

Minutes of the South Hinksey Parish Council at South Hinksey Village Hall

Monday 5th January 2009

Present

Sarah Balaam, Clive Briffett (Chair), Sheridan Edward (Clerk), Elizabeth Halcro, Liz LeFevre, Maggie Rawcliffe (Vice-Chair).

Apologies

None

Declarations of Interest

None

Parishioners' Comments

Peter Rawcliffe updated the Council on:

a) Cycle ramps for the Devil's Backbone bridge: PR was working with Richard King and Sustrans to continue to apply pressure on Network Rail using the precedent set by the Kennington bridge.

Action: PR to update Council on progress.

b) Flooding measures: work had been delayed to the work at Redbridge, but PR had been assured the money was ring fenced and work was due to start in February.

c) Proposal for churchyard and burial ground: PR had been working with EH in her capacity in the Church to present a joint proposal for cultivation of the churchyard and the currently unused burial ground land. A survey was to be carried out on the current wildflower species in the churchyard and from that a detailed plan for the burial ground would be submitted. Council supported the plan in principle and would look at financially supporting the project once a detailed plan and costs had been submitted. It was estimated that, at the current rate of burial, the unused part of the burial ground would not be needed for c.20 years. **Action: PR and EH to submit detailed proposal to Council.**

Minutes of December meeting

Read and agreed.

Matters Arising

a) Ditch clearing: SB had earmarked two sites suitable for NPS to clear. The first was by John Piers Lane and the second by the orchard. **Action: CB to contact NPS to discuss.**

b) Noise pollution: no progress due to Christmas break. **Action: SB to continue to chase.**

Flu Pandemic

MR had drafted a statement to be submitted for publication in the Echo. Council approved statement with minor amendments. **Action: MR to submit to the Echo before 28/01/09 deadline.**

Road and Pavement Maintenance and Speed Controls

- a) Pavement maintenance: no progress at present due to Christmas break. **Action: MR to follow-up with Mr Softley and CB to discuss with NPS.**
- b) Speed controls: the County Council had rejected the proposals to reduce limit on unrestricted stretch on Hinksey Hill to 40mph and impose a 20mph limit in the village as they did not believe it met the criteria advised in Dept. for Transport's advisory leaflet 'Village Speed Limits'. Re: the 40mph, HA advised that there should be at least 400-600m between speed control areas, but the distance between the two 40mph areas was only 354m. Re: 20mph in the village, 'Village Speed Limits' stated that 20mph may be appropriate for some minor roads, but was difficult for through roads: as none of the roads in the village were through roads, Council believed that the 20mph was still appropriate. **Action: SE to draft an email response and circulate to Council for approval.**

General Elliott Public House

It was reported that the pub was closed as the current tenants had left. The Vale Brewery was keen that the pub continued to operate and was finding new tenants. The brewery also expressed interest in renovating and improving the pub. Council agreed to support this in principle. Vale Brewery confirmed they would present scheme to council prior to applying for planning permission. Following an enquiry from the Oxford Mail, MR drafted a press release, which Council approved. Given the situation, it was presumed that the caravan site proposal would not move forward. **Action: MR to attend photocall on Tuesday 6th January.**

The old pub car park needs cleaning up and the owners Goldacre Ltd have been supplied with a quote to get the work done. No response has been received yet. **CB to follow up**

Community Woodland – Future Work Parties

There was no further progress on it. NPS would be asked to cut the grass in March.

Burial Ground

The outstanding records were passed to SE. **Action: SE to enter on the register.**

Parish Council Notice Boards

EH reported that a replacement board has been made by Cullen the local builder for the Village Hall Committee and this was now ready. There followed a discussion about replacement of the existing Parish Council notice boards at the Village Hall, the top of Hinksey Hill and at the Burial Ground. CB supplied examples recently erected by Sunningwell PC and by a specialist company. It was agreed that replacement of all three boards was long overdue and competitive prices would be obtained. A board allowing members of the public to place their own notices was suggested for Hinksey Hill. **Action: SE to obtain quotes.**

Community Land

No update. Still awaiting response from Oxford City Council on discussions with the tenant farmer.

Action: CB to follow-up.

Chilswell Path Land Sale

Following a formal letter from CB to the buyer's solicitors, the buyers confirmed they still wished to proceed with the sale and would complete shortly.

Redbridge Travellers' Site

A proposed development of the site was reported in the Oxford Mail, quoting Cllr Bob Johnson. CB sent a letter to Cllr Johnson stating his dismay at the lack of consultation with the Parish Council and asking for further details. CB was still awaiting a response. It was felt that development of the site could be positive if it involved a clearing of the dumping ground. It was also felt; however, that development may not be necessary as a survey had revealed spare capacity on existing sites would meet national government targets. **Action: SE to obtain further details on the proposal.**

Planning Applications

SHI/20734 – Henriksen – extension and alterations to Bagley Cottage, Spring Copse. Council had no objections. **Actions: CB to consult neighbours.**

Correspondence

None

Finance

a) 2007/8 Audit – CB has prepared the audit documents and obtained the Internal Auditors Report previously circulated to all. The discussion held considered various aspects of the recommendations made and agreed to implement these. **Action: SE to meet with CB and submit forms and supporting documents to the External Auditors by mid-January.**

b) 2009 Precept. CB received a request from the VWHDC to submit a precept return by the end of Jan. Action: SE to compile information on past precepts and Council to discuss at next meeting. **SE to request an extension of deadline to mid-February.**

c) Cheques for payment:

- CB expenses (£57.80).

- Outerspace Co (£454.16): Council queried this. **Action: CB to clarify with Outerspace.**

- MR expenses: it was queried whether this had been paid. **Action: SE and MR to check bank statements.**

d) Cheques paid:

- Anne Wilson expenses (£13.18)

- Bicester Town Council photocopies (£28.27)

e) Cheques received:

- Burial Ground (£80)

Any Other Business

CB has prepared a list of all the file contents handed over to SE and circulated this to all councilors for record purposes. The archive documents have all been placed in the Village Hall filing cabinet but a new key to the lock is needed. **SE to follow up**

SE had been appointed as Parish Clerk and will be handed a formal contract this month **MG to follow up**. He had also been given all necessary paperwork and would be working over the next few weeks to get up-to-speed. **Action: SE to inform relevant parties of change of contact details and contact David Markham to set-up a new email account. CB to contact bank and VWHDC to inform of change.**

Date of next meeting: Monday 26th January 2009 at 7:30pm