

Minutes of the South Hinksey Parish Council

at South Hinksey Village Hall

Monday 17th May 2010

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

Arash Fatemian (Cllr, OxonCC),

Parishioners: Tom Barron, Carol Sweentenham

1. Election of Chairman

The Council elected Maggie Rawcliffe as Chair of the Council.

2. Election of Vice-Chairman

The Council elected Sarah Balaam as Vice-Chair of the Council.

3. Co-option of Councillor

SE reported that following the resignation of Clive Briffett at the April Meeting, VoWHDC were informed and information was circulated to parishioners on the noticeboards and SHInfo informing them of the vacancy and how to exercise their electoral rights. No election was called and the Council received one formal letter of interest from Tom Barron.

The Council there fore co-opted Tom Barron as Councillor.

4. Apologies

Gareth Jennings (Cllr, VOWHDC)

5. Declarations of Interest

None.

6. Parishioners' Comments

Carol Sweetenham attended the meeting to discuss the stile at the end of Betty Lane. Item 15 was therefore moved forward. CS reported that the stile was now in a state of disrepair and asked who was responsible for its maintenance, and also asked whether it might be converted to a gate to allow her easier access with her bike. SE stated that it had been confirmed that it was the responsibility of Oxfordshire Highways. It was believed that the stile was mainly for the use of Betty Lane residents and was probably not widely used by residents of Hinksey Hill. It was also believed that very few cyclists other than CS used the route. The Council agreed to write to Oxfordshire Highways to ask that it be repaired and that, if possible, it be replaced with a gate suitable for cycle access. **Action: SE to contact Oxfordshire Highways.**

7. Minutes of April 2010 Meeting

Item 4 heading should read "Minutes of March 2010 Meeting"

Read and agreed.

8. Matters Arising

a) BTAC Meeting. EH reported that only one representative was allowed from each authority. EH was investigating whether two was possible and LLF and EH will decide between themselves who attends.

b) Church Close barrier. Ian Matten from VOWH stated that the work to replace the broken side of the barrier with a gate would be too costly and they would therefore only repair the existing barrier. EH is awaiting a second quote to see if the work could be achieved more cheaply. **Action: EH to obtain second quote.**

c) Speed limit on Hinksey Hill. LLF had spoken again with Mark Francis who has assured her that the work is no.2 on the list and should be completed in the next couple of months.

d) Grit bins on Hinksey Hill. **Action: SE still to order.**

e) Devil's backbone fence. **Action: SE still to chase.**

9. Finance – Payments and Receipts

Payments

Peter Rawcliffe	Wildflower meadow expenses	£169.22
DJ Cullen	Noticeboards	£475.87
Matthew Ellett	April grass cutting	£399.50
Oxford City Council	Easement – street lamp	£0.13
SH Village Hall	Hire for General Elliot meeting	£20.00
Maggie Rawcliffe	April expenses	£8.47

Receipts

Set in Stone	2 x memorial fees	£120.00
Oxfordshire County Council	2010/11 verge grass cutting grant	£970.80

10. Planning Applications

SHI/15419/3 – Renewal – Notice of Permission

SHI/11845/6 – General Elliot PH – separate agenda item

11. Correspondence

a) ORCC Review Spring / Summer 2010. Circulated for information.

b) VoWH Boundary Review. Following last year's consultation about the boundary changes to South Hinksey parish, a further document was sent out for consultation. There is no change to the proposals agreed by the Council last year, and the changes do not affect the electoral role of the parish. Review given to LLF to double-check.

c) ORCC 90th Birthday. The Parish Council was invited to the celebration of the 90th Birthday of ORCC. EH felt that this may be of more relevance to the Village Hall. Information given to EH.

12. County Councillor's Report

AF reported that it had been a quiet month due to the general election, and that OxonCC were waiting to see how the new central government policies would affect local government.

AF also reported that the new contractors had been making good progress on the potholes. He also stated that stewards were being employed to be a one-stop shop on highways issues, and would let the Council know once he had the name of the representative for South Hinksey.

13. District Councillor's Report

None.

14. General Elliot Planning Application

The Council received a planning application for change of use for the General Elliot from a pub to residential. The plans were made available to parishioners, and following a very strong response, a community meeting was arranged on Wednesday 5th May, attended also by Gareth Jennings, Arash Fatemian and Nicola Blackwood, now MP for Oxford West and Abingdon. Those parishioners present voted strongly for the retention of the pub, and following the meeting, the Council voted to object to the planning application and SE drafted a letter to that effect, which was then circulated to the Council and parishioners for comments and amendments. This letter has now been submitted to Stuart Walker, Planning Officer for VOWH. MR also reported that Nicola Blackwood has written to VOWH in support of retaining the pub. The decision is due at the beginning of June.

15. Betty Lane stile

Discussed under Parishioners' Comments.

16. AOB

a) Verge cutting. SB reported that the verge along Parker Road needed some urgent attention. SE reported that regular verge maintenance was not in the current contract and was performed on an ad hoc basis. SE also reported that although the Council received a grant each year from Oxfordshire Highways, the Council held no plan of exactly what verges it was contractually obliged to maintain. **Action: SE to obtain plan from Oxfordshire Highways and obtain a quote for regular maintenance from Matthew Ellett. SE to ask Matthew Ellett to trim round road sign asap.**

b) Planning Enforcement. LLF reported to the Council that a hypnotherapy business that had been set up on Hinksey Hill was being investigated by planning enforcement, which would also be investigating the A-board sign at the front of the business.

c) Litter. LLF reported that litter remained a major ongoing problem on Hinksey Hill, especially at the lay-by opposite her house. The Council believed that it was the responsibility of Oxfordshire Highways to ensure that this was kept clean. SE also suggested that it may be possible for the District Council to enforce it under s215. **Action: AF to email Highways.** It was also reported that there was a build up of litter by the traveler site at Redbridge. **Action: AF to investigate.**

Date of next meeting: Thursday 10th June 2010