

MINUTES OF SHERFIELD-ON-LODDON PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE LIDDELL HALL ON TUESDAY 13 JULY 2004.

Present

Bruce Batting (Chairman)
John Dodd (Vice Chairman)
Richard Gaiger
Ivan Gosden (Vice Chairman)
Sandy Johnston
Maurice Lambden
Tracy Lander-Sims

In attendance

Lucy Marshall (Parish Clerk)
Cllr Keith Chapman

One member of the public was also in attendance.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

4063 Apologies for absence were received from Calleva Ward Councillor Tucker, WPC Jewell and Chris Horton.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

4064 There was none.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

4065 Tracy Lander-Sims said that she had declared an interest in the matter of the allotments, not the burial ground as recorded in the minutes. With this amendment, the minutes of the meeting held on 15 June were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS OF CRIME AND DISORDER

4066 With regard to dealing and possession of drugs, it was reported that recent police stop checks had proved negative. Residents were being urged to report any suspicious activity on 0845 0454545. Sandy Johnston reported that a party in the village had got out of hand, drugs had been taken, and the home had been vandalised. However, it was felt that as there had been no disturbance to the general public at the time, there was nothing for individuals to report at the time and no action could be taken by the Parish Council.

Road signs along Reading Road had been turned around and damaged again.

5. APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBERS TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

4067 One person had telephoned and three others had written to the Clerk expressing a wish to be considered for the vacancies within Sherfield-on-Loddon and Taylor's Farm Wards. Two members had requested a signed ballot, which was duly conducted. Ken Clarke (nominated by Tracy Lander-Sims, seconded by Ivan Gosden) was elected to the Sherfield-on-Loddon vacancy, and Brian Archer (nominated Bruce Batting, seconded John Dodd) and Loraine Smith (nominated Sandy Johnston, seconded Dick Gaiger) were elected to fill the vacancies within Taylor's Farm Ward.

6. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES

4068 BDAPTC/Community Safety Forum: Sandy Johnston had agreed to become the Parish Council representative on the Community Safety Forum and would report regularly to the Basingstoke and District Association of Parish and Town Councils.

ACTIONS

LM

LM

4069 Village Charities: The Charity Commissioners governing document and correspondence regarding previous Parish Council appointments had been circulated. It was agreed that the nominative trustees for the Parish Council for a period of four years would be John Dodd (proposed Bruce Batting, seconded Maurice Lambden) and Tracy Lander-Sims (proposed Ivan Gosden, seconded Sandy Johnston).

LM

OPEN FORUM

The meeting was temporarily adjourned for topics to be raised by the general public.

7. REPORTS

Planning Committee

4070 There had been no meetings since the last Parish Council meeting. It was noted, however, that a notice of approval for the demolition of the old football pavilion (BDB /58122) and erection of a new pavilion (BDB /58123) had been received. An approach would now be made to DEFRA for Secretary of State approval, before putting plans out to tender.

BB/LM

Finance and General Purposes Committee

4071 The minutes of the meeting held on 29 June had been circulated. Ivan Gosden reported the following:

(a) Chippings for Jubilee pond path: The original specification for the pathway is awaited from V Attwood. The Clerk will then obtain quotations to refill the pathway with chippings. It was noted that lack of drainage under the pathway was resulting in the more rapid decay of chippings and boards.

(b) Notice of Intent: The Tree Warden had been asked to submit notice of intent forms for cutting back overhanging tree branches by the tennis courts and along Goddards Lane between the courts and Globe House. The Chairman reported that a Notice of Intent Form had been submitted by the Tree Warden to crown lift the Holm Oaks by 7'. Willow tree shoots had now been cut back along Greenway.

(c) Tennis courts: Four Winds hope to repaint the courts this week. The courts will be out of use for one week afterwards. The company had suggested repainting the netball court at the same time for an additional cost of £160 + vat. However, it was agreed that this was not required at present.

(d) Tree work: The committee recommended accepting quotations from Barry Bulpitt of £125 for the removal of a fallen branch in Horse pond and £60 for crown lifting Jubilee tree. After discussion, it was agreed that volunteers would remove the fallen branch from Horse pond and that the Clerk would ask Barry Bulpitt to crown lift the Jubilee tree. It was accepted that the Parish Council is not responsible for the maintenance of the laurel hedge behind Horse pond, as it is not growing on the Village Green.

LM

It was feared that the new trees opposite the war memorial, purchased with Laings Money, had died. They would be left in the ground until spring 2005. It was suggested that they would have had a better chance of survival if they had been planted in the Autumn.

(e) Commemorative bench: Mr Mathews is purchasing bench from Ben Stoopman. The Finance Committee recommended that the cost of £130 for the removal of the old bench by the Cricket Pavilion and installation of the new bench should be borne by the Parish Council. This was agreed unanimously, and the Clerk would confirm the arrangement with Barry Bulpitt.

LM

(f) Sprouting willows, centre ditch: It was thought that Barry Bulpitt had inspected the willow shoots along the ditch, with members of the Village Green Committee, and that the shoots had now been cut.

