

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE SHERFIELD-ON-LODDON PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE LIDDELL HALL AT 19.30 HOURS ON WEDNESDAY 13 JUNE 2007.

Present

Brian Archer
Bruce Batting (Chairman)
Richard Gaiger
Sandy Johnston
Tracy Lander-Sims
Percy Sims

In attendance

Lucy Marshall (Parish Clerk)
Cllr Roger Gardiner

Mr Brian Woodham of Thurston Group and the Chairman of Sherfield Football Club were in attendance during the first part of the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

5195 Cllrs Ken Clark, John Dodd, Ivan Gosden and Loraine Smith. WPC Jewell and Chris Horton had also sent their apologies. Members were very sorry to learn that John Dodd is unwell.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

5196 Bruce Batting and Dick Gaiger, part of item 12.

3. TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9 MAY 2007

5197 The minutes of the last meeting were approved as a true record of the proceedings and were signed by the Chairman. In addition, a factual error was noted in the minutes of the April meeting and it was agreed that the minute should be amended as follows: minute 5140 – remove the wording “including Kempshott”.

4. TO DISCUSS MODULAR FOOTBALL PAVILION

5198 Brian Woodham was welcomed and thanked for coming to discuss the modular pavilions manufactured by Thurston Group. A budget estimate of £122,500 had been provided, based on the plans approved for a brick-built pavilion but Mr Woodham explained that a more accurate figure could only be produced once soil test results had been obtained.

Councillors were shown samples of the brick slips which are used as standard for the outside of the units, and also the galvanised steel “tiles” which are coated to give an appearance of clay pantiles. The pavilions are simple to clean internally and are vandal resistant. Mr Woodham explained that the units comply with current building regulations, have a 60 year design life and that internal finishes should last between 20 and 60 years. He agreed that a full bricks and real clay tiles or slates could be used with the pavilion but this would add significantly to the cost. He confirmed that gas water heating could be installed. Regarding foundations, a grid of concrete foundation pads would probably be used beneath the unit.

Mention was made of the area which often floods to the east of the proposed site, and this would be dealt with as part of the project.

Mr Woodham agreed to forward a list of addresses of similar structures/finishes within a reasonable travelling distance, indicating whether they had been installed before or since 2000. The chairman thanked him for coming to the meeting.

5. TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF CRIME AND DISORDER

5199 The Neighbourhood Watch report for May had been circulated. It was pleasing to note that very little crime had taken place in the parish. With regard to the Borough’s review of parishes

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requiring alcohol exclusion orders, Councillors were not aware of any serious problems in Sheffield.

OPEN FORUM

The meeting was temporarily adjourned.

6. TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

(a) Planning Committee

5200 The minutes of the meeting held on 15 May had been circulated for report:

Application No: BDB/65985

Location: 34 Otterbourne Walk, Sheffield-on-Loddon

Proposal: Erection of conservatory to side elevation and re-siting of garden access gate.

PC Decision: No objection.

Application No: BDB/65947

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

Proposal: Conversion of garage to living accommodation, construction of chimney on north east elevation and installation of patio doors with dormer roof on north east elevation.

PC Decision: No objection.

O₂ Pre-application submission to PC

Proposed Mobile Communications Base Station at Wyevale Garden Centre, Wildmoor Lane, Sheffield. (25m monopole and three equipment cabinets/ancillary development.)

PC Decision: Members were concerned that the proposed site was close to two schools. In addition, the mast would be very obtrusive as there were very few trees in the vicinity. **Objection.**

5201 To report House of Commons debate on German Road development, 7 June

The Chairman advised that Maria Miller MP had secured a debate in the House of Commons last Thursday on the Secretary of State's intention to over-rule the Inspector's decision on the German Road application. However, those involved with the application have been invited to submit further comments until July, and so the Minister for Planning would make no comment about the case during the Commons debate. The Secretary of State will issue her decision in August. The Chairman read aloud a copy of a letter from Cllr Marilyn Tucker to the Daily Telegraph, in which she expresses her concerns about this case and the Secretary of State's apparent disregard for the consultation process.

