

MINUTES OF SHERFIELD-ON-LODDON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE LIDDELL HALL AT 19.30 HOURS ON WEDNESDAY 10 JANUARY 2007.

Present

Brian Archer
Bruce Batting (Chairman)
Ken Clark
John Dodd
Richard Gaiger
Ivan Gosden
Sandy Johnston
Tracy Lander-Sims
Percy Sims
Lorraine Smith

In attendance

Lucy Marshall (Parish Clerk)
WPC Jewell

A member of the general public was in attendance during part of the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

5001 Apologies for absence were received from Ward Cllr Martin Gardiner and Chris Horton.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

5002 Ivan Gosden declared a prejudicial interest in item 17. Bruce Batting, John Dodd and Richard Gaiger declared an interest in agenda item 8.

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

5003 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

5004 WPC Jewell reported two recent burglaries in Sherfield: Bullsdown Close - downstairs window forced - TV, car keys & car stolen and Goddards Close - insecure kitchen window - cigarettes stolen.

Sandy Johnston reported his attendance at a recent Community Safety Forum Meeting. There was concern at the growing knife culture and incidents of woundings had increased within Hampshire. It is planned that from April, each ward within the Borough will have a dedicated beat officer plus Police Support Officer, although this will be phased in over several months.

OPEN FORUM

As there were no members of the public in attendance at the time, the meeting continued.

5. TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

(a) Planning Committee

5005 The minutes of the meetings held on 19 December had been circulated. Details of discussions were noted as follows:

***Application No: BDB/64872 Location: 3 Pound Meadow, Sherfield-on-Loddon, RG27 0EP
Proposal: Erection of a first floor rear extension and rear conservatory following demolition of existing.***

PC Decision: No objection.

ACTION

Application No: BDB/64703 **Location:** *Sherfield Hill Farm, Reading Road, Sherfield.*

Proposal: *Erection of a replacement garage with office above (Retrospective)*

PC Decision: *Although the Parish Council had commented on the original application and observed that the creation of a separate building with dwelling space was contrary to Council policy, the plans for a replacement garage and office had been approved by the Borough Council. Since then, building work had gone ahead with slight modifications, for which the applicants were seeking retrospective approval. Whilst maintaining their original concerns, committee members noted that little would be achieved by submitting an objection to the application at this stage.*

APPROVALS

Application No: BDB/64596 **Location:** *The Apple House, Wildmoor Lane, Sherfield*

Proposal: *Erection of single storey front extension.*

Application No: BDB/64566 **Location:** *Wildmoor Place, Wildmoor Lane, Sherfield*

Proposal: *Erection of barn/ancillary building. Amendment to planning permission BDB/54120 repositioning building to front of property.*

Application No: BDB/64568 **Location:** *Wildmoor Place, Wildmoor Lane, Sherfield*

Proposal: *Change of use of agricultural land to land for the keeping of horses. Erection of a building for stables/tractor and hay store.*

NOTICE OF INTENT

NoI TCA 2210 to fell 2 oak at the Village Green.

PC Decision: *No objection. It was noted that Simon Hennessey and Geraldine House-Barklie had identified the two trees requiring removal to allow more light into the "heath" area of the Green, as previously agreed.*

It was agreed that the next meeting of the committee will be held on Monday 15 January, 7.30pm.

(b) Leisure Facilities Committee

5006 The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 23 January, 19.30 hours, at which proposals for surfacing between the basketgoals will be discussed.

(c) Finance and General Purposes Committee

5007 The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 23 January, 20.15 hours.

(d) Village Green Committee

5008 The next meeting of the Village Green Committee, Tuesday 16 January 2007, 19.30 hours.

The Bulpitt Brothers had produced a drawing of work they recently carried out to rectify flooding across the Green, between the end of Greenway and the Bramley Road. The Chairman would contact Barry Bulpitt to confirm whether any further works are required as water is still backing up.

Percy Sims commented that adequate drainage on the Green had been an issue ever since the building of the Council housing estate, west of the Green.

Comments on lack of support were again noted from the Village Green Committee minutes and it was agreed that the volunteers do a very good job. More volunteers should be encouraged to help.

(e) Allotments

5009 To consider re-wording of agreement regarding the keeping of hens The wording would be amended as follows: cleansing of pens every 6 months (instead of 2 months), include request that tenants move hen house to new position within the plot every 18 months as a minimum. It was agreed that no more than 10 allotments may have livestock at any time.

