

MINUTES OF SHERFIELD-ON-LODDON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE GARDEN ROOM OF THE VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2003

Present

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

In attendance

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

Two members of the public were present during the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3822 Apologies for absence were received from Borough Councillor Roger Gardiner, County Councillor Keith Chapman and WPC Mandy Jewell.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3823 None was reported.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 OCTOBER 2003

3824 Page 4, Minute 3810(iii), Henns Ditch Bridge – the minute had been amended to read “Ben Stoopman had presented a quotation of £115 + vat to the Chairman, for extensive repairs to the bridge.” The reference to vat would be removed, as Mr Stoopman is not registered for vat. With this amendment, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

4. TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF LAW AND ORDER

3825 In the absence of WPC Jewell, this item would be discussed later in the meeting.

5. TO RECONSIDER POSITION OF BOTTLE BANKS

3826 The Chairman reported that two new letters of complaints had been received. It was noted that the bottle banks are still being emptied at about 7.30 am every Monday. The Clerk had again contacted the Borough to ask if this could be changed to 8 am at the earliest.

It was noted that the Environment Health Department were investigating whether noise from the bottle banks constitutes a statutory nuisance, and it was important for residents to maintain the book, noting times of disturbance, which had been provided for them by the Environmental Health Department.

After discussion, the Parish Council agreed that it could take no further action until the Environmental Health Department had reached a conclusion and reported its findings.

The Clerk would write to the complainants, to report this decision.

ACTIONS

LM

6. TO CONSIDER FORMATION OF STEERING GROUP TO DISCUSS NEW FOOTBALL PAVILION

3827 Having received a copy of correspondence between the Chairman and Happy Faces Playgroup, two Councillors said that they had been unaware of the possibility of re-siting the football pavilion at the back of the Village Hall, although this had been discussed very briefly at a previous meeting. The Chairman reported that, at this stage, he had just sought a view from the Planning Department on the suitability of an alternative site for the football pavilion. The development of the new Pavilion would need to be considered by a steering group and it was agreed that Bruce Batting, Ivan Gosden, Richard Gaiger and Sandy Johnston would represent the Parish Council. It was confirmed that meetings would be minuted and all councillors would be encouraged to put forward their views.

BB/LM

7. TO DISCUSS PRECEPT FOR 2004/5

3828 Ivan Gosden reported that the Finance and General Purposes Committee had discussed in detail the budget for the next financial year and a proposal had been circulated, together with the minutes of the most recent FGPC meetings. The suggested precept for 2004/5 was £24,283, an increase of £3,033 on the previous year's precept. It was pointed out that this was significantly above the rate of inflation. However, it was agreed that significant cuts had already been made to the original budget, and it was truly felt by the FGPC that the figure proposed could not be reduced without risking the need to borrow from reserves already earmarked for specific projects. Ivan Gosden proposed that the figure of £24,283 be accepted, this was seconded by Harry Moore and agreed by all those present.

BB/LM

8. TO DISCUSS PRODUCTION OF A NEW FOOTPATH MAP

3829 Sandy Johnston and Harry Moore had visited the County Council offices to discuss the production of a new parish map, showing all footpaths and highlighting 3 recommended circular walks. It was agreed that he would arrange to produce a sample map at a cost of £425. If acceptable, it was thought that 5,000 copies should be printed, costing a further £553. It was noted that half of all costs would be borne by HCC. It was agreed that Croudace should be asked to make a donation to cover the remainder of the costs, as many of the maps would be given to residents in Sherfield Park.

SJ

BB/LM

9. TO DISCUSS THE WELCOME PACK

3830 It appeared that the draft which had been circulated following the last meeting had been lost. Nick Robinson agreed to put another copy together, so that the Clerk could circulate it again to Sandy Johnston, John Dodd and Harry Moore. All Councillors were asked to try to read and pass on circulating documents as quickly as possible.

