

MINUTES OF SHERFIELD-ON-LODDON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE LIDDELL HALL AT 19.30 HOURS ON WEDNESDAY 13 DECEMBER 2006.

Present

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

In attendance

Lucy Marshall (Parish Clerk)

Two members of the general public were in attendance.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

4961 Apologies for absence were received from Brian Archer, Ken Clark, Richard Gaiger, Ward Cllr Marilyn Tucker, WPC Jewell and Chris Horton.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

4962 Ivan Gosden declared a prejudicial interest in item 20. Bruce Batting and John Dodd declared an interest in agenda item 9.

3. TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8 NOVEMBER 2006

4963 The minutes of the last meeting were approved as a true record of the proceedings and were signed by the Chairman.

4. TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF CRIME AND DISORDER

4964 The Neighbourhood Watch report for November had been tabled. Additionally, a car had driven into a traffic calming unit, close to the Shop.

Sandy Johnston reported his attendance at a recent BDAPTC meeting. He had been encouraged to seek the views of the Community Safety Forum with regard to Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service's recently adopted DDA Code of Practice for which there were some concerns.

It was noted that the travellers' abandoned caravan had been removed from the bus turnaround.

OPEN FORUM

The meeting was temporarily adjourned so that the public could discuss matters of concern with the Parish Council.

5. TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

(a) Planning Committee

4965 The minutes of the meetings held on 28 November had been circulated. Details of discussions were noted as follows:

Application No: BDB/64723 *Bridgeway, Reading Road, Sherfield-on-Loddon, RG27 0AA*

Proposal: *Erection of a part two storey, part single storey side extension, single storey rear extension and front porch.*

PC Decision: *No objection.*

ACTION

Application No: BDB/64862 Brunlea, Bramley Road, Sherfield-on-Loddon, RG27 0DD

Proposal: Creation of vehicular access with dropped kerb and car parking space.

PC Decision: No objection.

Application No: BDB/64877 Old School Cottage, Sherfield Green, Sherfield-on-Loddon

Proposal: Construction of first floor extension with Mansard style roof to form link between existing roofs. Rooflights to bedroom and replacement windows and doors.

PC Decision: No objection.

Application : Pre-application on behalf of T-Mobile UK Ltd Breach Lane A33, Sherfield.

Proposal: Upgrade of an existing telecommunications installation comprising 1 no. 14.5m slimline monopole incorporating an in-line trisector antenna, radio equipment housing and ancillary development.

PC Decision: No objection.

REFUSALS

Application No: BDB/64357 2 The Hollies, Wildmoor Lane, Sherfield-on-Loddon

Proposal: Erection of a first floor side extension, side/rear conservatory and construction of pitched roof above patio doors to rear elevation. Conversion of garage to living accommodation.

NOTICE OF INTENT

NoI TCA 2172 to fell 2 Leylandii Cypress at Gravelmead, Sherfield Green.

For report: no objection by BDBC.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGE, CROUDACE MASTER PLAN, SHERFIELD PARK

The Committee had no comment to make regarding the changes. The Chairman reported that he would take the scheme to a meeting of the Sherfield Park Community Association. It was noted that Taylor's Lane was referred to as a "Green way" which might lead to confusion if the name is used repeatedly.

LETTER FROM COMPLIANCE OFFICER, BDBC:

It was reported that the Compliance Team had written to explain that no enforcement action will be taken with regard to the erection of a large scrap heap for use in the production of the TV programme, Scrap Heap Challenge, MoD Bramley Training Area, Campbell Road.

Although not on the agenda, it was noted that 10 acres of woodland adjacent to Sherfield Park was being advertised for sale through Savills. The Selling Agents had not made any enquiries of the Local Planning Authority regarding the future use of the land.

It was reported that foundations have been laid for a new dwelling, close to the entrance of Northfield Road. There was concern that the site has remained in an untidy state for a long time.

Toad Crossing, Wildmoor Lane, requires repair.