5010 To receive letter from tenant regarding vehicular access to allotments

A tenant had complained that he had been approached by the Clerk and asked not to drive across the “firebreak track”, nor to park on the Green for access to his allotment. The Clerk had advised the tenant of a recent decision taken by the Parish Council to ask allotment tenants not to drive across the track and had reminded him that parking is available for tenants at the end of Bow Gardens. However, it was reported that since writing the letter the tenant had made arrangements to park in a driveway off Greenway, which would overcome his problem of needing to gain easier access to his plot. The Chairman agreed to telephone the tenant to confirm that the situation seems to have been resolved.

BB

(f) Play area and BMX track

5011 Sandy Johnston confirmed that these areas will be discussed at the next meeting of the Leisure Facilities Committee.

Details of a sports and play provision seminar to be held at the Apollo Hotel, Basingstoke on 28 February had been tabled. Sandy Johnston and Tracy Lander-Sims agreed to attend.

(g) Football and cricket grounds

5012 A letter had been received from Fred Berntsen, requesting the use of the Green for two Loddon Sports tournament events on 3 June and 1 July. Also, he sought Parish Council’s permission to allow cars to park on the rough area of the Green during the events, to site 2-3 portaloos in the car parking area and to erect a marquee for the Presentation of awards on 1 July. His proposals were viewed favourably but would be considered formally at the February meeting.

P Council

Sandy Johnston reported that the cricket ground appears to be in good condition at present.

(h) Tennis courts

5013 No fees collected. Leaves to be swept in due course.

(i) Sherfield Park/Taylor’s Farm development

5014 The Chairman reported that no meeting had taken place in December, next meeting 31 January. In the meantime, the Community Association is in consultation with Planners and Croudace regarding recently proposed changes to the Master Plan as discussed at the last meeting.

(j) Schools

5015 No report.

(k) Village Hall

5016 The Village Hall Management Committee would meet tomorrow evening. It was noted that the Village Hall would need to prepare to fund for new fluorescent lighting in two years time, when the manufacture of current fittings and tubes go out of production.

5017 To consider proposal to apply for planning permission for Village Hall signage, on behalf of the Village Hall Management Committee

It was explained that in order to be considered for the POPPI Grant, the lighting and signage required by the Village Hall needed to have been given planning permission. Therefore, it was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would apply for planning permission at a cost of £132.50. It was confirmed that the proposals would be available for comment as part of the usual planning consultation process.

BB/LM

6. TO RECEIVE MONTHLY SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT

5018 Not received. The Clerk would circulate the report when received.

LM

7. TO RECEIVE LETTER FROM SPARSHOLT COLLEGE REGARDING HORSE CHESTNUT AVENUE

5019 A reply had been received from Sparsholt, suggesting that college students may investigate the problems and look at the avenue later in the year on an informal basis but could not produce a

professional report or recommendation as the students would not be qualified to do so. This was disappointing although understandable and it was agreed that the offer of a visit by students should be accepted.

LM

8. TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON WORKS TO GREENWAY

5020 Advice had been received from the Legal Department at Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and Mr White's email was tabled. With regard to the first section of Greenway, ie; between Goddards Lane and the corner by Jubilee Cottage, he advised that title to the land is unregistered and precise details of ownership cannot be obtained from Land Registry. Also, he suggested that the Parish Council should take positive steps as "custodians" of the village green and its immediate environs to provide a basic standard of maintenance on a no liability/no obligation basis. It would be necessary to contact the Parish Council's insurers for confirmation of insurance cover for works undertaken.

LM

John Dodd suggested ballast for filling the potholes but the Parish Council had already agreed to purchase two loads of planings.

Ivan Gosden would follow up his discussion with Dave Miller and obtain advice on a more permanent solution to the pothole problem.

IG

9. TO DISCUSS UNAUTHORISED BUILDING ON PARISH COUNCIL OWNED LAND AND RESPONSE FOLLOWING REQUEST FOR STRUCTURE TO BE RE-POSITIONED

5021 A letter from the owner of the wall had now been received and circulated. Additionally, a further letter from the owner was tabled, in which he disputed the claim that the wall encroached on Parish Council land. It was reported that the owner had registered that section of the land with Land Registry and there appeared little that the Parish Council could do, despite having possession of deeds to the land, and this was of surprise and concern to Councillors. The Chairman will seek further legal advice. The Chairman said that other Parish Council owned land was to be registered with Land Registry.

LM

BB

10. TO RECEIVE INVITATION FROM BDBC TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS LIAISON MEETING (ROLL OUT PLANS)

5022 Details of a meeting to be held on Thursday 25 January at 6pm had been circulated and Councillors interested in attending were invited to contact the Borough.

