

Before the meeting Members were addressed by Peter Rawcliffe of the Oxford Flood Alliance in relation to local flooding matters at the Old Abingdon Road and Redbridge area. Peter explained that there were several “pinch points” where the streams become blocked due to silting and rubbish collection which prevents the discharge of water downstream and is a major cause of flooding at South Hinksey. He advised that there would be a meeting with the Environment Agency on 7th April 2008 to discuss the group’s findings.

SHPC/10/07

Minutes of the Meeting of the South Hinksey Parish Council held on Monday 3rd March 2008

Present: Councillor C. Briffett Chairman
Councillor Mrs E. Le Fevre
Councillor Mrs M. Rawcliffe
Councillor Ms S. Strawbridge

In attendance: Anne Wilson Parish Clerk
Rosemary Aldgate

163/07 Apologies for Absence

Councillor Colin Davies had emailed to advise that he had resigned as Parish Councillor for personal reasons.

RESOLVED: that a new Councillor would be needed to replace Mr Davies. The Clerk advised the vacancy would need to be registered with the VOWH.

164/07 Declarations of Interest

RESOLVED: to note that there were no declarations of any personal or prejudicial interest.

165/07 Minutes

RESOLVED: to confirm the minutes SHPC/09/07

A minor amendment was needed to Minute 155/07 Planning Application no SH1/19261/1 “It is inappropriate that gable ends face the road – there are no other houses facing the road in this way.”

Councillor Ms Strawbridge thought that this was not accurate.

RESOLVED: Parish Clerk to forward the amendment by email to the VOWH.

Councillor Briffett wished it to be also emphasised that development of the site was generally welcomed by the Parish Council for housing use.

Minute 152/07 the Woodland Trust needs to be amended to read the Forestry Commission.

166/07 Woodland Project Proposal

Councillor Briffett gave a verbal update. The next stage was maintenance work around the trees: weeding and mulching, also a fence repair and he suggested that an information board be erected at the site. He also intended to repaint the Chilswell Path sign.

Councillor Mrs Rawcliffe proposed a Vote of Thanks for Councillor Briffett for all the hard work he had personally done on the project.

167/07 Sale of Land off Chilswell Path to Mrs M. Pringle

The Clerk advised that she had received a letter from the Solicitor for Mrs Pringle which asked some questions regarding the right of access along Chilswell Path. She advised the Council that this was already a public right of way. The Council thought that there were no rights of vehicular access along the path. Mrs Pringle also wanted to establish “agricultural use” as well as garden use for one of the plots (Plot B). The Council thought that there should be no change from garden use to agricultural use but that permission should be allowed for Mrs Pringle to erect a greenhouse or garden shed on the smaller plot (B) at the rear of the house.

Concern was expressed by Councillors about a skip and some other items stored on the woodland site by the owners at No. 1. who had been previously asked to remove the items The Clerk advised that a solicitors letter may now be needed.

RESOLVED: The Clerk would contact the Council’s solicitors.

168/07 Village to Betty Lane Access

Councillor Briffett had contacted the County Council but had not received a reply yet.

The proposal was for an extension between Betty Lane and the Wyevale Garden Centre. He advised that Sunny Nahaas of Southcombe Lodge confirmed he had right of access across the field and the residents at the bottom of Betty Lane were not keen on the proposal because it would affect their privacy. There may still be a possibility of a gated road access or walking/cycle access. Betty Lane was in a poor state of repair and Councillor Briffett thought that a site meeting with a County Councillor and the Highways engineer might be needed, he would follow this up.

169/07 Use of Part of the Burial ground for recreation purposes.

RESOLVED: that occasional organised use was acceptable such as the recent village fete. However it was generally felt that informal recreational use of the land was inappropriate due to the close proximity of the graves and the potential for conflict.

The question was raised whether there was actually a need for additional recreational spaces by residents with young children as it was thought that there was adequate provision at the Hinksey Park or at the Nature Reserve.

170/07 Planning Applications

Application No. SH1/11845/3 The General Elliot: alterations to existing access and formulation of a car park.

The Clerk advised that the application had been passed but there were stringent conditions to be met. It was observed that the proposal to set the new access gate back off the road by 5m would provide a good turning circle. Also a condition of the application that the applicant should not store “spoil” on the land may need to be enforced.

171/07 Flooding Matters

RESOLVED: That Peter Rawcliffe is thanked for his thorough work in advising the Parish Council about flooding issues.