(g) Sponsorship of planters, traffic calming units: A letter had been sent to five village groups, asking if they wish to take responsibility for watering and maintaining the planters. Replies were awaited.

On the subject of traffic calming, the Chairman reported that Peter Eade, Assistant Chief Engineer, would be liaising with Richard Hague to complete the traffic calming installations along Reading Road. Although previously agreed at the public meeting in 2003, further plans for the cobbled imprints would be drawn up and posted in the window of Dodd's Garage and in the Loddon Valley Link. The Chairman would write to Richard Hague confirming the arrangements.

BB

(h) A33 Roundabout: The Clerk had written to the Manager of Longbridge Mill, asking if the company would be interested in sponsoring the roundabout. A reply is awaited. The Chairman reported that DSO would provide a quote for annual maintenance of the roundabout. DSO had also agreed to weed and strim the area around the War Memorial at no further cost to the Parish Council.

Ivan Gosden asked for details of Projects as well as routine expenditure for next year to be brought to the attention of the Finance Committee at its next meeting on 24th August.

All

With apologies, Richard Gaiger left the meeting due to another commitment.

Village Green Committee

4072 The minutes of the meeting held on 22 June had been circulated. There was nothing further to report.

4073 Sandy Johnston reported that the Hampshire Paths Partnership had requested risk assessment forms to be completed for each walk featured in the new map and, as custodians of the Village Green, the Parish Council was asked to give permission to allow a designated access route across the Green. This was unanimously agreed.

SJ

Football Pavilion Steering Group

4074 The Chairman had given a progress report to Sherfield Football Club at a meeting last week. There are no plans for a further meeting of the Steering Group at present. It was reported that the police have expressed an interest in using the police room on a daily basis, and hope to be given an opportunity to comment on more detailed specifications, eg; security, requirements for the office.

Cricket Pavilion

4075 It appeared that guttering had been pulled down from the front of the pavilion. Claire Wilkinson had reported that the Parish Council's application for grant aid was being held up due to problems with an application from a different group. She suggested that a letter is written to the Planning and Performance Officer. This was agreed.

LM

Allotments

4076 The allotments had been visited by Parish Councillors prior to the meeting. The Borough Council's allotment agreement had been received and incorporated into a draft revised document for consideration. It was agreed that holders wishing to light a bonfire or barbeque would need to seek the permission of the "Allotment Officer". Tenants would be reminded that parking spaces are provided at the Bow Gardens entrance, but that parking in Carpenters Close is not permitted. The guidance notes on pesticide spraying set

out within the Borough's handbook would be quoted in the agreement. It was agreed that there should be two sites set aside for rubbish, for recyclable and non-recyclable materials. It was suggested that a noticeboard could be installed at the allotments, and this would be given further consideration.

LM

With regard to fees it was proposed by Maurice Lambden that a small increase should be made with effect from September 2004, from £8 to £10 for a half plot and £16 to £20 for a full plot. Pensioners would be entitled to a 50% reduction. This was seconded by Ivan Gosden and agreed by those present.

LM

Tennis Courts

4077 As reported earlier in the meeting (minute 4071) the courts are due to be painted this week. Tennis court fees of £192 had been collected and this was passed to the Clerk. Sherfield fees are currently £2.50 for adults, £2 for children, Basingstoke fees are £5 for adults, £4 for children.

Childrens Play Area

4078 The Chairman reported that Ian Harris of BDBC had indicated that Sherfield could be included in a current scheme for purchasing play equipment. Sandy Johnston and Tracy Lander-Sims agreed to discuss what equipment is now required and would liaise with Ian Harris.

SJ/TL-S

Bramley School

4079 The Clerk had written to the Chairs of Governors of Bramley C of E Primary School and John Hunt of Everest Secondary School, asking whether information could be passed regularly to the Parish Council. Formal replies were awaited. Keith Chapman explained that under new regulations some schools were no longer obliged to have minor local authority representation. However, minutes of governors meetings must be available to the general public. For information, in September 2003 Sherfield had 62 secondary school age children: 18 currently attend Harriet Costello, 15 go to the Hurst Community School, and 11 go to John Hunt of Everest, the remaining 18 being dispersed at other schools. Figures for primary school age children were not available at the meeting.

Sherfield School

4080 Ivan Gosden reported that he had been in contact with the school recently to discuss the provision of playing fields. He reported that the school is trying to arrange for coaches to bring children to school from different areas, which will help to ease the anticipated traffic congestion.

At this point, it was resolved that the meeting should continue beyond 9.30 pm, in accordance with standing order 85, proposed Ivan Gosden, seconded Tracy Lander-Sims.

Village Hall

4081 Sandy Johnston reported that the Village Hall Management Committee had held an extraordinary meeting to discuss the car park, at which it had been agreed that fibre-deck would be applied once the bitumen surface had been laid. It was important for the Village Hall Management Committee to find the finances to do so within the next two weeks, to fit in with the Borough Council's works schedule. The meeting had been attended by Sandy Johnston and Bruce Batting.

The Village Hall Management Committee would meet again on Thursday evening. It was noted that the Parish Council's grant of £2,000 had originally been to refurbish the kitchen, but the Council had later agreed that the money could be spent on the car park.