All

11. TO RECEIVE INVITATION TO COMMENT ON BDBC DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

5023 The latest draft of this document had been received. The document would be circulated and comments could be submitted up to the end of February.

P Council

12. TO RECEIVE BDBC REQUEST TO INSTALL GLASS BOTTLE BANKS AT BUS TURNAROUND, READING ROAD

5024 The Recycling Officer, BDBC, had written suggesting that bottle banks are installed in the bus turnaround. He was aware that this had been tried in the past but abandoned due to complaints of noise, and so had provided information about bins designed with noise reduction features. Councillors felt that noise would still be an issue for residents when the bins are emptied each week. Also, it was unclear whether Mr Pickles had contacted the owners of the land, Hampshire County Council, with his proposal.

Councillors still hoped that kerbside collection could be considered by the Borough. However, it was agreed that Mr Pickles should be advised to consult with residents in the vicinity of the bus turnaround with his suggestion in the first instance.

LM

13. TO CONSIDER HAPTC REQUEST TO SUPPORT A CALL TO AMEND TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BILL (DEC 06)

5025 The Hampshire Association of Parish and Town Council's had written to all member Councils seeking support for a call to amend the recent Local Government Bill which currently

gives absolute power to Portsmouth City Council to abolish Southsea TC. One view was that comment should not be passed, as full details of why this had been included in the Bill were unknown. However, the majority agreed that the Parish Council should give its backing to the HAPTC's view that the arrangement is un-democratic and that the local-level decision-making process should be retained.

LM

14. TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON CENTENARY PAVILION

5026 The Chairman reported that tenders were invited by 2 February, after which funding bodies could be approached for support. The Clubs continued to work on the development plan.

15. ROADS, TRAFFIC AND FOOTPATHS

5027 It was reported that a letter is being sent to Richard Hague of Hampshire County Council regarding the roadworks in Breach Lane. The letter would be copied to County Councillor Keith Chapman. However, the Chairman suggested awaiting Mr Hague's response before involving the local MP.

5028 The suggestion of moving a bus stop from the Post Office to the Four Horseshoes had been discussed with Stagecoach and the Clerk is awaiting the view of Hampshire County Council.

LM

5029 For report, the Borough is carrying out tree and shrub reduction to a plot of land behind Wessex House, adjacent to the A33. It was noted that this plot of land had previously been offered to the Parish as part of developers' contributions many years ago, although it seemed that the title deeds had subsequently been Registered by the Borough Council.

5030 Shirley Brewer would be contacted for advice with regard to the naming of the new development in Breach Lane, as it was agreed that the developer's title of "Wildmoor Villas" is inappropriate.

LM

5031 The Clerk would write a letter to the Highway Authority, asking them to make arrangements to inspect and clear blocked ditches in Wildmoor.

LM

5032 The Rights of Way Officer had been asked to confirm the exact route of footpath 4 at Redlands Hill, in the light of another reported incident of abusive behaviour towards walkers. When the information has been received, WPC Jewell will visit the property owner.

LM

5033 In response to the suggestion that the Highway Authority might supply plantings free of charge to the Parish Council, the Clerk reported that she had spoken with the engineer recently who had advised that this is no longer possible. However, the Clerk was asked to put the question again in writing.

LM

16. TO RECEIVE FINANCE REPORT

5034 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 November	7,290.70	21,494.39	24.17	28,809.26
Credits Dec	150.75	76.25	0.00	227.00
Debits Dec	3,148.57	0.00	0.00	3,148.57
Balance C/F	4,292.88	21,570.64	24.17	25,887.69

O/S cheques: £136.36 HSBC Bank Statement at 31 December 2006: £4,429.24

Approval of payments

£744.04 Clerk salary
£126.36 Litter Warden
£235.84 Inland Revenue
£411.25 Audit Commission £350 + vat – paid

Payments approved unanimously. The Budget Report for the third quarter had been tabled for consideration.

LM

17. TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON BURIAL GROUND

5035 Sandy Johnston and Ivan Gosden left the meeting. The Chairman reported that drawings of the proposed fencing and confirmation of the exact boundaries would be submitted to the Planning Officer shortly. The Land Agent had been advised of the Parish Council's acceptance of the purchase arrangements and paperwork was being drawn up.

BB/LM

18. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

5036

- Loddon Sports Tournament arrangements
- Traffic calming

LM

Other items to the Clerk by Thursday 8 February.

19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

5037 Liddell Hall, Wednesday 14 February 2007, 19.30 hrs. Meeting closed 21.10 hrs.

2007 Annual Parish Meeting: It was noted that the Village Hall had been booked provisionally for **Friday 18 May 2007**.

All