NR
LM

10. TO DISCUSS THE PARISH PLAN

3831 Tracy Lander-Sims reported that Nicola Davis of the Countryside Agency had advised her that Parishes with Village Design Statements or Quality Status will be given priority for funding, now that the offer of financial support for Parish Plans has been oversubscribed. Jo Dixon from the Hampshire Community Action Group had expressed concern at this decision, and agreed to contact the Countryside Agency. She will advise Tracy of the outcome in due course.

TL-S

11. TO DISCUSS RE-SURFACING OF VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK

3832 It was reported that the Electoral Services Department at the Borough Council are proposing to resurface the front of the Village Hall car park using black tarmac, at no cost to the Village Hall. This arrangement was being made as the Village Hall is a

polling station and access must comply with the Disability Discrimination Act.

Car park resurfacing had been under consideration for some time by the Village Hall Management Committee and the Parish Council was being asked to support a request that the Borough should apply the VHMC's chosen topping, rather than using black tarmac.

It was suggested that the Management Committee could consider adding the desired top coat once the black tarmac driveway had been completed. Sandy Johnston confirmed that Esme Ward, chairman of the VHMC, is asking a contractor for a quote. However, Dick Gaiger suggested that the topping would be less likely to break up if it is applied whilst the tar is hot, during application. It was also unclear whether the Borough would agree to resurfacing the entire car parking area. The general view was that as the work is being offered at no charge, this should be accepted, but it was felt that the whole of the car park should be resurfaced at the same time. The Chairman will write to Esme Ward.

BB

12. TO DISCUSS REQUEST FOR LAND/BUILDING FROM HAPPY FACES PLAYGROUP

3833 Correspondence between the Happy Faces Playgroup and Bruce Batting had been circulated. Since then, a further letter had been received from Happy Faces, confirming that they are seeking permission to erect a cabin along the bottom of the caretakers garden, and not on the Village Green. It was agreed that this is not a matter for the Parish Council, but for the Village Hall Management Committee. The Parish Council would only become involved in the planning process, should a planning application be submitted to the Borough Council.

BB

13. TO DISCUSS INVITATION TO ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISH PUBLIC TRANSPORT REPRESENTATIVES

3834 Sherfield Parish Council does not currently have a representative on this group, but an invitation had been received to attend a meeting on Saturday 6 December.

14. TO DISCUSS SLCC CONFERENCE ON QUALITY COUNCILS

3835 A regional conference is to be held in Reigate on Monday 8 December from 10am to 3 pm, on the subject of Quality Councils. The conference will be attended by Alun Michael, Minister for Rural Affairs. Cost: £25 plus £20 per additional members of Council. In addition to the Clerk, Ivan Gosden, Tracy Lander-Sims and Bruce Batting wished to attend and this was agreed.

LM

15. TO DISCUSS BDBC PROPOSED STREET NAMING AT TAYLORS FARM/SHERFIELD PARK

3836 A new list of suggested street names had been circulated. The listing was of Hampshire villages included in the Domesday Book, and had been the suggestion of Shirley Brewer, Corporate Resources, BDBC. Mrs Brewer had explained that she would be pleased to receive other themed ideas. The suggestions originally put forward by the Parish Council had been rejected by Croudace. Members of the Parish Council were not in favour of the new proposals and would ask for their original suggestions of names associated with local people, rivers, dwellings, etc, to be reconsidered. Response by 28 November.

LM

16. TO DISCUSS BOROUGH RURAL STRATEGY, REVIEW OF ACTION PLAN

3837 A proposed new action plan of the Borough's rural strategy had been circulated to parish councils for consultation. The document sets out how the Borough aims to

improve Transport, Society, Economy and Environment in rural areas. Criticism was made of the frequency of restrictions on the A33 due to roadworks. Currently, improvements are being made to the camber of the roundabout by Sherfield Park. The Chairman explained that the Highway Authority has no power to co-ordinate works with utility companies, but a letter has been sent from the Parish Council to the Planning Department on this issue. It was agreed that the Borough would be asked when the previously promised biodiversity plan would be forthcoming, and also for some clarification over HGV routes in rural areas. In particular, it was felt that the Bramley Road (C32) through Sherfield should not be a designated route for heavy lorries, but that the Borough should reconsider Dixon Road as an alternative route to the A33 from Bramley. Response by 8 December.

