

MINUTES OF SHERFIELD-ON-LODDON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE LIDDELL HALL AT 19.30 HOURS ON WEDNESDAY 11 OCTOBER 2006.

Present

Bruce Batting (Chairman)
Ken Clark
John Dodd
Richard Gaiger
Tracy Lander-Sims
Percy Sims
Lorraine Smith

In attendance

Lucy Marshall (Parish Clerk)

One member of the general public was present during the first part of the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

4886 Apologies for absence were received from Brian Archer and Sandy Johnston, both due to ill-health and Ivan Gosden, WPC Jewell and Chris Horton.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

4887 There were no declarations of interest.

3. TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 SEPTEMBER 2006

4888 The minutes of the last meeting were approved as a true record of the proceedings and were signed by the Chairman.

4. TO CONSIDER STANDING ORDER 17

4889 It was unanimously agreed that the conditions of service and pay of Parish Council employees may be reviewed.

5. TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF CRIME AND DISORDER

4890 The Neighbourhood Watch report for September had been circulated. In addition, it was reported that there had been a burglary in Poplar Close via an unsecured door during the evening of 5 October. Also, there had been theft from a number of cars close to Premier Court, during the previous weekend. A car had been moved from the verge to the pavement outside Premier Court and did not possess a valid tax disc. The Chairman would pass this information on to the authorities.

OPEN FORUM

The meeting was temporarily adjourned to receive comments and questions from the public. The meeting then re-convened.

6. TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

(a) Planning Committee

4891 The minutes of the meetings held on 26 September had been circulated. Details of discussions were noted as follows:

Application No: BDB/64357

Location: 2 The Hollies, Wildmoor Lane, Sherfield-on-Loddon

Proposal: Erection of a first floor side elevation, side/rear conservatory and construction of dormer roof to patio doors on rear elevation.

PC Decision: No objection.

ACTION

APPROVALS

Application No: BDB/64146

Location: Meadow Cottage, Taylors Lane, Sherfield-on-Loddon, RG27 0JF

Proposal: Erection of 3 no. three bedroom dwellings and 2 no. two bedroom dwellings with garages, parking and associated access.

REFUSALS

Application No: BDB/64044

Location: Former MoD Land at German Road, Bramley

Proposal: Erection of 271 no. dwellings with associated parking, landscaping and open space, erection of a 70 no. bedroom nursing home and 6 no. commercial units with associated parking.

NOTICE OF INTENT

NoI TCA 2134 to fell and remove root structure where possible 1 silver birch at the Old School Cottage, The Green. For report, no objection by BDBC.

Loddon Sports Pavilion: It was noted that Secretary of State approval is being sought by Loddon Sports for an extension to the Club's pavilion. Lord of the Manor approval has already been granted.

Antler Homes Development: It was noted that road works were due to commence in Breach Lane next week. One of the conditions attached to the planning consent was that a proper access to the site would be completed prior to commencement of the development.

(b) Leisure Facilities Committee

4892 The minutes of the meeting held on 26 September had been circulated.

(c) Finance and General Purposes Committee

4893 The minutes of the meeting held on 26 September had been circulated.

4894 To consider first draft, precept calculation document: A first draft had been circulated and Parish Councillors were asked to comment on the document in advance of the next meeting of the Committee, on Tuesday 24 October. In addition, the Clerk had tabled a summary of precepts and tax base rates from the previous 5 years, to assist with setting the parish tax.

4895 To receive update on stump grinding: Gristwood and Toms had been approached for a quotation but had indicated the cost would be in the region of £350. It was resolved that Brian Roscoe of Mulberry Tree Services should be asked to carry out stump grinding and replacement of soil at a cost of £250.

LM

4896 Cost of removing dead lime tree and trimming walnut: Since the meeting, the Bulpitt Brothers had provided a verbal quotation of £150. It was confirmed that the walnut tree would be trimmed to prevent its lower branches from damaging the bus shelter. The Council resolved to accept the quotation.

