

Minutes of the South Hinksey Annual Parish Meeting

Tuesday 12th May 2009

Present Sarah Balaam, Clive Briffett (Chair), Maggie Rawcliffe (Vice Chair), Sheridan Edward (Clerk), Liz LeFevre, James Mallinson, Peter Rawcliffe, Linda Slater, Jo Slater, David Minns

1. Apologies

Elizabeth Halcro

2. Minutes of the 2008 APM

CB read the minutes of the previous year's APM. There were no matters arising.

3. Report of the Parochial Church Council

MR read a report on behalf of Elizabeth Halcro and the PCC. It was reported that the church had undergone various renovations in the past two years – restoration of the tower (£23,500) and an extension (£25,000) – but that the church still required £20,000 to complete the work. It was also reported that all donations received were held in a ringfenced fabric fund.

CB stressed that all Parish Council donations should be used towards improvements as opposed to maintenance.

4. Report of the Village Hall Management Committee

MR read a report on behalf of Elizabeth Halcro and the VHMC. It was reported that there was a year-on-year increase in the number of bookings, but unfortunately, these did not quite meet the running costs of the hall. In addition, all maintenance costs were met by donations and fundraising. The VHMC had also acquired curtains for the hall. The concert in February 2009, subsidized by the County Council, was a big success, and a repeat performance has been requested.

There followed discussions about other potential hires and sources of advertising. David Minns reported that the monthly running costs were £200 and that he expected the hall to require further funds in the autumn to continue to operate. It was asked whether the addition of community land would be beneficial to attracting more hires, but this was uncertain.

5. Report of the Parish Council

CB reported on the work of the Parish Council over the year:

- a) Finance. The precept for 2008/9 was £9750 and this had been reduced to £8200 for 2009/10. The Council had received £3200 for the sale of a plot of land and the Community Woodland was self-sufficient.
- b) Highways. The Council had been pursuing various improvements to the A34 and connected issues but with limited success. The campaign to instate a 20mph limit in the village had failed, but the Council was successful in instating a constant 40mph limit from Hinksey Hill to Foxcombe Road.
- c) PR and the South Hinksey Flood Group had kept the Council informed of developments and advised with regard to the OFRMS. The EA had carried out various short-term works to improve the flow rate of water.
- d) Burial Ground. The Council and PR had begun to establish a wildflower area and progress was going well.
- e) Community Woodland. This is now established and working well.
- f) Community Land. Oxford City Council had agreed to allow the Parish Council to use the site for a peppercorn rent, and discussions were underway re possible means of enclosure access and use.
- g) Footpath maintenance. The Devil's Backbone was resurfaced earlier in the year, and the campaign to build a cycle ramp over the bridge continued.
- h) The Council had suffered from lack of a permanent clerk, but this has now been successfully resolved.

A full version of the Chairman's Report will be posted on the Parish website

6. Questions from Parishioners

LS enquired as to the situation with the General Elliot pub. CB and SE confirmed that it was owned by the Vale Brewery and that they were working on plans to revamp the pub. They did not have a new tenant and did not think that one would be found in the immediate future. The property has recently been surveyed and the brewery assured the Council that any future plans would be discussed with the Parish Council. LS suggested that the emphasis of the pub should be shifted to a more restaurant-style establishment. **Action: SE to raise with brewery.**

Community Land and Flooding were also raised by PR, and details of this are included in the Parish Council minutes 12/05/09.

Date of next 2010 APM: To be confirmed