

SHERFIELD-ON-LODDON PARISH COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT 2008/9

Parish Councillors for the Year ending 30th April 2009

Bruce Batting -Parish Council Chairman and also chairman of Planning and Village Green Committees
Ivan Gosden -Parish Council Vice Chairman and also Chairman of Finance Committee
Sandy Johnston -Chairman of Leisure Facilities Committee
Brian Archer
Loraine Smith
David Leivesley
Bruce Jones
Lucy Marshall
Sally Hennessey

Tracy Lander-Sims and Richard Gaiger resigned as Parish Councillor during the year

All Parish Councillors are trustees of the Village Hall.

Meetings

Between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2009, we held 57 meetings:

11 Parish Council
7 Finance and General Purposes Committee
7 Leisure Facilities Committee
20 Planning Committee
7 Village Green Committee
1 Allotment Holders Meeting
1 Annual Parish Meeting
3 Football Pavilion Working Party

During the year, the Parish Council has ...

- Received reports from Police and Neighbourhood Watch.
- Monitored safety on the Village Green, via monthly reports from the litter warden.
- Paid for a litter warden
- Carried out weekly checks of the play ground/BMX track.
- Rented a Speed Limit Reminder Device (SLR) to be moved around the village to reduce speed of traffic
- Started a rolling programme of ditch clearance to try to reduce flooding
- Repaired pond overflow damaged by root growth
- Replaced wooden elements of the slide in the playground
- Removed brown signage in Village
- Repaired traffic island and replaced planter on Reading Road after road traffic accident.
- Installed two new notice boards – one at Church end and the other on Gaiger Avenue
- Managed the allotments
- Worked with landowners to clear blocked footpaths
- Worked with B&D BC to reduce rat population around the ponds

- Worked with B&D BC dog warden to reduce the problem of dog fouling in public areas.
- Organised grass cutting on the Green and more regular grass cutting of sports grounds and pitches
- Organised general maintenance of hedges and verges around the Village
- Arranged for the felling and removal of dead trees
- Liaised with Police about nuisance motorcycle riding in Village
- Organised pest control treatments to ensure Loddon Sports FC have been able to play their matches.
- Approved memorial trees and benches to be placed on The Green
- Organised steam Cleaning of the Tennis court surface
- Organised clearance of area around Tennis courts to prevent root damage to surface
- Arranged for voluntary registration of land at the allotments
- Repaired broken bench at Wildmoor Lane bus stop.
- Repaired damaged bus shelter on Bramley Road.
- Supported parents of Bramley School children in their efforts to get a safer bus service
- Received approximately 20 County and Borough documents for consultation.

Ongoing/outstanding projects

- Protection and renovation of the Village Hall
- Traffic calming improvements on Bramley Road and Reading Road
- Pedestrian Walkway or crossing for A33 Near to Sherfield School (Wildmoor Lane exit point)
- Speed limit reduction (from 50mph to 40mph between the 2 roundabouts) outside Sherfield School
- Replacement Football Pavilion.
- Solution to the problem of potholes along Greenway.

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. Bruce Batting is Chairman and he will present a report on the work of the Committee later in the meeting.

Annual allotment holders meeting: Richard Gaiger is the contact for issues regarding the allotments. . Skips have been provided twice per year.

20 Planning meetings: Chairman - Bruce Batting.

Forty six applications were considered during the year and 5 objections were lodged by the Parish Council: (1) Objection to 02 mast at Wyevale Garden Centre (2) Objection to enclosure of communal courtyard at Wheelers Court resulting in loss of amenity for other residents in row of cottages and change to street scene (3) Objection to membrane parasols at White Hart Public (4) Objection to scrap yard on boundary of MOD land at Bramley Camp and (5) Objection to change of land use from agricultural to residential land at Church End.

7 Finance and General Purposes Committee: Chairman - Ivan Gosden. The Committee's remit includes reviewing recommendations from Village Green and Leisure Facilities Committees, managing the new Burial Ground, considering quotations and drafting the precept. Our precept has increased from £39,146 in 2008/9 to £44,250 in 2009/10 a rise of £5,104. The increase is necessary to fund the Speed Limit Reminder Devices and pay for additional work to ditches planned for autumn 2009 and the annual increases from contractors and providers of insurance cover.

7 Leisure Facilities Committee: Chairman - Sandy Johnston. The Committee discusses issues relating to play area, BMX track, 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, Sherfield Park Community Association, Community Safety Forum, SPISE, CPRE and the Basingstoke District Association of Parish and Town Councils.

Thank you

We are most grateful to our local beat officer WPC Jewell, the Village Green Volunteers, the Friends of the Village Hall, 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 would also like to thank Tracy Lander-Sims and Richard Gaiger for their many years of service to the Parish Council. Members of the WI continue to tend our planters along Reading Road for which we are grateful. Thanks, too, must go to our local contractors who we use on a regular basis; Barry and Roy Bulpitt, Mike Barnes, Ben Stoopman and Mark Stewart.