(b) Leisure Facilities Committee

5202 The minutes of the meeting held on 22 May had been circulated.

5203 To receive report on inspection of Allotments, 31 May

Further to the letter of complaint received regarding access and safety, an inspection of the allotments by six Parish Councillors had taken place and a report had been circulated. Since the inspection, the Chairman had contacted Ann Gray, Access Officer at BDBC, who wished to make further enquiries about the matter of access for disabled allotment tenants. The Officer had indicated that to allow vehicles along the central track could put the safety of other tenants in jeopardy. The Parish Council would await further advice from the Access Officer, as well as the views of a solicitor, and in the meantime the Parish Council agreed to write to the tenant to see whether she would like to be offered a plot nearer to the car park entrance when one becomes available.

5204 To report recommendation not to alter design of log slide

The recommendation not to alter the design of the log slide was agreed. However, straightforward repair work could go ahead.

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(c) Finance and General Purposes Committee

5205 The minutes of the meeting held on 22 May had been circulated.

5206 Update on condition of horse chestnuts and to agree removal of diseased trees

It was reported that the results of the tests carried out by the Borough's tree officer showed that the horse chestnuts do not have Phytophthora. However, many are suffering from bleeding canker and the officer maintained his recommendation to remove the badly diseased trees. Two quotations had been received for the removal and stump grinding of three diseased trees and it was agreed that Townsend Tree Services would be asked to carry out the work.

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It was noted that a branch had fallen from a horse chestnut tree by Alexandre Terrance, although it was thought that it had been knocked by a tall truck.

5207 To report recommendations as follows:

For councillors to inspect diseased/dying trees, "Mansers Wood". Date not discussed. However, it was agreed that Barry Bulpitt would be asked to remove the fallen beech tree at a cost of £100.

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5208 "In-house" repairs to viewing platform. Subsequently, a quote of £45 had been received from Ben Stoopman. However, Tracy Lander-Sims and Richard Gaiger offered to make the repairs and this was agreed.

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5209 Approve removal of 20 metal spikes, £200. It was agreed to accept the quotation from Barry Bulpitt.

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5210 Approve minor repairs and section replacement, concrete path £300. It was agreed to accept the quotation from Barry Bulpitt.

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5211 Defer work to branches by BT line. The branches did not appear to be affecting the telephone line and it was agreed that this could be deferred.

5212 Advise against tarmac on concrete path. Recommendation accepted.

5213 Await two quotations for seat repair, bus shelter. Quotations still awaited.

5214 Approve strim/rotovation of two half allotment plots. The clerk had asked for this work to go ahead at the usual rate of £25 per half plot, and the two vacant plots had now been re-let.

5215 Recommend quotation by Bulpitts to Ian Harris, allotment waste area. The Bulpitt Brothers quotation was the cheapest of the three quotations. Recommendation accepted.

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5216 Ditch work carried out to prevent access by travellers, £150. The clerk had asked Barry Bulpitt to go ahead with further measures to protect the green, close to the "firebreak" track.

5217 Apply minimum width restriction for Greenway. It was agreed that this recommendation should be taken forward for discussion with residents. The meeting with residents had been arranged for 16 July but unfortunately several residents would be unable to attend due to a Gardening Club meeting. A new date would have to be arranged. It was noted that in the past Greenway had been much wider, but hedges had been planted creating a narrower passage.

Greenway
Mtg

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5218 Accept Allianz Cornhill revised quotation, for 3 year renewal agreement. Details of the reduced quotation from Allianz Cornhill and the arrangements offered by Came and Co were discussed. The majority was in favour of remaining with Allianz Cornhill and so it was agreed that the policy would be renewed at £1,279.19.

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(d) Village Green Committee

5219 The minutes of the meeting held on 15 May had been circulated and the committee's comments regarding the track, pond platform and horse chestnuts had been taken into account.