Regarding the footbridge, River Loddon, it was noted that an anonymous article asking people to write to the PC had appeared in the Loddon Valley Link. The Committee recommended that the PC should publish a response in the next issue.

(b) Leisure Facilities Committee

4966 The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 28 November had been circulated.

The Committee recommended that a letter is sent to a tenant asking for her plot to be cultivated by the end of February at the latest. It was noted that Section 106 money from the Antler Homes Development would be coming shortly to the Parish Council for spending on open spaces/play areas (£9,873). Quotes were awaited for surfacing between the goalmouths. All outstanding installations and repairs had recently been completed in the play area. It was reported that the padlock to the small gate into the allotments, Bow Drive, had broken.

Next meeting of the Leisure Facilities Committee, Tuesday 23 January 2007, 19.30 hours.

LM

LM

(c) Finance and General Purposes Committee

4967 The minutes of the meeting held on 28 November had been circulated.

The Committee recommended that no action needs to be taken regarding the fallen branch at the back of Horse Pond. Also, it was recommended that the volunteers are asked if they would trim the hedge adjacent to the pathway by the Old School House in 2007. Simon Hennessey would be contacted.

LM/BB

It was reported that an application had been submitted for the POPPI grant on behalf of the village hall but further quotations had been requested by the Borough.

4968 To approve budget and Precept request, 2007/8

A budget document had been circulated and was recommended to Council by the FGP Committee. It was unanimously agreed that a precept of £32,179 is required for 2007/8. It was thought that this would result in an increased parish tax of between £5 and £7 per household.

LM

4969 To approve Limited General Grant request (Borough Grant), £1,050, for 2007/8

Proposal to request Borough Grant, unanimously agreed.

LM

4970 Update on advice regarding horse chestnut avenue, Bramley Road

Lord Malmesbury had received a letter from the Parish Council, as discussed at the previous meeting, but a more detailed reply is awaited.

The Clerk would ask Barry Bulpitt to remove the fallen branch opposite the bus shelter, Bramley Road. Next meeting of the FGP Committee, Tuesday 23 January 2007, 20.15 hours.

LM

(d) Village Green Committee

4971 The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14 November had been circulated.

With regard to the football grounds and pavilions, the Chairman reported that the senior and junior clubs are meeting this evening to discuss a development plan.

It was reported that the Tree Warden had sent leaf samples from the Bramley Road horse chestnuts to the Forest Research Centre for analysis.

The Committee had expressed concern at the poor state of the track between Goddards Lane and Greenway and a proposal would be discussed later in the meeting.

The Committee had also voiced concern at the public's apparent lack of interest in Village Green matters, as well as the committee's dwindling influence, now that the green is managed in a routine fashion.

Parish Councillors were asked to consider ways of encouraging more interest in Village Green matters. Next meeting of the Village Green Committee, Tuesday 16 January 2007, 19.30 hours.

(e) Allotments

4972 Request to move chickens A tenant had written asking for permission to place her portable chicken enclosure and shed on either of two plots (19 and 4). This was agreed.

LM

4973 Update on information regarding the keeping of hens A Defra publication on the keeping of poultry was in circulation. Legislation on stock density applied only to those keeping in excess of 350 hens. However, the Animal Welfare Division suggested following guidelines within their Code of Conduct and advised that people with over 50 hens should be included on the Poultry Register. Re-wording of the allotment agreement to be considered at the next meeting.

LM

(f) Play area and BMX track

4974 Update on BMX track improvements: Rocon had quoted £3,490 plus vat for work to the BMX track. Dave Miller had previously quoted £1,140 plus vat. The Clerk would contact Noel Preece of BDBC to discuss grant aid once again.

