

**South Hinksey Parish Council**

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 7 July 2008 in South Hinksey Village Hall, Manor Road, South Hinksey

Present:

Councillors: Clive Briffett (Chairman); Sarah Baalam; Elizabeth Le Fevre; Maggie Rawcliffe; and Cllrs Alison Rooke, Chairman of the Vale of the White Horse District Council and Jerry Patterson, Deputy Leader of the Council

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CB opened the meeting by welcoming Cllrs Alison Rooke and Jerry Patterson. Cllr Rooke introduced herself as the new Chairman (non-political) of the Vale District Council - the 'public face' of the Council. She can offer support for parish events and enable networking between the 65 Vale parishes to share best practise, and assist in publicising events. Cllr Jerry Patterson is Deputy-Leader of vale District Council (Ward: Kennington and South Hinksey).

**Agenda**

**49/08 Apologies for Absence**

None.

**50/08 Declaration of Interest**

None.

**51/08 Parish Clerk**

Appointment of Marcus Stewart ratified and confirmed by members.

**52/08 Councillor Vacancy**

MR, EL and CB are canvassing possible persons, with no success hitherto; CB encouraged all members to persevere. Cllr Jerry Patterson offered himself as a possibility if no-one else is forthcoming.

**53/08 Minutes**

Minute 33/08 (Sale of Land at Chilswell Path) amended as follows: "... right of access can be granted... cannot be fenced off *by* [rather than *in*] any method."

**54/08 Parish Council Insurance**

CB raised the question of: (i) what the Parish Council's ("PC") insurance cover actually covers; (ii) whether the premium is competitive. Clerk to investigate.

**55/08 Preparation for Possible Influenza Pandemic**

MR raised the issue of PC's preparation for an influenza pandemic, suggesting that this is discussed at a future meeting and prior to such a report appearing on the PC's website. This was agreed.

**56/08 Community Woodland Project**

CB gave an update on the project: the trees are 'thriving'; there is the possibility of funds from the Forestry Commission for on-going maintenance. CB recommended that the PC agrees funding of £120 per annum for the maintenance of the Council's two hectares.

**57/08 Tree Warden Scheme**

CB introduced the scheme: The Tree Warden Scheme is a national initiative to enable people to play an active role in conserving and enhancing their local trees and woods. The scheme was founded by the Tree Council and is co-ordinated by the Council with the support of National Grid and the government department Communities and Local Government. Tree Wardens are volunteers, appointed by parish councils or other community organisations, who gather information about their local trees, get involved in local tree matters and encourage local practical projects to do with trees and woods. Pam Johnson, Clerk, Kennington Parish Council, is a reference person. Clerk to forward CB's name and number to the Network Co-ordinator (at South Oxfordshire District Council).

#### **58/08 Community Land Trust Project**

CB stated that the Parish owns an area of land used for community events and speculated whether it would be possible to exchange the land for other land around the Village owned by the City Council, which is more conveniently located. He advised that the City Council were not in favour of such a move but might be prepared to exchange land on a use, rather than ownership, basis. He is continuing to investigate.

#### **59/08 Sale of Land at Chilswell Path**

The PC having agreed to grant right of way to the purchaser, the land has been sold. £3000 is forthcoming to the PC from the sale. Clerk to enquire of the solicitor when payment will be received.

#### **60/08 South Hinksey Burial Ground**

The administrative requirements relating to the burial ground should be circulated to members. Clerk to produce report.

#### **61/08 Planning Applications**

SB reported that most of these were not controversial, advising that the local Planning Office calculate, then check, that the 30% volume limit on increasing the size of an existing property is maintained, obviating the PC's need to calculate proposals itself.

SB reported that she had reservations about the *Kestrel Lodge* proposal, which appeared to have a 50% volume increase.

Future planning application sent to the Clerk should be forwarded to CB, with an accompanying email to SB. Clerk to action.

#### **62/08 South Hinksey Transport Issues**

CB reported that following the letter from the Oxfordshire County Council Highways with regard to issues for the Village no funding has been allocated for alteration of the Hinksey Interchange in the near future..