(e) Allotments

5220 The Clerk had written to a tenant asking him to improve the condition of his plots. It was also reported that another tenant had contacted the Clerk to explain that due to personal circumstances they will not be able to tend their plots for a short while, but they were still very keen to keep the plots on. This was acceptable to the Parish Council.

(f) Play area & BMX track

5221 To report repairs to basketgoals by PlayDale

The back bars of both basketgoals had been broken but Playdale contractors had visited last week to weld the bars back into place. The Clerk had written to Four Winds asking for work on the tarmac area between the goalmouths to go ahead as soon as possible.

5222 The BMX drawings were on display in Dodds Garage window until the end of June. Work on the track, and also on the NoMow surfacing beneath the cableway, would go ahead as soon as possible.

5223 It was noted that the play area gate is not closing and the Clerk would make arrangements to tighten the spring.

(g) Football and cricket grounds/pavilions

5224 Nothing to report.

(h) Tennis courts

5225 Fees of £60.50 had been collected from the shop this week. A laminated poster had now been placed on the fencing, advising that the key is available from the shop.

(i) Schools

5226 No report. Councillors were told that travellers had trespassed onto Sherfield School grounds and vandalism had occurred.

(j) Sherfield Park/Taylor's Farm

5227 Members of the Community Association are coming along to help at the Sherfield Fete.

(k) Village Hall

5228 With regard to whether an application needs to be made for external signage and lighting, a reply from the BDBC Conservation Team is still awaited.

7. TO RECEIVE MONTHLY SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT

5229 A report for May had been tabled. It was noted that wire mesh on the footbridge by Dove Cottage needed replacing and Tracy Lander-Sims and Richard Gaiger agreed to carry out repairs. It was also noted that the hedge between the noticeboard and the football pavilion was overgrown and obstructing the pathway. The volunteers had previously agreed to cut the car park hedge this year and so they would be asked to carry this out as soon as possible.

8. TO CONSIDER ADOPTION OF NEW MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT

5230 Several documents had been issued by the Standards Board for England and members were asked to consider in particular whether or not to adopt paragraph 12(2), which would allow members with a prejudicial interest to remain and speak during discussions. Adoption of this paragraph would mean that the Standing Orders would have to be altered to allow for the general public to speak also during meetings. After discussion, it was agreed that the arrangement of members withdrawing from the meeting should remain, and so paragraph 12(2) would not be adopted. It was resolved to adopt the new Model Code of Conduct. Members were advised that they must complete a new Register of Interest form within 28 days.

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9. TO DISCUSS DRAFT AFFORDABLE HOUSING SPD AND SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL

5231 This document had been circulated. No comments were made.

10. TO DISCUSS BDBC CONSULTATION ON CHANGES/IMPROVEMENTS IN TREE SERVICES

5232 Individuals were invited to forward comments by Friday 15 June. One member expressed annoyance that other Borough services had been withdrawn, including free pest control for all households.

11. TO REPORT BDBC INSTALLATION OF RECYCLING BINS, BUS TURNAROUND

5233 The Borough's Recycling Officer had written to advise that bottle banks will be installed at the bus turnaround this month. However, the Chairman had written to him asking for his assurance that the installation would have soundproofing, would be emptied at a reasonable hour and would be situated to the northern side, where hedgerow will help to reduce noise to nearby residents. Tracy Lander-Sims had visited the new-style, sound-proof bins in Popley and had been impressed by them.

12. TO CONSIDER REQUEST FOR INFORMATION, PARISH BRIDLEWAYS

5234 The Assistant County Access and Bridleways Officer of the British Horse Society had written asking whether the Parish Council could locate three maps referred to in the minutes of meetings held in 1895 and 1896 [sic]. He was anxious to ensure that ancient bridleways are traced and included on the definitive map, and was surprised that the current mapping shows just one bridleway, from Lance Levy Farm to Hartley Wespall. Percy Sims agreed to bring his large scale map of the parish to the next meeting. In addition, Brian Archer agreed to ask whether the Loddon Valley Link team would be willing to feature this enquiry within the magazine.

