the works this year, and that funding had now been sourced. The Parish Council would continue to be updated as the project progresses.

LM

To receive update on assessment of parking in Bow Drive

4386 The Parish Council had received a copy of a letter from Barry Ford, in which he explained that he had now carried out his inspection, and concurred that the presence of parked vehicles hinder the free passage of traffic along sections of the road. However, he believed that yellow lines were not the solution and, consequently, an extensive parking control scheme needed to be considered. Bow Drive is being further examined as part of an overall study

within the Borough, and a report with potential solutions will be considered by Cabinet in September.

LM

13. FINANCE REPORT

4387 Parish Councillors had had an opportunity to consider the draft annual accounts presented at the last meeting by Cryer and Co. There were no questions raised and the accounts were proposed for approval by Ivan Gosden, seconded by Ken Clark, unanimously agreed.

A report on income and expenditure for April/May had been tabled. The balances of all accounts at 31 May 2005 are shown in the table below:

2005/2006	HSBC A/C	General Investment 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	11,693.24	0.00	0.00	11,693.24
Outgoing Apr/May	7,265.55	0.00	0.00	7,265.55
Balance C/F	17,137.66	22,743.69	24.17	39,905.52

Uncleared cheques: £895.98

HSBC Bank Statement at 31 May 2005 = £18,033.64

Approval of Payments

£725.98	Clerk salary
£113.18	Litter Warden
£239.76	Inland Revenue
£18.95	Shaw and Sons, "The Law of Allotments" 5 th edition

Approval of payments proposed by Ken Clark, seconded by Tracy Lander-Sims, unanimously agreed.

LM

Bank Signatories

A new mandate has been hand delivered to HSBC bank and they had apologised for having lost the previous document. Brian Archer, Ken Clark and Loraine Smith were requested to visit Alan Greenwood of HSBC, London Street, Basingstoke to provide proof of identity.

BA/
KC/
LS

Sandy Johnston handed £179.50 cash, tennis court fees, to the Clerk. He confirmed that he would be ordering the new nets soon.

SJ

14. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

4388

- Invitation of Revd Russell.
- Co-option of new Parish Councillor.

15. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

4389 The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in the Liddell Hall on Wednesday 13 July at 19.30 hours.

Meeting closed 20.55 hours.