

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

Monday 6th July 2009

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

Arash Fatemian (Cllr, OxonCC), Gareth Jennings, (Cllr, VOWHDC)

Parishioners:

SB asked on behalf of Jo Harris, whether the saplings on the lamppost at the General Elliott end of Manor Road could be removed. **Action: CB to organize with probationers next Monday.**

1. Parishioners' Comments

None.

2. Apologies

None

3. Declarations of Interest

MR and EH declared an interest in the Village Hall item to be discussed under AOB, as both were members of the Village Hall Management Committee.

4. Minutes of June 2009 Meeting

Read and agreed.

Under item 7, it was agreed that minuting under planning should include the development location.

5. Matters Arising

- a) **Flooding.** MR reported that work was under way to clear the pinch-points down as far as Redbridge, and should be finished by the autumn. SB had spoken to Nick Frearson with regard to clearing his ditches, and he had stated that he would deal with it in the autumn, but permitted the Council to undertake any work to clear in the meantime. SB also reported that the EA had walked the route and had no concerns. **Action: CB to arrange with probationers.**
- b) **Burial Ground.** EH asked for the smaller concrete container to be removed as it was being used for dumping rubbish. It was agreed that the container should be filled in with soil and used for plants. **Action: EH to arrange.** It was also felt that the leylandii needed pruning. **Action: SB to obtain quote from**

neighbour who is a tree surgeon. CB confirmed he had asked Dave Cullen for a quote to construct a new board of similar size to the one at the top of Hinksey Hill. **Action: CB to follow up**

- c) **A34 pollution.** SE reported that no air pollution tests had been carried out. **Action: SE to contact Tim Williams to arrange and CB to contact Oxford Brookes University.** EH reported that Evan Harris had informed her that no money would be available for noise pollution controls. **Action: EH to continue to chase.**
- d) **Old Car Park.** No update on potential use as community land. **Action: SE to continue to chase.**
- e) **Speed Controls.** No update on movement of 30mph sign on Parker Road. **Action: SE to continue to chase.**
- f) **Sewage.** SB reported that Thames Water had identified a probable cause of the problem and were working to fix the problem.
- g) **Chilswell Path rubbish.** SE had informed the LPA that the rubbish was not on Parish Council land and asked them to continue to investigate the problem. **Action: SE to continue to chase.**
- h) **Council House sale.** The agents had cleared the site in preparation for viewings and the closing date bids were the end of July.
- i) **Flood Plan.** There was no update. However SB felt that residents were already aware of what measures to take in the event of flooding.
- j) **Parker Road verge.** SE had received no reply from the County Council with regard to who was responsible for the maintenance of the verge. **Action: SE to continue to chase.**
- k) **Free-campers.** The Police had stated to SB that they had not been evicted as Nick Frearson had not formally objected to their presence. CB reported that a burnt out mattress had been dumped on the bridge near the illegal campers field **Action: SE to follow-up with Nick Frearson.**
- l) **Notice Boards.** These have now been erected but needed SHPC lettering. **Action: LLF to prepare headers.**

6. Finance – Payments and Receipts

Payments

Briffett - expenses	£75.47
Tombs – refund of right of burial	£300.00
Oxford City Council – street lamp easement	£0.13
LeFevre – expenses	£12.63
St Laurence Church – 2 x grant installments	£1000.00
Matthew Ellett – grass cutting for May and June	£736.00

Receipts

HMRC – VAT refund	£1754.26
Co-op Funeral Services – memorial fee	£60.00

7. Planning Applications

None.

SHI/2543/10-X – Erection of four dwellings at Woodside, Badger Lane, Hinksey Hill. Although the Council raised no objection to conversion to residential use concern was expressed on the number of dwellings (three were recommended instead) and protection of existing hedging and trees. CB reported that local residents had commented to the LPA separately as they felt four dwellings was too many given the current housing density in Badger Lane.

EH had received a letter from Philip Saugman who had received a request from the LPA to apply for retrospective planning permission for a rebuilt wall. Several councillors conferred their support for the work and the Council agreed that when invited by the LPA to comment on the application, the Council would lend its formal support.

8. Correspondence

NHS – Invitation to Flu Pandemic Seminar. Action: MR to draft information to be sent out on SHInfo, reminding parishioners of flu action plan.