LM

4975 Update on play area: See minute 4966 above.

(g) Football and cricket grounds

4976 Nothing to report.

(h) Tennis courts

4977 No fees collected.

(i) Sherfield Park/Taylor's Farm development

4978 The Chairman had attended a meeting of the Community Association on 29 November at which the revised Master Plan for the development was discussed. The Association was not content with the proposed new location of the community building, which had moved from a prominent but well set back area within the development to a position very close to the main thoroughfare. The Association will propose that the building be located on land which was to have been the school site. This was endorsed by the Parish Council and a letter would be sent to Croudace.

BB

(j) Schools

4979 No report.

(k) Village Hall

4980 The new Committee met recently. There is a new Finance Committee. Simmons and Sons are acting as agents for the letting of the vacant cottage.

6. TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON VILLAGE FETE FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

4981 Advice had been sought with regard to the acceptability of monies from the Fete being managed via the Parish Council accounts, and correspondence with the HAPTC had been circulated. The recommendation that the Fete Committee sets up an independent account to deal with the finances from the annual event was accepted.

7. TO RECEIVE MONTHLY SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT

4982 There were no hazards to report this month.

8. TO RECEIVE REPORT ON ANNUAL SAFETY INSPECTION BY PARISH COUNCILLORS

4983 A report from an inspection dated 2 December had been circulated. A large rut outside 9 Bramley Road had since been filled. Advice is awaited from the Borough's Tree Officer with regard to the possible removal of an exposed tree root.

LM

9. TO RECEIVE REPORT FOLLOWING MEETING WITH GREENWAY RESIDENTS

4984 Notes from a meeting held on 2 December had been circulated. Since the meeting, some residents had sought legal advice and were advised against undertaking any work to the lane if it is not their responsibility. It is still not clear who has responsibility for the first section of Greenway.

Ivan Gosden reported that he had discussed more long-term lane improvements with Dave Miller and a written quotation is awaited.

10. TO CONSIDER PROPOSAL TO PURCHASE PLANINGS FOR TEMPORARY POTHOLE REPAIRS, GREENWAY

4985 It was agreed that two loads of planings could be ordered at £90 + vat per load and that a letter should be signed from the Parish Council giving permission for residents to fill the ruts along the lane using the planings.

LM

11. TO CONSIDER PROPOSAL TO INSTALL “EMERGENCY ACCESS ONLY” SIGNAGE, TRACK ACROSS VILLAGE GREEN

4986 It was noted that people are still driving across the track, even in its very poor condition. A proposal to install “emergency access only” signs at either end of the track was unanimously agreed. The Clerk would obtain quotations.

LM

12. TO DISCUSS CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED IN RESPONSE TO ANONYMOUS ARTICLE, LODDON VALLEY LINK, REGARDING FOOTBRIDGE

4987 Letters to the Parish Council supporting the request to replace a dilapidated footbridge had been received, as a result of an anonymous notice in the parish magazine. Copies of the correspondence had been circulated. It was confirmed that the bridge was constructed some years ago by an organisation which no longer exists and that the Angling Society wished to remove the existing structure. It was noted that it is not usual practice for the Loddon Valley Link to publish anonymous articles and the editor had apologised for allowing the item to be included. A Parish Council response to the article would be submitted to the editor for the next edition.

LM/BB

13. TO DISCUSS ADVICE GIVEN REGARDING UNAUTHORISED BUILDING ON PARISH COUNCIL OWNED LAND

4988 It was reported that a boundary wall adjacent to Mill Close had been rebuilt within the last two to three years, encroaching on land belonging to the Parish Council. The Clerk had sought legal advice and had written to the owner requesting the repositioning of the wall. Copies of the letter were tabled. A response was awaited.

14. TO DISCUSS BDBC DRAFT COUNCIL PLAN 2007-2010

4989 No response would be submitted.

15. TO DISCUSS LETTER FROM COUNTRYSIDE ALLIANCE RE: FUTURE OF RURAL POST OFFICES

4990 It was noted that the Government would be announcing budget cuts tomorrow, affecting the future of post offices in the country. Councillors were concerned for the future of rural services and agreed that a letter should be sent in support of retaining post offices. A copy of the letter would be sent to the editor of the Loddon Valley Link.