LM

4897 To propose meeting with Greenway residents to discuss track improvements: It was agreed that Greenway should be referred to as a lane, rather than track. The Liddell Hall would be available for hire from 11.30am on 2 December. It was agreed that residents should be invited to attend the meeting.

LM

4898 Update on advice regarding horse chestnut avenue, Bramley Road: The Chairman reported a recent discussion with Frank Wright of BDBC, who had suggested that the Indian Horsechestnut does not appear to suffer from the same disease which has struck many Horsechestnuts trees in recent times. Further information is awaited from Sparsholt College.

(d) Village Green Committee

4899 The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Tuesday 14 November.

(e) Allotments

4900 Meeting of the allotment holders: The annual meeting had taken place on Monday 9 October and the minutes were tabled for information.

One of the suggestions had been to place a limit on the number of plots with chickens and this was thought to be a good idea. The wording of the agreement would be re-drafted for consideration at the next meeting.

LM
P Council

4901 Update on post numbering

It was reported that the Bulpitts would charge £30 for post installation. It was resolved to ask the Bulpitt Brothers to install the posts.

LM

4902 To consider request for permission to install portable hen house, plot 27 A letter requesting permission to erect a small shed and to install a portable hen house for 2-3 chickens had been circulated. Permission was granted.

LM

A letter from another tenant was read aloud, in which permission was sought to erect a greenhouse measuring 10 x 8 x 8 ft on plot 48. This was approved.

LM

(f) Play area and BMX track

4903 Update on BMX track improvements: It was reported that Claire Wareham had confirmed that this type of project would qualify for the Borough's Leisure Facilities Grant although confirmation was still awaited regarding the level of grant which might be provided for the Parish Council. The BMX jump design had been tabled at the FGP Committee and the Clerk would forward these to Ian Harris, who had offered to give his advice on the project. It was suggested that the general public should be given the opportunity to comment on the proposals. It was suggested that drawings could be referred to in the Loddon Valley Link and also displayed in the window of Dodd's Garage.

LM

LM

4904 Update on play area: The Clerk reported that Wicksteed had agreed to repair the combat cableway free of charge. A reply is awaited from PlayDale with regard to the clasps holding the steel supports on the basketgoal units.

(g) Football and cricket grounds

4905 Further to discussions at the last meeting it was reported that many hours had been spent using the latest metal detecting equipment to search for any remaining metal poles. A total of 18 had been located and subsequently removed. Tracy Lander-Sims had organised the surveying and confirmed that the investigation had been very thorough and she believed that there were no further such hazards. This was accepted by the Parish Council and it was agreed that a letter should be sent to the Football Clubs and copied to the appropriate football authorities.

LM

(h) Tennis courts

4906 Fees: The sum of £16.50 had been collected from the Shop.

(i) Sherfield Park/Taylor's Farm development

4907 The Constitution of the Sherfield Park Community Association had been adopted at a public meeting on 30 September.

It was noted that parking provision is totally inadequate within the development, and this seemed to be a problem within all new housing estates.

(j) Schools

4908 No report.

(k) Village Hall

4909 The Finance and General Purposes Committee had recommended that the PC should only undertake essential maintenance works on behalf of the Village Hall, although a straight grant could be given. The Village Hall, via its financial planning meeting, had requested help with costs for external illumination and floor improvements and it was the FGPC's recommendation that the 2007/8 precept should include a budgeted figure for the proposed lighting improvements.

LM

Casino night would be held on Saturday 28 October.

7. TO RECEIVE MONTHLY SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT

4910 There were no issues raised within the report.

8. TO ARRANGE INSPECTION OF THE GREEN BY COUNCILLORS

4911 Councillors were asked to attend an inspection of the Green on Saturday 2 December from 10am, meeting in the football club car park.