Southern Oxfordshire Leader – Grants. Grants were available for community projects, including village development and regeneration. **Action: EH to investigate eligibility criteria.**

VOWHDC – Parish Boundary Review Contract. Following planned minor parish boundary changes to be implemented in 2011, a draft contract was circulated for comments. SE stated he saw no problems, and forwarded to CB to check.

Review of Service Provision for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. The review outlined various options for developing future provision, with the recommended option being for 75% of additional provision to be on current sites. Although there were no specific plans, it was likely that the Redbridge site would be developed as per the County Council's current strategy which would involve the creation of four additional sites on the current rubbish dump area.

9. Parking

SE had drafted a letter asking residents not to park on the pavement or obstruct access to driveways, and sent round for comments. It will be finalized this week and forwarded to the Council for use.

SE reported that enforcement of the two issues fell to the local police. He also stated that the County Council was responsible for on-street traffic provision, but that car parks were the remit of VOWHDC.

SE noted that parking provision was an ongoing issue and asked whether the Council would like to consider possible solutions such as a new car park. In the past efforts had been made by the Council to provide a car park accessed off Parker Road but residents were not prepared to pay the costs so the scheme was abandoned. Some residents had now expressed a willingness to pay for such a facility. The land was owned by the Oxford City Council and was leased to Mr Peter Burrows for horse grazing. It was agreed that the City Council be asked for an in principle decision with regard to developing the land and if successful a feasibility study would be undertaken. **Action: CB to discuss feasibility with Martin Lyons from the Oxford City Council this Friday.**

10. Finance Report – April to June

SE suggested that from the new financial year onwards, the Council receive quarterly financial updates. SE stated that the report was yet to be finalized and would be emailed with the June management accounts to the Council by the end of the week.

11. Sign on Hinksey Hill

Following recent work on Hinksey Hill, CB suggested that a sign be erected that identified the parish boundary and asking drivers to drive carefully. Although the Council acknowledged that road safety was of the utmost importance, there were doubts raised as to its effectiveness. Concerns were also raised over increasing the amount of street furniture. It was also noted that the scheduled work to reduce the speed limit at the top of Hinksey Hill should increase road safety. Council agreed not to pursue further.

12. Any Other Business

Roadside weed maintenance. Council agreed that this needed immediate attention. All pavements in the village, along Parker Road, over the A34 bridges, up Hinksey Hill and down Betty Lane needed spraying with herbicide as the current efforts of the NPS to clear by hand had not been effective enough for the longer term. **Action: SE to ask Matthew Ellett if he can action urgently.** The Devil's Backbone pathway was reported as becoming overgrown with vegetation. The path beyond the Hinksey Stream belonged to the Oxford City Council and they needed to be informed of clearance needs. **Action: SE to follow up with Matthew Ellett and OCC.**

Village Hall update. EH reported that the management committee had investigated changing energy suppliers but concluded that any savings would be too small to warrant the work. The committee had also investigated broadband provision but it was concluded that there would not be sufficient demand.

General Elliott. It was noted that the pub was still vacant. **Action: SE to chase brewery for a progress report.**

Notice re: information on the work of the Council. CB had produced a notice outlining the work of the Council to be placed on the notice boards. It was felt that further work was needed before posting and that fuller discussion was needed at the next meeting. **Action: SE to add to next agenda.**

13. Report of County and District Councillors

Both councillors expressed the intention of regularly attending future Parish Council meetings and it was suggested that this their reports become a regular agenda item. **Action: SE to add to future agendas.**

District Councillor, Gareth Jennings, stated that he was on the Licensing Committee and the NE Area Committee. The latter dealt with community grants, and he encouraged applications. There was no upper-limit to the grants, but applications were considered on a case-by-case basis. GJ also reported that from next year, waste collection would be changing to fortnightly for all but food waste. GJ also offered to follow up on the parking, planning and air pollution issues raised earlier in the meeting. **Action: SE to email GJ with details.**

The newly-elected County Councillor, Arash Fatemian, reported that he had been assigned to the Adult Services and Strategy and Partnerships Scrutiny committees. He reported that there was a 5-year strategy for reviewing roads and pavements and AF was hoping to get make the area's roads a high priority. AF reported that the clear up of the dumping ground at Redbridge in preparation for creating the four additional plots would take some time.

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