

SOUTH HINKSEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall, South Hinksey on Monday 5th March 2007 at 7.30p.m.

PRESENT: - Councillors – P. J. Saugman (Chairman), Mrs. M. Rawcliffe (Deputy Chairman) B. M. Halcro, C. Briffett and Miss S. L. Gray.

Clerk - D. E. Wilkins.

Three parishioners were present.

Also in attendance was Ms. A. L. Wilson who has been appointed the new Clerk when Mr. D. E. Wilkins retires at the end of April 2007.

No Members, present, declared an interest in any matters to be heard at this Meeting. The Council is aware of Councillor C. Briffett's interest in the Woodland Project under the FOSH banner.

06/132 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th February 2007, were taken as read, and were signed as being correct, in the presence of the Council.

06/133 MATTERS ARISING

The Chairman reported that he had asked for copies of November 2005 A34 Meeting, May 2006 informal Meeting held in our Village Hall and the November 2006 Botley Traffic Meeting.

Work has commenced at Towles Mill sluice gates and on the mill stream.

Councillor C. Briffett reported that at the moment he is having difficulty in speaking to the City Countryside Officer about the Chilswell Valley Land.

The Clerk explained that the Oxford City Officer who had been dealing with the land proposals had left the Council's employment.

The Chairman reported that Dr. Ewan Harris MP, had visited the village, and he has spoken to him about car parking in the village, plus village exits onto the A34.

It was suggested that parishioners should send letters to him indicating their thoughts about the parking. The Chairman said he would draft a letter for people to sign, as individuals, with own signatures.

06/134 WOODLAND PROJECT

Councillor C. Briffett stated, there was no real progress to report this month. Fund applications are still underway.

06/135 COMMUNITY LAND PROPOSAL

The Clerk reported that he had spoken to John Kulasek at Oxford City Council, who is head of Financial and Asset Management about the Parish Council's proposals for land exchange. Mr. Kulasek indicated we would starting again, and would the Parish Council outline its proposals.

The Meeting discussed generally this proposal which involved land for car parking and general amenity land for specific public use.

02/136 CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk read to the Meeting various letters, and circulars received, that contained matters of interest to the Council.

Reported that Oxford University Library Service has withdrawn planning application for rebuilding library depository at Osney Mead.

Vale of White Horse DC have acknowledged letter about condition of car park at General Elliot public house, and the matter has been passed to the Environment Protection Team.

The Parish Priest – The Rev'd Father James Wilkinson – has apologised for the damage done by contractors to the surface of the burial ground. He stated that the PCC will ensure that the surface is put back to its original state.

At this point there was an application from the PCC, via Mrs. E. Halcro, for the Church to hold a craft fair on the unused part of the Burial Ground later in the year. The Clerk said that he, as the appropriate officer, would not agree, but if the Parish Council wished to approve the application then the area in use should be roped off and "policed" to ensure children do not use the gravestones as a play area. Also the church should have appropriate insurance against any damage to headstones.

The members agreed that the above use could proceed, but this is not a blanket approval for any future proposition, and providing the area in use for burials is protected as shown above.

06/137 CHEQUE PAYMENTS

It was proposed by Councillor M. B Halcro and seconded by Councillor C. Briffett that the following cheques be approved:-

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|---|------------|
| a) D. E. Wilkins – Clerks fee for 2006/2007 already approved | £ 2,950.00 |
| b) D. E. Wilkins – Petty cash for the period ended February 2007, plus £350 additional fees for duties above the agreed figures | £ 1,261.95 |

06/138 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None this month.

06/139 FLOODING MATTERS

Although there had been considerable rain, and flooding in other parts of the country, there was nothing new to report for our area.

06/140 RISK ASSESSMENT

The Meeting discussed this subject generally, together with the request of what legal powers does the Council have. It was agreed to carry forward the matter to the next Meeting.

This Council does not have any Standing Orders outside those laid down by appropriate law.

The Clerk would obtain some information for the councillors to read regarding powers, and any changes in procedure.

06/141 PARISHIONERS MATTERS

None received.

06/142 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was reported that there were various dangerous pot-holes in the village and the A34, particularly on the Hinksey flyover plus the north bound slip road and part of the main highway.

A question was asked about A34 surface noise. When the road is repaired the Highways Department use a surface to reduce noise levels.

The A34 village junction is a worry to parishioners, and persons using the Village Hall, General Elliot and the Church with a motor vehicle.

It was reported that a public meeting is to be held shortly in the village hall, when a representative from Oxon CC will talk about various matters, including road safety.

The general thought is that the only safe way out of the village is to find another roadway, but this is extremely difficult because of various other traffic problems that would arise.

Councillor Mrs. M. Rawcliffe reported that plastic bags and some boxes had been dumped off Parker Road.

Councillor Clive Briffett stated that Parish Website needs to be upgraded, and he thought the Parish Council should take over the responsibility for same. The hosting fee could be paid by the Parish Council relieving FOSH, plus the maintenance. A question was raised about who would give up time for this proposal. The Chairman said he would make enquires to see if a person known to him would be interested, and who would give a talk for 10 minutes on the subject, to the Parish Council perhaps for the May Meeting.

Councillor C. Briffett said he would be away from 6th March for 6 weeks, and would therefore not be at the next Meeting.

It was reported that Mrs. Jo Harris, resident, was not pleased with FOSH and the Parish Council for approving the new car park for The General Elliot. This is not correct as no planning application has yet been received for this proposal, likewise for new houses on the old car park site.

The Clerk reported that Parish Council elections would be held on 3rd May 2007, if there were more than 5 nominations. All nomination papers must be returned to the Vale by 4th April 2007.

The Next Meeting of the Council will be held on 2nd April 2007.

The May Meeting will be held on Wednesday 9th May 2007.

All parish councillors elected in the previous week must sign Declarations of Office first, then delay Council Meeting for the Annual Parish Meeting to be held. When the latter is completed the Parish Council Meeting will recommence.

Ms. Anne Wilson, Parish Clerk elect, will not be available for the April Meeting, so Mr. D. Wilkins will prepare all the appropriate documentation for the May Meeting.

There being no further business to transact the Chairman declared the Meeting closed at 8.48pm.

CHAIRMAN

Parishioners Comments

None