172/07 Cheques for Payment

Councillor Briffett signed cheques for the following:

Bicester Town Council postage and Photocopying expenses	£28.56
A. Wilson. For postage and stationary	£51.37
A. Wilson. Annual working at home allowance	£120.00
Cllr Briffett – expenses	£89.00
Grant for the Church	£500.00

A cheque for training course: OALC Introduction for Clerks and Councillors, Amount to be determined once numbers attending to are confirmed.

173/07 A34

Councillor Briffett said he had received a letter from VOWH to advise that the A34 would get a litter pick but this does not seem to have happened.

RESOLVED: To write to the Highways authority (County Council) and the Highways Agency re the amount of litter on the verges near the village.

Litter picking in rest of the village was planned for the weekend of 15th/16th March. Local Businesses and residents would be approached to help. Proposed times were agreed: Saturday between 10-12am and Sunday between 2-4pm. Councillors Briffett and Le Fevre would organise the event in Chilswell and Hinksey Hill respectively and Councillors Rawcliffe and Balaam would organise collection in different parts of the village. Notices and flyers would need to be prepared and distributed to residents and the Friends of South Hinksey.

Insurance implications would need to be considered. The Parish Clerk thought that the existing public liability insurance would cover the event but agreed to check this and advise Councillor Briffett and this information would be passed on to other Councillors.

Equipment would need to be obtained: Gloves, litter pickers, black sacks etc. and it would need to be agreed where the black sacks could be left for collection. Councillor Briffett advised that there would also be a need to carry out a risk assessment of the routes that litter pickers might use before the event.

174/07 Training

The Clerk suggested that new Councillors may wish to attend the OALC course: An Introduction for Councillors and Clerks, as well as the new Parish Clerk, if she decides to take up the post.

RESOLVED: Councillors Rawcliffe and Le Fevre would attend on Wednesday 9th April. Two places would be booked, and a provisional third place.

175/07 Correspondence

Councillor Briffett requested that the document “Overview of the Vale of White Horse Policy for Trees” be obtained.

A request had been received from the Church to obtain water from a standpipe in the pathway to supply new toilets at the church. This would necessitate some plumbing work.

RESOLVED: This was agreed so long as the path was reinstated if it was disturbed. The Clerk advised that the Church may need to ask for a sub meter to be installed so that their water usage can be separately metered. The Parish Councillors were not aware that the water was presently metered.

Celebration of Youth: to be held on 17th April: Nominations were invited by Councillor Mayhew Archer for young people in the village to attend the event by 28th March. Councillors would think whether they could nominate a young person from the village.

Root and Branch: A request for a donation had been received from a therapeutic horticultural group at Watchfield who work with people with mental health problems. Councillors did not think that anyone from the village attended this project.

Resolved: not to send a donation

Society of Local Council Clerks: Membership for new Clerk

The Clerk had obtained a membership form from the Society and suggested that Councillors may wish to pay for the new Clerk to become a member as this would provide a Clerk's Manual which is regularly updated, also a Local Government Administrative "Bible" and a Guide to Finance.

RESOLVED: To agree to the membership for the new Clerk, in principle.

176/07 Updates

Redbridge Hollow: Illegal Dump.

Councillor Briffett advised that the fire brigade were concerned about fires happening regularly at the illegal dump in Redbridge Hollow off the Old Abingdon Road. The County Council had estimated that the cost of removal of the materials at the dump was in the region of £300,000 as some of the materials may be toxic.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Rawcliffe advise the Clerk of the name and telephone number of the relevant Council Officer at the County Council who she should then email to express the Council's concern about the need for an urgent clearance of the site and also suggest that the site be railed off to prevent future illegal tipping. This e mail was requested urgently to support action proposals being made at a County Council meeting in two days time.

Increased Crime at Farm Buildings in South Hinksey.

Councillors were advised that there had been recent burglaries at the farm; equipment had been taken and a farm vehicle. Villagers were asked to be vigilant in reporting any perceived unusual activities.

RESOLVED: That the Neighbourhood Watch group be advised of recent events.

177/07 Elizabeth Halcro attended the meeting to make a request for a connection to the Parish Council water supply on behalf of the Church, she provided a plan showing what was proposed.

178/07 Date of Next Meeting: Monday 7th April at 7pm Annual Parish Meeting followed by the April Parish Council meeting at 7.30pm

Resolved: To hold the Annual Parish Meeting half an hour before the normal meeting, (a Chairman's Report would be required). The Clerk reminded the Chairman that she would need to be invited to attend the Annual Parish Meeting.