

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

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2010

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

Arash Fatemian (Cllr, OxonCC) from Item 5 (b)

**Parishioners:** None

## 1. Apologies

Gareth Jennings (Cllr, VOWHDC)

## 2. Declarations of Interest

None

## 3. Parishioners' Comments

None

## 4. Minutes of December 2009 meeting

Change date of meeting from 9<sup>th</sup> Nov to 7<sup>th</sup> Dec 2009

**Item 5 (k)** EH also attended planning meeting

**Item 7** General Elliott planning application – should read 'oppose the application due to *excessive size*'

**Item 8** CB was to attend the EA breakfast seminar at Seacourt Tower.

**Items 10 and 11** should be omitted – repetition from items 5 (l) and (m)

Read and agreed.

## 5. Matters Arising

- (a) **Church Close Barrier / Lighting.** Ian Matten has confirmed that salt and grit bins will be installed, and are on the priority list. The Engineer's Dept are yet to ascertain responsibility for the barrier. It was queried whether additional lighting was needed for Church Close. **Action: EH to chase with Eng. Dept. Council to meet at 7:15pm before next meeting at Church Close to review lighting.**
- (b) **Church Close Car Park.** Of 8 households, EH had received feedback from four private households, and VOWH which owns two. All were in favour of a car park, and two private residents and VOWH were happy to contribute towards it. Council felt that agreement from OCC was needed before investigating further. **Action: SE to arrange meeting between councillors and OCC.**
- (c) **Manor Road Ditch.** SB was yet to follow-up, but would discuss with EA.

- (d) **Potholes.** These were still to be repaired. **Action: AF to chase up.**
- (e) **Air pollution monitoring.** GJ and EH had spoken with Tim Williams who confirmed that it was still on the list to be done. CB suggested that Riki Therival from Oxford Brookes Planning Dept be asked to carry out monitoring with students **Action: EH to chase Tim Williams. CB to ask Riki Therival.**
- (f) **Community Land.** SE still to discuss and draw up agreement with Nick Frearson.
- (g) **Flooding.** It had been reported that the flood prevention scheme had been abandoned due to lack of funds.
- (h) **Devil's Backbone Tree Maintenance.** The Council felt that the willows were now a significant health and safety hazard. **Action: SE to inform OCC and pass on to Nick Frearson.**
- (i) **A34 bridge closure.** The Council and residents had not received any news, and as six weeks notice was required, the work was not imminent. AF reported that keeping one lane open at all times may not be possible.
- (j) **General Elliott.** CB reported that the EA had opposed on the principle that additional accommodation should not be built on a floodplain and Highways had opposed it due to access and traffic problems. VOWH also had concerns as to its financial viability. Final decision on planning application would be made that week but it was most likely to be refused.
- (k) **Communication Strategy.** SE reported that he had met with Linda Slater and Matthew Carlos and they had identified two main areas of improvement: ensuring there was a comprehensive network to cover all residents' preferences, and ensuring that there was an integrated strategy for the different media. The Council stated that it was keen to improve communication within the parish and agreed in principle to provide financial support in the form of grants and donations where necessary, but emphasized that the media should remain under the ownership of the community. **Action: SE to continue working with Linda Slater and Matthew Carlos to form a more tangible strategy.**

## 6. Finance – Payments and Receipts

### Payments

Village Hall Management Committee	Donation towards children's party	£50.00
Cive Briffett	December expenses	£13.80

## 7. Planning Applications

### 44 Manor Road SHI/14242/3-LB - rebuild of existing staircase

Notice received that the application had been permitted

## 8. Correspondence

(a) **VWHDC – Parish Boundary Review.** Tim Treuherz from Legal Services wrote to inform the Council that the proposed parish boundary changes were not viable as they were not conterminous with the district ward boundaries and asked whether the Council was still keen that they be implemented. The Council agreed that it was happy for the changes not to take place. **Action: SE to inform Tim Treuherz.**

**(b) VWHDC – Budget Proposals.** Cllr De Vere wrote to inform the Council that as savings were needed, grants for parish cleansing may cease, and parishes should make provision for their own cleansing. SE confirmed that this should not affect the parish, as cleansing was not subsidized by VWHDC.

**(c) VWHDC – Your Vale, Your Future.** Asking for further feedback on the additional consultation. Leaflets were distributed to councillors and feedback should be given to SE.

## **9. County Councillor's Report**

AF reported that December had been a quiet month for OxonCC. The Transport Committee would be meeting that Thursday to consider the proposed speed limit reduction between Hinksey Hill and Abingdon. AF also reported that the Strategy Partnership committee on which he sits, had their capital programme budget reduced from £39m to £4m. AF had received attendees at his surgeries, and his next one would be Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> January.

## **10. District Councillor's Report**

No report.

## **11. Finance Report – October to December**

SE reported that overheads and staff costs remained underbudget, due to underspends in office supplies, expenses and travel, subscriptions, insurance and audit fees. There was an overspend on grants and capital projects due to late payment of the second 2008/9 Church grant, and unforeseen expenditure on the community woodland and notice boards, giving a total overspend to date of £1,200. However, income was £9,000 larger than budgeted, due to grants for the community woodland and verge maintenance, burial fees and VAT refund. This gave a total surplus to date of £7,200, and total funds of £18,500.

## **12. 2010/11 Budget and Precept**

SE presented the draft budget and precept to the Council with a proposed increase from £9,060 (2009/10) to £10,970, with increases in maintenance budgets and budgets for the community land project and improvements to the burial ground area. The budgets for travel, expenses, office supplies, audit and subscriptions was cut in line with spending to date. SE stated that it was important that the Council reduce its current reserves and that 2010/11 expenditure could be covered by current funds without the need for a precept.

The Council felt that the current reserves should be used both to reduce the 2010/11 precept and be used to undertake larger maintenance projects and amendments to provide funds to repair the ditch on Manor Road and deal with the leylandii in the burial ground.

After amendments, the Council approved the budget of £14,720 but would only request a precept of £3,800. This represents a large reduction on previous years' precepts, which averaged £8,500.

## **13. AOB**

CB informed the Council that he would be standing down as Chair and councillor in April due to other commitments.

**Date of next meeting: Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2010**