Parish Councillors were concerned that the Village Hall Management Committee had agreed to spend extra funds on the surface and marking of the car park, when other projects were requiring to be completed.

Sandy Johnston said he would liaise with Parish Councillors after the meeting on Thursday and if necessary call an extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council to consider whether grant funding would be withdrawn if their decision was not to the Parish Council's liking.

SJ

8. UPDATE ON PARISH PLAN & RESULTS OF SURVEY OF YOUNG PEOPLE

4082 There was nothing to report on the Parish Plan. Tracy Lander-Sims reported that the questionnaires showed that 72% of boys aged 8-11 had requested a half pipe, 17% wanted an aerial runway. Of the girl respondents, 56% requested an aerial runway while 4-7 year olds wanted a climbing wall. Children of 11 and over showed an interest in a teen shelter. Eighty eight percent of respondents use facilities in Basingstoke town centre on a regular basis. One suggestion had been that the pool in Sherfield School could be used at weekends or during school holidays. The Clerk agreed to put this suggestion to Sherfield School. Most suggested using the playground or the area near the BMX track/courts for new play equipment/teen shelters.

LM

Some Councillors were concerned that teen shelters would only encourage groups to meet and cause mischief. It was agreed that Paul Hayes should be invited to attend the next Parish Council meeting to give advice on the pros and cons of teen shelters and to suggest the best site for one in the village, should the Council choose to purchase one.

LM

9. REQUEST FOR DONATION FROM WINGED FELLOWSHIP TRUST

4083 A letter from this organisation which provides respite care for disabled people and their carers had been previously circulated. It was felt that on this occasion, no donation would be made.

LM

10. TO CONSIDER REQUEST FROM LAING HOMES

4084 Laing Homes had received very few enquiries about their new development at Hams Corner, Wildmoor Lane and had approached the Chairman to see if permission could be granted to place advertising hoarding on the Village Green, opposite the development. There was some concern that approval could set a precedent. Planning permission would be required. However, Laings would be asked for more information about the proposed size of the hoarding, how long it would remain on the Green, and how much they would be prepared to pay the Parish Council in exchange for permission. This was proposed by Ivan Gosden, seconded by Maurice Lambden and agreed by all.

BB

11. FINANCE REPORT

4085 The Clerk had tabled a document for Parish Council consideration and approval:

Statement of Accounts

The balances of all accounts at 30 June 2004 are shown in the table below:

2004/2005	HSBC A/C	General Investment A/C	Consols	Grand Total	Uncleared (HSBC)
Balance B/F from 03/04	8,303.50	18,074.43	24.17	26,402.10	
Income Apr/May/June	15,691.07	4,000.00	0.00	19,691.07	155.30
Outgoing Apr/May/June	11,678.39	0.00	0.00	11,678.39	12,471.48
Q1 Balance	12,316.18	22,074.43	24.17	34,414.78	

Approval of Payments

- £626.20 Clerk salary
- £110.42 Litter Warden
- £157.24 Inland Revenue
- £10.00 Room bookings, 2nd qtr (Jul & Aug Liddell Hall, Sept Garden Room)
- £95.00 Joe Bate, repair/replacement of bus shelter guttering
- £60.00 Bulpitt Brothers, crown lift Jubilee Tree by pavilion
- £130.00 Bulpitt Brothers, remove bench by cricket pavilion, install new bench
- £25.00 New Councillors training course, Winchester, 4th August (2-4 pm)
- £1,767.00 (plus vat) Four Winds Court Services, re-painting courts (an increase of £57)

Payments proposed for approval by Ivan Gosden, seconded by Bruce Batting, agreed by all present.

The Clerk would ask all new Councillors if they wish to attend the training course as soon as possible. LM

With regard to room bookings, it was confirmed that the Liddell Hall would not be available for Parish Council meetings between September and May, as it is already booked regularly on the second Tuesday of the month. It would therefore be necessary to amend Standing Orders in order to hold Parish Council meetings on another day of the week. The Clerk would contact the Hall Bookings Secretary to discuss availability. LM

CONFIRMATION OF SECTION 106 MONIES

Millhouse Longbridge Close: £5,631 – play equipment, £3,393 – open spaces, £4,845 – community facilities – PC requested to forward details of spending by Friday 23 July.
Wessex House: £7,050 – play equipment, £3,642 – open spaces, (community facilities still to be confirmed).
Hams Corner/Wildmoor Walk: Figures not yet confirmed.

The Chairman would ask the Borough Council whether community facilities funds could be spent on the church room or the police office within the new pavilion. Otherwise, it would be recommended that all the money would be provided to the Village Hall. BB

A Budget Report for the first quarter was tabled for information.

12. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT NEXT MEETING

- 4086 Items for discussion include:
- Teen Shelter – possible visit by Paul Hayes
 - Revision of Standing Orders – dates of meetings
 - Traffic calming, roads and footpaths
 - Double parking along Bow Drive

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

4087 The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in the LIDDELL HALL 7.30 pm on Tuesday 10 August 2004. LM

Meeting closed 9.55 pm.