#### **63/08 Village to Betty Lane Access**

Following the letter to OCC making suggestions about ingress to and egress from the Village, MR observed that an improved slipway and a 50mph speed limit could be considered; Cllr Rooke suggested that a cycle path could also be considered.

#### **64/08 Flooding issues**

MR reported that Oxford Flood Alliance is reporting improvements. A programme of clearance work and silt removal has been completed by the Environment Agency on the trackside watercourse down-stream of Redbridge. They are seeking Networks Rail's agreement to the removal of the redundant bridge that was once a level crossing just north of the Southern By-pass road. This would improve flows in the watercourses at the Redbridge 'bottleneck'. The approved Short Term Measures work will see further works on Hinksey Drain up-stream of Redbridge, including a new channel cut from the track side watercourse to Hinksey Drain.

SB furnished a self-designed drainage plan, advising that the Environment Agency offers a useful publication as to the nature of responsibility for particular aspects of flooding and drainage issues.

Landowners, for example, have riparian responsibilities they may be unaware of. Cllr Patterson advised that the enforcement of law as to maintenance is problematic due to high cost.

MR raised the issue of sewage overflow in Manor Road and suggested that since Kennington and North Hinksey have experienced similar problems we might work together in making representations to the relevant authorities. The Clerk had already contacted the authorities about this problem, which has been noted and is receiving investigation.

#### **65/08 Cheques for payment**

Council confirmed the following payments:

A Wilson - expenses	£ 8.64
A Wilson - wages	£326.73
Inland Revenue	£ 81.60
Outerspace Garden Co	£219.44
Cllr C Briffett - expenses	£ 78.46

#### **66/08 Internal Audit**

Clerk to liaise with his predecessor in regard to the notional value of Parish assets; also to prepare Parish accounts for the forthcoming internal audit. Clerk to action.

#### **67/08 A34**

Cllr Ian Hudspeth, Oxfordshire County Council cabinet member for transport, to be approached in relation to County plans for Hinksey Hill roundabout and how the PC may influence these. Clerk to action.

#### **68/08 Correspondence**

Members requested to consider or note the following:

- Oxfordshire Climate Exchange
- CB reported on the econsultation hub (planning portal for view/comment upon online planning applications)
- Thames Valley Police advertisement for Special Constables
- Clerks & Councils Direct magazine

#### **69/08 Possible Cycle Ramp on Railway Bridge**

The PC supports this proposal and the individuals heading the initiative. The District Council's Community Grants Fund may make a donation. CB to contact the individuals concerned.

#### **70/08 Thames Water Consultation - New Reservoir**

CB reported that the case for the proposed reservoir has not been proven. Cllr Rooke advised that the matter is being investigated by the Vale of the White Horse District Council.

#### **71/08 Updates**

Wind turbines for Hinksey Heights: no further details; no planning application lodged.

Fires at Redbridge: this matter is receiving the attention of Gary Brewer at the County Council. The PC noted that there is a possible community health issue in relation to fires at the Redbridge dump. It was agreed that the matter of such fires should continue to be raised at County and also District levels - specifically: noxious fumes; environmental health hazard; smoke affecting safe driving.

#### **72/08 Litter Campaign**

Litter has been observed frequently on the A34. As this is a possible hazard, and unsightly, to whom is such a problem reported? Clerk to ascertain.

**73/08 Any Other Business**

- MR will furnish a future report on the influenza pandemic matter as the PC is the 'local authority' on this matter.

- CB reported that the Village of the Year (previously Best Kept Village) had been won by Woodcote, noting that it has an excellent parish plan, which SHPC might wish to consider for ideas for the future.

- Oxford University is seeking land for a book depository. It was put to the PC that there is no case for it in proximity to the Village because of the existence of the flood plain the large size of the proposed plant, and the visual blight.

- The possibility of a telephone line and internet access for the Village Hall was raised. What would be the cost? Clerk to action.

**74/08 Date of Next Meeting: Monday 1 September 2008 at 7.30pm**