

SHERFIELD-ON-LODDON

PARISH COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT 2005/6

MEETINGS

Between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2006, we held 48 meetings.

During the year, Maurice Lambden resigned from Council and Percy Sims was co-opted to fill the vacancy in September. 12 Parish Council meetings were held during the year.

During the year, the Parish Council has ...

- Installed planters along the old Reading Road – members of the WI tend the plants, which were purchased using Calor prize money.
- Installed two new benches, using Calor prize money. A bench was also donated to the village by a resident during the year.
- Responded to the SE Plan consultation exercise.
- Purchased half an acre of woodland at the southern entrance to the village, and arranged for it to be tidied and made safe, using Section 106 developer's contributions.
- Arranged for the Highway Authority to install a footway between Taylor's Farm development and St Leonard's Church, using developer's contributions.
- Made repairs to the concrete path and added a concrete spur leading into the play area.
- Arranged for surfacing beneath log slide and the Scootabout to be repaired.
- Felled a diseased Horse Chestnut tree along Bramley Road.
- Removed oak saplings from middle green heath, following advice from Hants and IoW Wildlife Trust.
- Produced 5000 copies of a new parish footpath guide/walks leaflet with assistance from Hampshire Paths Partnership.
- Requested the replacement of bus stops and timetables throughout the parish – this is ongoing.
- Appointed a project manager to co-ordinate the building of the new Centenary pavilion - ongoing.
- Treated New Zealand Pygmyweed on Golden Pond – herbicide treatment was applied twice, with funding via the Borough Council's Biodiversity Officer.
- Reviewed our grass cutting regime, following advice from Hants and IoW Wildlife Trust.
- Carried out some emergency tree work to willows by centre brook and next to the ponds.
- Replaced tennis nets.
- Responded to electoral review, being conducted by the Boundary Committee.
- Contributed to steering group, to form Taylors Farm Community Association – ongoing.
- Replaced scalplings on steps by Golden Pond.
- Arranged for school bus pick up from Sherfield Park bus stop.
- Written to MP, supporting Hampshire County Council's "Save our Services" campaign; also supported Hampshire Police Force campaign not to become amalgamated with neighbouring forces.

- Received reports from Police and Neighbourhood Watch. During the year, the coin box within the telephone kiosk was removed twice; car crime, particularly within pub car parks, has been a problem. Mobile speed cameras have been used in the village and in February several fixed penalty notices were issued.
- Requested a new parish boundary sign, which has been installed on Redlands hill.
- Taken part in the Calor Village of the Year 10th Anniversary Competition, having been the only Hampshire village invited to participate.
- Reviewed effectiveness of pinch points along Bramley Road; the Highway Authority will be repositioning posts.
- Installed two basket/goalmouths using developers' contributions.

Ongoing/outstanding projects

- BMX track – we are currently seeking views on how to improve the track.
- Improvements to pathway between Reading Road and Northfield Road; 90% grant assistance has been offered by the Borough Council (POPPI grant).
- Burial ground extension.
- Cricket ground improvements.
- Concrete waste collection area; we have made an application for a Borough grant.
- Central pedestrian island, Bramley Road.
- Improved parking/traffic flow, Bow Drive/Grove – Bow Drive is to be one of the three Residential Parking pilot schemes in the Borough. There will be a period of consultation and BDBC hopes to formulate an appropriate scheme by the end of July.

6 Village Green Committee meetings: This is an Advisory Committee of the Parish Council, which makes recommendations on the upkeep of the Green to the Parish Council, eg, ditch work, re-planting, pond clearance, repairs to bridges.

Simon Hennessey has continued as Chairman throughout the year and he will present a report on the work of the Committee later in the meeting.

Annual allotment holders meeting: Tracy Lander-Sims is now assisting John Dodd with monitoring the allotments. We are awaiting confirmation of Borough grant funding before commencing installation of a permanent waste collection area for the allotments.

13 Planning meetings: Chairman - Bruce Batting. Thirty-one new applications were considered during the year (18 fewer than last year). The PC recommended approval of 27 applications, but this was not supported by the Borough Council on 1 occasion (replacement of garages, Ashwood Pines). Of the remaining 4 applications which were recommended for refusal by the PC, three were given approval by the Planning Officers at the Borough Council without going to Committee, under delegated powers (White Hart Public House parking area to side/repositioning planters; 1 West View Bramley Road; Redlands demolition of building of local interest and replacement dwelling).

Other issues considered by the Planning Committee included the following: Appeal, application for alterations at Court Farm House (PC supported the applicant, but the Borough's decision to refuse permission was upheld at Appeal); Removal of cash facility at BT phone box, Church End (no objection as the box can be used in emergencies and phone cards can be used); Rectory Development (no further progress appears to have been made); Croudace development at Taylors Farm (slow

progress in achieving the 250 houses so that a community centre can be built - this is of great concern to local people in the new estate.); Vodafone public meeting at Chineham in July to view plans for masts at Whitmarsh Lane and opposite entrance to Sherfield Park.); Local Plan Inquiry (this resulted in the recommendation not to proceed with the development of 277 dwellings plus 70 bedroom nursing home and 6 industrial units at Bramley, although Wimpey Homes have lodged an Appeal.)

7 Finance and General Purposes Committee: Chairman - Ivan Gosden. The Committee's remit includes reviewing recommendations of the Village Green and Leisure Facilities Committees, considering quotations and drafting the precept. Our precept has increased from £20,000 to £23,965 in 2006/7. However, with an increased parish population, the net result is a slight decrease in the annual parish charge per household.

The Parish Council has been in receipt of Section 106 money this year, payment by property developers for the improvement of community facilities and we have been able to:

- Purchase new basket/goalmouths
- Pay for initial expenses, Centenary Pavilion including community room
- Purchase half an acre of woodland, southern entrance to village
- Carry out remedial works to the woodland

Apart from the precept and Annual Borough Grant, we received a 30% grant from the Borough Council (£372) to assist with urgent repair to the Village Hall roof. The Parish Council contributed £1,325 to the Church Spire appeal, having received unexpected income from Laing Homes.

7 Leisure Facilities Committee: Chairman - Sandy Johnston. The Committee discusses issues relating to play area, tennis courts, football and cricket grounds/pavilions and allotments. The Committee meets approximately every two months.

In addition, to these meetings, Councillors attend Country Watch meetings to keep abreast of the Local Plan issue, regular meetings of the Chineham Incinerator Liaison Panel, Community Safety Forum, SPISE, CPRE and the Basingstoke District Association of Parish and Town Councils.

Burial Ground Working Party: The working party has met twice, and a land valuation is being considered at present.

THANK YOU

... to all groups and individuals who contributed once again when we were invited to take part in the Calor Village of the Year 10th Anniversary Award.

We are most grateful to our local beat officer WPC Jewell, the Village Green Volunteers, our auditor David Hitchins, to Phil Cole, our Litter Warden, who does an excellent job at keeping our village clean and tidy and also to Geraldine House-Barklie, our Tree Warden who advises on tree work within the parish, particularly within the Conservation Area. We are very grateful, too, to our local contractors who we use on a regular basis; Barry and Roy Bulpitt, Mike Barnes, Ben Stoopman and Joe Bate. During the year, Grace Bowman and her family retired from looking after area in the immediate vicinity of the war memorial; we are indebted to the family for their contribution over many, many years.