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13. ROADS, TRAFFIC AND FOOTPATHS

5235 To receive update on BDBC parking scheme for Bow Drive

A number of suggestions had been put forward to the Parish Council and to residents individually. A planning application had been received and so detailed proposals would be considered by the Planning Committee. It was thought that parking would still be restricted, however the proposals allowed for easier access for the bus service.

5236 To receive letter regarding poor parking, football club car park

A resident had written to explain that, on the day of a NADFAS meeting, she had been unable to exit the car park due to double parking at the entrance. She asked the Parish Council to consider whether to have painted hatch-lines at the car park entrance and in front of the access barrier to the green. This was supported and the Chairman would make enquiries of the Highway Authority.

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5237 To receive update on surface improvements; Greenway and Wheelers Court

The Chairman reported that he is awaiting a quotation from Ian Welch to supply two bags of type 1 for surface repairs to the driveway at Wheelers Court.

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At this point, it was resolved to continue the meeting beyond 9.30pm.

5238 The Clerk had visited the Site Manager at the Antler Homes development who had confirmed that the right of way between Breach Lane and the A33 Reading Road will be opened up again by the end of this month.

5239 The Borough Council had written to advise that the word "Rectory" may not be used in the address for the new development, due to a covenant requested by the vendor. Councillors considered a number of suggestions and it was agreed that 1-10 Breach Lane should be offered as an alternative.

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5240 With regard to contractors regularly parking on the newly formed verges and customer parking spaces by the post office, the Chairman advised that little would be achieved by writing to Antler Homes at this stage as the project is almost complete.

5241 A draft design for the two new village road signs had been received. The signs would replace those with a reference to Dom Esch. The design was approved by the Parish Council.

14. TO RECEIVE FINANCIAL REPORT AND TO APPROVE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 06/7

5242 A report for May had been circulated:

2006/2007	HSBC A/C	Bank of Ireland Deposit A/C	Consols	Grand Total	Uncleared cheques (HSBC)	Uncleared receipts (HSBC)
Bal B/F from Apr	19,585.48	24,915.31	24.17	44,524.96	131.32	
Credits May *	0.40	12,090.78	0.00	12,091.18		
Debits May *	13,508.99	0.00	0.00	13,508.99		
Balance C/F	6,076.89	37,006.09	24.17	43,107.15		
					Uncleared Balance	
					6,208.21	

HSBC Bank Statement at 31 May 2007: £6,208.21

*** Including transfers**

Approval of Payments

£745.67 Clerk salary
£131.54 Litter Warden salary
£233.61 Inland Revenue (HM Customs and Excise)
£11.94 Petty Cash (ink cartridge)

Payments were unanimously approved.

5243 A final copy of the Accounts for 2006/7 had been circulated together with the Audit Commissions' Annual Governance Statement and it was unanimously agreed that these be approved. With regard to the Asset Register listing, the Clerk agreed to clarify what is included under "other surfaces" within the insurance policy.

15. TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON BURIAL GROUND

5244 To receive update on risk assessment requirement by EA. It was reported that the Cemetery Development Services Tier 1 Risk Assessment costs £1,300. However, due to the low number of full burials over the last three years, the company was prepared to conduct a smaller-scale survey and produce a report to present to the Environment Agency at a cost of £250. As the Land Agent had recently written a chasing letter, the Clerk had asked CDS to proceed with their survey and a report is due within the week. This action was endorsed by the Parish Council.

5245 To agree application to Secretary of State for borrowing of funds

The Clerk had tabled a report, outlining the reasons for borrowing the sum of £25,800 from the Public Works Loan Board, over a 25 year period. With one abstention, the report was approved by the Parish Council and it was resolved to apply for Secretary of State's permission to borrow funds. The Parish Council also resolved that if permission is granted, then an application would be made to borrow the sum of £25,800 over a 25 year term through the Public Works Loan Board.

16. TO AGREE ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

5246 Items to be forwarded to the Clerk by 5 July. (Reminder: No formal meeting in the following month, August)

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

5247 Wednesday 11 July 2007, Liddell Hall, 19.30 hours. Meeting closed 21.50 hours.