All

9. TO RECEIVE REQUEST FOR DONATION FROM HAMPSHIRE COUNTY YOUTH BAND ASSOCIATION

4912 A letter seeking financial support had been in circulation but it was agreed, with regret, that this year's budget did not allow for any further donations.

LM

10. TO RECEIVE FEEDBACK FROM THE CALOR VILLAGE OF THE YEAR JUDGES

4913 The judges' views had been circulated and Councillors agreed that their comments and suggestions were very fair and most encouraging.

11. TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON NEW BYELAWS, BDBC

4914 The Chairman had not been able to contact the legal department at the Borough Council but he had spoken to Ian Harris with regard to the complication of having the cableway within the playground enclosure, in relation to the 12 year age limit as per the Borough's new byelaws. Mr Harris' advice had been that any prohibitive notices should clarify that older children may use the runway.

12. TO RECEIVE LETTER FROM BOUNDARY COMMITTEE RE; FURTHER CONSULTATION ON COUNCIL SIZE

4915 As part of the Boundary Review, Parish Councils were being invited to comment on a new suggestion of a more significant reduction in the number of Borough Councillors. There were no strong views expressed. No action.

13. TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON CENTENARY PAVILION

4916 The Chairman reported that he had met with Simon Wood and Sacha Nicholas of the FA and it was necessary now to: obtain a minimum of three tenders; secure funding from other organisations (30%); provide an up-to-date specification and development plan. The Chairman would arrange to meet with the senior and junior clubs as soon as possible. Also, he agreed to speak to the builder who recently constructed the North Warnborough football pavilion, and would contact the Chairman of North Warnborough PC for advice about sources of funding. He hoped that tenders could go out again at the end of this month.

BB

14. ROADS, TRAFFIC AND FOOTPATHS

4917 The Chairman had received a letter from a resident complaining of the condition of the dropped kerbs in Bow Gardens. It was agreed that the letter should be referred to Peter Eade of Hampshire Highways.

BB

4918 It was noted that water collects on the road surface opposite the tennis courts during heavy rain and it was felt that the channel leading to the roadside ditch needed to be widened.

15. TO RECEIVE FINANCE REPORT

4919 The Clerk had circulated a document showing the bank reconciliation and payments for the month.

2006/2007	HSBC A/C	Bank of Ireland Deposit A/C	Consols	Grand Total
Bal B/F from August	4,629.95	16,319.20	24.17	20,973.32
Income Sep	221.80	45.78	0.00	267.58
Outgoing Sep	2,135.53	0.00	0.00	2,135.53
Balance C/F	2,716.22	16,364.98	24.17	19,105.37

Uncleared cheques = £1,197.85

Cleared Balance = £3,914.07

HSBC Bank statement at 30/9/06 = £3,914.07

Approval of payments

£744.26	Clerk salary
£126.36	Litter Warden
£235.62	Inland Revenue
£16.00	Village Hall - Allotment meeting
£360.00	Nick Scally (removal of dead tree)
£25.00	Allotment rotovation
£51.34	Grass cutting - pitches

Payments approved unanimously. It was noted that the second precept payment had been received by BACS on 2 October. It was unanimously agreed that a transfer of £5,000 should be made to the Bank of Ireland deposit account.

LM

16. TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON BURIAL GROUND

4920 It was reported that the District Valuer had re-valued the ground and an offer had subsequently been put to the Gosden family via their land agent, as agreed at the last meeting. However, the offer of £20,000 had not been accepted, and further negotiation would be required.

Another meeting of the Burial Ground Working Party would be held to discuss the land agent's response. In the meantime, the Clerk was asked to contact the Environment Agency to ask for a "desk-top" survey of the plot. It was noted that Parish Council borrowing would require approval by the Secretary of State, via the NALC. Details of loan rates were being sought.

LM

LM

17. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

4921

- Precept

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

4922 The next meeting will be held in the Liddell Hall on Wednesday 8 November, 19.30 hours. Meeting closed, 21.15 hours.