LM/BB

16. TO DISCUSS BDBC PEDESTRIAN ACCESS IMPROVEMENT CAPITAL PROGRAMME

4991 The Borough had invited Parishes to propose projects which could be supported by the Pedestrian Access Improvement Capital Programme. This particular programme was relevant only to Borough or County owned land. No suggestions were put forward.

17. TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON CENTENARY PAVILION

4992 A development plan is being formulated between the junior and senior clubs. The building project had gone out to tender again, with a closing date of 31 January.

18. ROADS, TRAFFIC AND FOOTPATHS

4993 It was reported that the traffic calming unit next to the Shop continues to cause confusion. It was suggested that a “keep left” sign should be installed opposite the war memorial.

4994 Update on Breach Lane roadworks

Parking has been restricted outside the Post Office and drivers parking on the opposite side of the road are at risk as they try to cross Breach Lane. Peter Eade of Hampshire Highways and Richard Hague of Hampshire County Council would be asked what can be done about the state of the road works by the Post Office. It was agreed that the letter would be copied to Maria Miller MP.

LM/BB

4995 To discuss proposal to remove “Dom Esch” signs

As there had been no contact with the German town for over 15 years, it was agreed that Highways would be asked to replace road signs in the village, removing reference to Dom Esch.

LM

4996 It was reported that the recent reduction in the 44 bus service to Sherfield village had caused confusion and annoyance to several local residents. The Clerk had details of where to send complaints and it was hoped that this information could be included in the next issue of the Loddon Valley Link. It was agreed to suggest that the bus stop outside the Post Office is relocated to the layby outside the Four Horseshoes.

LM
LM

19. TO RECEIVE FINANCE REPORT

4997 A document showing the bank reconciliation and payments for the month was tabled:

2006/2007	HSBC A/C	Bank of Ireland Deposit A/C	Consols	Grand Total
Bal B/F from October	8,638.31	21,422.14	24.17	30,084.62
Credits Nov	844.80	72.25	0.00	917.05
Debits Nov	2,192.41	0.00	0.00	2,192.41
Balance C/F	7,290.70	21,494.39	24.17	28,809.26

HSBC Bank Statement at 30 November 2006: £7,290.70

Approval of payments

- £744.02 Clerk salary
- £126.36 Litter Warden
- £235.86 Inland Revenue
- £6.60 Petty Cash – stamps
- £162.00 Basingstoke Skip Hire (£138 + vat)
- £10.00 R Llewellyn – allotment deposit refund
- £10.00 A Ager – allotment deposit refund
- £23.00 Sherfield Village Hall (room bookings)
- £305.00 BDBC (£260 + vat - roundabout maintenance)
- £132.00 BDBC (planning application, burial ground)
- £13.60 J Dodd (£11.57 + vat, allotment keys)
- £95.00 Pro Pest Services (quarterly charge, rat bait, allotments)
- £703.38 Acorn Services (grass cutting – tennis courts, play area, behind Hall, car park)
- £160.00 Acorn Services (grass cutting – War Memorial)
- £500.00 Bulpitt Brothers (emergency work to rectify flooding/drainage, Village Green)
- £180.00 Planings, requested following meeting with Greenway residents

Payments approved unanimously.

20. TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON BURIAL GROUND

4998 Sandy Johnston and Ivan Gosden left the meeting. The land agent had replied accepting the arrangement but wished a time limit of 10 years to be set for the offer to purchase the second strip of land, the value of which would be index-linked. These conditions were unanimously accepted by the Parish Council. The agent had suggested aiming to exchange in the spring of 2007 and therefore the Clerk had submitted an application to the Planning Authority for approval for change of use. Further drawings of the proposed fencing had been requested by the Planning Officer.

LM
BB

21. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

4999 Items to the Clerk by Thursday 4 January.

22. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

5000 Liddell Hall, Wednesday 10 January 2007, 19.30 hrs. Meeting closed 21.15 hrs.