

SOUTH HINKSEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall, South Hinksey on Monday 2nd April 2007 at 7.33p.m.

PRESENT: - Councillors – P. J. Saugman (Chairman), Mrs. M. Rawcliffe (Deputy Chairman)
B. M. Halcro, Miss S. L. Gray.

Clerk - D. E. Wilkins.

Four parishioners were present.

Councillor C. Briffett had tendered his apologies for non-attendance due to holidays.

No Members, present, declared an interest in any matters to be heard at this Meeting.

06/143 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th March 2007, were taken as read, and then approved following a small amendment to section 06/135, and were signed as being correct, in the presence of the Council.

06/144 MATTERS ARISING

The Chairman reported that he had written to Dr. Ewan Harris MP, on the subject of the A34, including village exits and entrances, plus the bad surface particularly northwards. Some other parishioners had also made comments.

The Chairman reported on the subject of the Parish Council taking over the village web-site from FOSH. Linda Slater had told him there was no problem with current webmaster. Although the Chairman said he knew someone who would take on the duties, he was not sure if Councillor C. Briffett was correct in his comments and the matter should be discussed at the next meeting.

The Clerk said he was chasing the Vale regarding “the old car park of the public house”, but slow progress.

Mrs. Harris said she had contacted Greene King on the matter, although some contact was established, they have only said the site will be improved when planning is allowed.

The Council was not pleased with this attitude.

06/145 WOODLAND PROJECT

In the absence of Councillor C. Briffett nothing further to report.

06/146 COMMUNITY LAND PROPOSAL

The Clerk said he had written to the new officer at Oxford City Council, but had not received a reply.

The Parish Council have received a petition from residents of Church Close about car parking and possible use of land for parking, behind the houses. It was suggested that Oxford City be chased and include copy of petition. Also it was suggested that a site meeting might be useful. Work on the nearby housing development is nearly finished.

02/147 CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk read to the Meeting various letters, and circulars received, that contained matters of interest to the Council.

The Council considered applications for grants from Oxfordshire Chinese Community & Advice Centre, and the Alzheimer’s Society – decided to continue with parish grants only.

The Clerk reported that he had received a telephone call from Oxon CC regarding village potholes – these will be repaired shortly.

No response from the Highways Agency regarding A34. Oxon CC stated that any chasing on this matter always received the comment “we are looking into the problem”, but nothing happens.

The Clerk stated that the Village Hall will need to display from 1st July 2007 the proper no smoking signs at each entrance, toilets and kitchen. The sign for the main hall must be more visible.

Oxfordshire County Council wish to enter into an agreement with the Parish Council to provide a grass cutting service. This is a more formal arrangement than in previous years.

It was agreed by the Meeting that the agreements be signed and returned to Oxon CC.

The reason for the new agreement is that public liability insurance is now £5,000,000, which this Council does hold.

06/148 CHEQUE PAYMENTS

It was proposed by Councillor P. J. Saugman and Seconded by Councillor B. M. Halcro that the following cheques be approved: -

a) Allianz Cornhill plc – All risks insurance	£ 476.08
b) Oxon Assoc. of Local Councils – 2007/2008 Subscription	£ 122.79
c) Vale of White Horse District Council – refuse bin for burial ground	£ 29.00
d) Garden Railway Specialists – Clerk leaving present	£ 453.30

06/149 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Applications received from Vale Brewery for new car park attached to The General Elliot public house. The Chairman outlined to the Meeting the facts of the application, which includes use of the lane at the bottom of Manor Road. The application appeared to contain some incorrect measurements.

The Council supports the establishment of a car park, but is concerned about various aspects.

This Council received from District Councillor Bernard Auton copy of letter to Planning regarding the above, which was read to the Meeting. The Meeting does not accept that the Devils Backbone is a cycle path as its classification is only a public footpath. The bridge over the railway is owned by EWS not Oxford City Council.

A parishioner raised a point that certain lights from the EWS sidings blinded persons using the bridge for 5 metres and could hide unsavoury characters. The Parish Council will investigate.

06/150 FLOODING MATTERS

Nothing new to report regarding Towles Mill etc.

06/151 RISK ASSESSMENT

Carried forward to next Meeting.

06/152 PARISHIONERS MATTERS

None received.

06/153 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was reported that the apparatus for the lantern at the entrance to Church Close had been changed to an orange light instead of white (Oxon CC are replacing worn out lanterns with a new peach coloured light to be more environmental friendly).

Councillor B. M. Halcro reported that he would not stand again as a Parish Councillor in the May 2007 elections.

The Chairman thanked him for his long service to the Parish, which was supported by all the Councillors.

It was reported that a bridge on the footpath leading from the bottom of Manor Road towards John Piers Lane had worn support rails. Councillor Mrs. M. Rawcliffe has already spoken to Oxon CC.

At this point of the Meeting the Chairman presented to David Wilkins, gifts from the Parish in recognition of his 45 years service to Parish as Clerk. Mr. Wilkins thanked the Parish for the gifts, which will serve as a nice reminder for a lifetime of service, but not life sentence. He outlined to the Meeting how he became Clerk in 1962.

The next Meeting will be held Wednesday 9th May 2007, which will in first instance be the Annual Parish Meeting followed by Parish Council Meeting.

These Meetings will be the first to be held after the elections to be held on 3rd May 2007.

There being no further business to transact the Chairman declared the Meeting closed at 8.31pm.

CHAIRMAN

Parishioners Comments

Mrs. E. Halcro explained about insurance cover, and policing the burial ground if the proposed craft fair is held on the unused part of the burial ground.

Mrs. J. Harris raised comments about the old car park for the public house and Greene King's attitude. Hopefully the owners will clean up the site shortly.