BB

17. TO DISCUSS BDBC LOCAL PLAN REVIEW

3838 Amendments to the Local Plan, covering the period to 2016, are now available for consideration and comment within the Borough. It was noted that Country Watch, the campaigning organisation which has support from Sherfield Parish Council, will be holding a meeting on 3 December at 7.30 pm, the Cricket Pavilion, Old Basing, where all local parishes will have an opportunity to discuss the plan in detail and to formulate an agreed response. Bruce Batting and Harry Moore agreed to attend the meeting. Cllr Tucker reminded the Council that the proposal for 200 homes in German Road, Bramley, formed part of the consultation. Response by 22 December.

BB/HM

OPEN FORUM

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

COUNCIL THEN RETURNED TO AGENDA ITEM 4, TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF LAW AND ORDER

3839 Bus Shelter in Goddards Lane: Correspondence from a resident regarding drug abuse taking place in the Bus Shelter had been circulated to Parish Councillors. There was much discussion on how to tackle this problem. The chairman explained that the police cannot take action without information being received from the general public and it was agreed that a notice should appear in the Loddon Valley Link encouraging people to contact the police. In addition, the suggestion of removing the bench from the shelter was approved, although in the first instance this would be for a trial period to ascertain its effectiveness as a deterrent. Cllr Tucker confirmed that community wardens have been appointed in areas of the Borough as a pilot scheme, but their effectiveness was not clear at this stage. Cllr Tucker agreed to find out more about the scheme on behalf of the Parish Council.

BB/LM

BB

MT

3840 HCC Community Safety Initiative (SCI) Street Lighting – invitation to bid for funding by April 2004: The Chairman reported that £2,500 or 50% of costs for lighting was being offered to Parish Councils. By coincidence, he had received an advertisement from Sepco plc for solar lighting, suitable for bus shelters. It was suggested that it could be susceptible to vandalism. No decision was taken.

The Council discussed the possibility of providing a teen shelter. There were differing views on whether it should be located close to, or away from, the playground. However, the matter would be considered as part of the Parish Plan when residents views would be sought.

TL-S/RG

It was agreed that Law and Order would again be included on the agenda for the next meeting and the Clerk would write to WPC Jewell to invite her, or a representative to attend.

LM

18. PLANNING: UPDATE AND NEW APPLICATIONS

3841 The Chairman reported that an application had been received for a two storey side extension with roof light on rear elevation at St Anthony's Cottage, Church End. This would be given consideration by the Planning Committee.

19. REPORTS

(a) PLANNING COMMITTEE

3842 The minutes of the Planning Committee held on 4 November had been circulated. The decisions which had been reached were reported as follows:

BDB /56850: Sherfield Place, Reading Road, Sherfield-on-Loddon. Erection of 54 no. houses and flats with associated car parking, new accesses and estate roads following demolition of Sherfield Place. PC Decision: No objection.

BDB /56940: North Foreland Lodge School, Reading Road, Sherfield-on-Loddon. Change of use from boarding school to either a boarding school, a day school, or a mixed use of a boarding and day school. PC Decision: No objection.

BDB /57008 - BDB /57010: Wayback, Sherfield Green, Sherfield-on-Loddon. Erection of a single storey rear extension. PC Decision: No objection.

BDBC APPROVALS: BDB /56723 West View, Bramley Road, Sherfield-on-Loddon and BDB /55761 Oaktree Cottage, Taylors Lane, Sherfield-on-Loddon. (NB: Parish Council had not objected.)

BDBC REFUSALS: BDB /56552 Flat 8, Premier Court, Mill Close, Sherfield-on-Loddon (NB: Parish Council had objected.)

It was agreed that Section 106 funding should be sought from the developments neighbouring the Sherfield Park site. This would be an item for discussion at the next Planning Committee meeting.

