

Minutes of the Meeting of the Shipton-under-Wychwood Parish Council
7.30pm on Tuesday 19th August 2008
at the New Beaconsfield Hall

Present: Cllr. Alan Vickers (Chairman), Cllr. Robin McConnachie, Cllr. Mike Watson, Cllr. Jo Cook, Cllr Neil Jagger, Cllr Jill Mavin, Cllr Malcolm Cochrane.

Parish Clerk: Angela Barnes

1. **Apologies for Absence:** County Cllr. Rose and District Cllr. Hilary Biles.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** There were no declarations of interest.
3. **Minutes of the Meeting of 15th July:** The minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
4. **Public Time:** There were no members of the public present.

5. **Matters Arising from the Minutes:**

(a) Signs for Ballards Close and St Michael's Close; the Clerk reported that although acknowledgement had been received, there had been no formal response.

(b) Oxfordshire Village of the Year; the Clerk was asked to write to ORCC and confirm that the cheque for £100, as runner up in the Calor Oxfordshire Villages of the Year Competition 2008, should be made payable to Shipton-under-Wychwood Parish Council

(c) Boundary walls and the road surface on the double bend by the Lamb Public House; the Clerk was asked to chase Oxfordshire County Council Highways, copying County Cllr Rodney Rose on the following:

- ? the boundary wall on Shipton Road
- ? the road surface on the double bend by the Lamb Public House

6. **County Councillors Report:** No report.

7. **District Councillors Report:** No report

8. **Planning:**

New Application: 08/1292/P/FP Walnut Tree House, Milton Road; Conversion of garage to self contained accommodation and erection of new detached 3 bay garage (part retrospective). The Council had no objections provided that the detached accommodation is only for the use of the occupants of the main house. Any hard standing in front or around the planned three bay garage should be porous so as not to exacerbate village drainage problems.

(a) Application: Old Forge Cottage, High Street - Installation of ground source heat pump to garden adjacent to existing boiler room; **Granted**

(b) Application: Appletrees, Milton Road; Conversion of part of garage to living accommodation; **Granted**

(c) Application: 15 Courtlands Road - Remove existing garage and erection of two storey side extension; **Granted**

(d) Application: 8 Littlebrook Meadow - Erection of rear conservatory; **Granted**

(e) Application: The Hawthorns - Erection of single storey rear extension; **Granted**

(f) Application: Land at Milton - Erection of dwelling; **Refused**

9. **Financial Matters:**

Payments to be authorised:

Green Scythe Grass Cutting £967.97

Shipton Volunteers Expenses April to July £98.72

Clerks Monthly Salary £241.20 and Expenses £65.43

Margaret Johnson Office Supplies 2009 Diary and Cashbook £51.16

Payments Received:

Peter Hills £199.63 repayment of Faculty fee (this is only payable on the lodgement of private Petitions)

10. **Flooding:**

(a) Meeting chaired by David Cameron; Cllr Vickers reported that this was a good meeting with action points and dates established for a wide range of issues. All the questions raised by Shipton-under Wychwood Parish Council were attended to and paid particular attention to the role of Thames Water.

(b) Blenheim Cottages; Cllr Vickers had visited this site and confirmed that Thames Water would be looking at:

- ? an old reservoir approximately 60 yards uphill
- ? a foul water drain in the road bank very close the cottages
- ? a cattle trough in the field immediately behind the cottages

The Environment Agency and Oxfordshire County Council Highways Department had also been contacted regarding other possible sources of the problem.

Cllr Vickers reported that after having spoken with the neighbouring landowner, it was not obvious that the water was coming from the farmland. It was evident however that water was rising from underneath. Cllr Jagger reported that he had been advised there were springs in the vicinity of the cottages. Cllr Vickers reported that the PC would be following up the contacts made.

(c) Walk with Jim Sokal, Environment Agency; Cllr Vickers reported that he and Jim Sokal had walked the river bank. It was confirmed that the base of the river is fairly hard and the water flow good. Jim Sokal confirmed that the Environment Agency would be cutting back some vegetation in September, clearing some areas of silt and generally tidying up the banks.

11. **Charity Commission:**

A letter received from the Charity Commission was read out to the meeting and after discussion the Clerk was asked to reply as follows;

- ? The Parish Council fully supports the development of a thriving tennis club in Shipton-under-Wychwood.
- ? However it cannot agree to the building of a facility on common land for exclusive use of a private club.
- ? The Parish Council cannot consider the de-registration of common land until it is satisfied that in any new arrangement, full provision has been made for the parishioners of Shipton-under-Wychwood.

It was also noted that the only plans brought to the attention of the Parish Council are those dated November 2005.

12. **Allotments:** Cllr Mavin reported that there was not good news on the road surface and the question of donated rubble. Due to timing the rubble had been sent elsewhere some three weeks ago. Peter Benn of Millfield confirmed that he would continue to look for an alternative source of rubble. Another approach might be to dig out the road surface further up or just fill in the potholes in the existing road, but this would need further assessing.

Cllr Mavin reported that tenants were still applying for allotment sites. Cllr Cook asked Cllr Mavin to ask all allotment holders to check for Ragwort.

13. **Correspondence:** A list of correspondence received had been circulated to Councillors to consider.

17. **Other Matters for Discussion:**

Cllr Watson reported that the Costcutters site had been approached by a chemist to rent the property. This had been rejected by the site owners.

Cllr McConnachie referred to the number of properties currently vacant throughout the Village and wondered whether there might be implications for Parish Council policy.

Cllr Jagger thanked the Parish Council for their donation to the Burford School Mini Bus fund.

Cllr Cochrane reported;

(a) the ongoing problem of parking on the Wildflower site on the A361 on the righthand side before Blenheim Cottages. Visibility is poor on this site and the Clerk was asked to contact PCSO Kirstyn Tyrer to monitor.

(b) the state of the Bench at Fiveways. It was agreed that Shipton Volunteers should take a look at this and if it cannot be repaired then the Parish Council will need to consider replacing it.

(c) welcome packs - Cllr Vickers confirmed that he would make some more and distribute.

(d) Bowerham drainage - a resident in Gas Lane had reported problems with excess water overloading an external soak away on her property. This may be coming from the Bowerham building or a down pipe recently installed at a neighbouring garage. Cllr Vickers replied that he had raised this matter some months ago with the District Councillor but had been informed that, as Gas Lane was an unadopted road, this did not come under the remit of any of the public authorities.

Cllr Vickers asked the meeting if the Parish Council should be represented at the Anniversary Party of the New Beaconsfield Hall, to be held on 30 August. All agreed this was a good idea and would be happy to take turns in manning a stall. Cllr Watson agreed to contact Cllr Vickers with details of an available display stand.

Cllr Vickers reported that while on the walk with Jim Sokal they had noticed that the bridge behind the surgery over the Littlestock Brook had still not been repaired and this created a serious potential fatal hazard for any small child if the brook was in flood. The Clerk was asked to chase Oxfordshire Highways.

There being no further business, Cllr.Vickers declared the meeting closed at 9.35pm and confirmed the September meeting would be held on Tuesday 23rd September.