BB
LM

The Chairman reported that he had asked the Planning Department at BDBC to consider providing Section 106 funding from the Sherfield Park estate for a new burial ground, which will be required within the next two years. The reply had been that such a contribution does not meet the tests of acceptability set out in the Planning Obligations circular (1/97) in terms of reasonableness, being related in scale and kind, or being directly related to the proposed development. Councillor Tucker was surprised that this had been the response and agreed to make further enquiries on behalf of the Parish Council. Bruce Batting agreed to copy the relevant correspondence to her. It was also agreed that the Clerk would contact the District Association of Parish and Town Councils for their view on the matter.

MT
BB
LM

(b) FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE (FGPC)

3843 The minutes of the meetings held on Tuesday 21 October and 5 November had been circulated.

In addition to the suggested precept, the following recommendations were made to the Parish Council:

Replacement swing seats – purchase previously agreed. Sandy Johnston explained that a disabled seat would not be suitable, due to the high risk of vandalism. Other quotations for replacing the swing seats were awaited. SJ

Planting of trees – Vanessa Attwood was thanked for gathering quotations for this work to be carried out along the concrete path. With regard to the Laings fund and planting along Greenway, it was suggested that new trees should be planted along the curve of the fire break/track on the green. Bruce Batting agreed to consult with Greenway residents at the weekend, so that the plants could be purchased and arrangements made for planting with Barry Bulpitt. BB
VA

Planting by telephone box – Bruce Batting reported that DSO were happy for someone else to do the planting by the pub/car park, and Vanessa Attwood's quotation from Hopes Grove (£124.45 plus £100 planting by Bulpitt Brothers) was approved. VA

Repair of headwall in ditch 1 – Darren Sambrook's quote of £479.45 for cement filled sandbags was approved. Harry Moore reported that a headwall had collapsed in ditch 3, on the memorial area close to the entrance to Pound Meadow. This would be given consideration at a meeting of the Village Green Committee. LM
HM

Wire and Post by Court Farm – recommendation to defer this project to year after next.

Cricket Pavilion – PC approval requested to repair drain and manhole - £310, Joe Bate. Agreed. LM

Millennium Fund - It had been suggested that the £1,000 available should be put towards the pedestrian traffic island in Bramley Road. Dick Gaiger had hoped villagers would have another opportunity to suggest ways of spending the money as part of the Parish Plan. This was agreed. RG

Tennis Courts – Recommendation to increase tennis court fees. As fees in Basingstoke are considerably higher, it was agreed that the adults fee would increase from £2 to £2.50 per hour and the juniors fee would increase from £1 to £2 per hour, effective from 1st April 2004. LM

Allotment plots 4 & 5 – These plots had recently been rented out and had been rotovated at a cost of £40 plus vat. The Parish Council agreed to pay the cost, the funding to come from the Allotments Reserve. It was noted that the Borough will be charging £10/rod for its allotments with effect from April 2004; full-size plots in Sherfield are 3 rods, and rental is currently £16 full plot (£8 retired) and £8 half plot (£4 retired). Although rental charges are not being increased next year, an increase would need to be reconsidered for the 2005 budget. LM
LM

Village Hall Kitchen – A parishioner has objected to the PC being asked for a £3,000 grant. Under Section 19 of the LGA 1976, Parish Councils can make grants for work at village halls. The FGPC wished to recommend that a grant of £2,000 is made in the next financial year, subject to three written quotations and approval of the plans by the environment health department. This was agreed by the Parish Council. LM

Dragons Teeth, Football Car Park – The Parish Council were asked to consider bringing forward the job of installing Dragons Teeth along football car park. A quotation for installing a railing had been received from Bulpitt Brothers = £650. It was agreed that Rainsway Construction, contractors for HCC, would be asked to quote for birdlip or trip fencing.

LM

(c) VILLAGE GREEN COMMITTEE

3844 The minutes of the meeting held on 14 October had been circulated.

Resignation of Tree Warden - The Chairman reported that Vanessa had stepped down as Tree Warden and he and the members of the Parish Council thanked her for her hard work and contribution to the village over the last few years.

Concrete block - Harry Moore then reported that the concrete pipe which had been removed from the play area was now securely fixed into a ditch on the green, with help from John Dodd and Matt Gosden, whom he thanked.

Jubilee Pond – Following the clearance of the pond, two letters of complaint had been received from parishioners, regarding the large amount of vegetation removed and the damage caused to the pathway due to the use of heavy machinery. This had been discussed in detail during open forum, and it was resolved that outstanding repairs to the edge of the path would be made by Bruce Batting and Ivan Gosden.

BB/IG

Henns Ditch Bridge – It was reported that Ben Stoopman would commence work on the bridge next week, and Harry Moore and John Dodd had agreed to act as “banksmen”.

HM/JD

(d) ALLOTMENTS

3845

Rotovation of plots 4 & 5 – This item had been discussed under minute 3843.

Skip hire – Three verbal quotes had been received. John Dodd and Tracy Lander-Sims agreed to pass details of two other companies to the Clerk.

JD/TL-S
LM

(e) TENNIS COURTS

3846 This item had been discussed under minute 3843.

(f) CHILDREN’S PLAY AREA

3847 No report.

(g) BRAMLEY SCHOOL

3848 Following discussion during open forum, Nick Robinson agreed to approach Bramley School, Bramley Parish Council, County Councillor Keith Chapman and the Borough Council to discuss the possibility of either free school bus transportation to the Hurst Secondary School or to include Sherfield in the catchment area of the Hurst school, which is the destination of the vast majority of pupils leaving Bramley School.

NR

(h) VILLAGE HALL

3849 Discussed under minutes 3832, 3833 and 3843.

(i) CRICKET PAVILION

3850 Discussed under minute 3843.

(i) FOOTBALL PAVILION

3851 Discussed under minute 3827.

20. ROADS, TRAFFIC AND FOOTPATHS

3852 Hampshire Highways had begun installing permanent traffic calming measures in the village. It was noted that the slip road between the A33 and Goddards Lane would be closed for the installation of rumble strips and anti-skid surfacing for one or two days within the three month period from 22 December.

21. FINANCE REPORT

3853 The Clerk had tabled a finance report, showing balances of all accounts at 31 October 2003.

	HSBC A/c	General Investment A/c	Consols	Grand Total	Uncleared HSBC
Balance B/F Q3	19,033.14	21,575.55	24.17	40,632.86	
Income Oct	658.28	0.00	0.00	658.28	
Outgoing Oct	1,850.06	0.00	0.00	1,850.06	
Balance	17,841.36	21,575.55	24.17	39,441.08	1162.56

HSBC Bank statement at 31/10/03: £19,003.92

Approval of Payments

£1,280.00	Bulpitt Brothers of Bramley (Grass Cutting of green, ditches, and footpath)
£23.72	Petty Cash
£916.50	(£780 + vat) Butlers Lands Estate Services Ltd (Pond Clearance)
£270.00	Martin West Signs (War Memorial) – Paid 14 October.
£141.00	BDBC – DSO: £80 + vat Removal of willow bough and strimming pond island £40 + vat Rotovation of allotment plots 4 and 5
£108.69	(£92.50 + vat) RoSPA Playground Inspection and DDA assessment, May 2004
£30.00	Sherfield Village Hall (FGPC 5/11/03, VGC 14/10/03, PC Oct/Nov/Dec)
£597.00	Four Winds Court Services (the PC will be presented with a further invoice in the Spring, when the courts can be painted)
£137.28	Litter Warden
£364.90	Clerk's salary
£131.10	Inland Revenue - Tax (£107.54) and NIC (£23.56)

A further invoice for £397 would be paid to Four Winds Court Services this month to cover the cost of a single annual maintenance charge, as previously agreed. It was confirmed that the Parish Council would not take out the three year contract which had been offered by Four Winds.

It was agreed that no application would be made for a RoSPA inspection in 2004, as the Borough Council provides a free safety assessment of the play area each spring. With this exception, payments were approved, proposer Ivan Gosden, seconder Harry Moore.

LM

22. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT NEXT MEETING

3854 Law and Order.

23. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

3855 The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in the Garden Room at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 9 December 2003.

Meeting closed 10.05 pm.