

Minutes of a Meeting of Shipton-under-Wychwood Parish Council
7.30pm on Tuesday 18 August 2009
at the New Beaconsfield Hall

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

WODC: Mr Bob Lightfoot

Parish Clerk: Angela Barnes

Members of the Public:

John Hartley, Anita Hollingdale, Sir John Graham and Rosemary Waterman

1. **Apologies for Absence:** District Cllr Hilary Hibbert-Biles.

2. **Declarations of Interest:**

County Cllr Rodney Rose declared an interest in the Tennis Club pavilion.

3. **Minutes of the Meeting of 21 July 2009:**

The Minutes were agreed as a true record and duly signed, dated and filed.

4. **Outstanding Actions from the Minutes:**

Signage at Ballards Close and St Michael's Close District Cllr Biles has taken photographs to chase this. **Ongoing**

Cecil Viner Seat on the Village Green; Cllr Vickers thanked Jeremy Huntingford for the repairs done to the seat.

Ragwort at Judds Grave; the Clerk has written to riparian owners asking for the ragwort to be pulled up by the root and destroyed.

5. **Public Time:**

Cllr Vickers welcomed the members of the public and invited them to raise any issues;

Q: Sir John Graham asked the meeting if the weeds along the wall by the Green could be removed?

A: Cllr Vickers reported that the Shipton Volunteers had addressed this issue some six weeks ago and will be doing so again.

6. **County Councillors Report:**

County Cllr Rodney Rose reported that he had been seeking quotations from contractors to repair the stone wall on the bridge and confirmed that the other parties were involved too.

7. **District Councillors Report:**

No report.

8. **Parish Consultation:**

Cllr Vickers gave an update on the Tennis Club Pavilion. He confirmed he had written to the Solicitors who act for the Hall asking for their advice on the de-registration of the third tennis court. A copy of the reply had been emailed to all councillors and a hard copy given to Cllr Cook prior to the meeting. The reply did not give a clear ruling as to whether the PC needs to de-register the third court and if so if this should be done separately or together with the de-registration of the land to be used for the Tennis Club Pavilion.

Cllr Vickers reported that proof of ownership of the land needed to be confirmed. It is not clear whether the Parish Council or the Hall is the owner of the land. Cllr McConnachie has given all the information to the Solicitors to prove. Cllr Cochrane suggested that discussions be adjourned until this information had been ascertained.

9. **Dog Fouling:**

Cllr Vickers welcomed Bob Lightfoot from WODC who had come to the meeting to give a presentation on the problem of dog fouling within villages and to explain the level of support available. A copy of Cllr Watson's report had been sent to Mr Lightfoot prior to the meeting and it was agreed unanimously that the South side of the Village was very low on dog fouling bins.

Mr Lightfoot reported that there were some 700 to 800 bins throughout West Oxfordshire and advised the Council to embark on an education programme before investing in more bins. Currently 30 tons of dog faeces are collected in West Oxfordshire. It is possible that collection methods may change and costs could increase dramatically. He reported that a new Dog Warden had been employed and WODC would be happy to assist Shipton with this problem firstly through an education programme and erecting signs around the Village free of charge. Secondly by being proactive within the Village.

Mr Lightfoot recommended that the Parish Council refer to the Oxfordshire Act. He advised the meeting that the Village had two bins missing and these could be replaced. It was agreed unanimously that the replacement bins should be in Upper End and Meadow Lane.

Mr Lightfoot gave a copy of his report to the meeting and Cllr Vickers thanked him for attending and providing helpful advice and support.

10. **Sandbin Sites:**

Cllr Vickers gave an update to the meeting and advised that a suitable site with good access at the Red Horse Public House had been agreed. Bob Lightfoot agreed to take a look at the site and report back.

11. **Play Equipment:**

Cllr Cochrane gave an update on the equipment and reported that three examples of the new equipment would be on display at the Fete. He reported that questionnaires would be given out to the public for them to give their choice and opinions. Cllr Cochrane reported that the search for funding was ongoing with WODC, TOE etc.

12. Wild Garden:

Cllr Vickers gave an update to the meeting advising that the sub-committee had had a successful meeting with Brian and Barbara Gorton. They had walked the area to ascertain boundaries and discussed likely future levels of maintenance. It was thought that £100k would need to be raised to include the purchase price and allow for reasonable maintenance levels.

Cllr Watson reported that a trust company would need to be set up. A separate bank account would be required to enable tax relief on donations and transparent accounting.

Cllr Vickers reported that there were two decisions to be made, the first being a formal offer and the second a timetable. A formal offer would imply the Parish Council underwriting a capital amount of approximately £20k after setting up a Trust Company and the balance over three years. Cllr Vickers suggested an article be put in the Wychwood and a special meeting arranged in October to present the project to parishioners.

Cllr Vickers asked the Councillors if they agreed with the above proposal. This was carried unanimously, subject to the parishioners' views. Cllr Vickers asked the councillors to consider a suitable name for the trust company.

13. Burial Ground:

Ongoing.

14. Planning:

New

09/0920/P/FP Erection of single storey rear extension and construction of chimney at 22 Sinnels Field **(New)**

09/0941/P/FP Erection of detached outbuilding and new vehicular access at Old Forge Cottage High Street **(New)**

Ongoing

09/0706/P/FP Erection of two storey side extension at 7 Sinnels Field **(Ongoing)**

09/0831/P/LB External alterations at Classrooms, Church Walk Shipton-under-Wychwood **(Ongoing)**

09/0880/P/FP Erection of two storey front extension and conversion of loft to include rooflights and dormer windows at Four Furlongs Leafield Road **(Ongoing)**

09/0667/P/AC Erection of two fascia signs on stone pillars at the main entrance to Tall Trees, Shipton-under-Wychwood **(Withdrawn)**

09/0420/P/FP Erection of two storey front extension and conversion of loft to include new rooflights and dormer windows at Four Furlongs, Leafield Road. **(Ongoing)**

The Clerk was asked to write to WODC noting the Parish Council's objections to the planning application at Old Forge Cottage, High Street, noting the following points;

- ? The exit is too close to the junction and would have a deleterious impact on a long established village view
- ? The style of gate is wrong and not in keeping with a village location in a conservation area

? The application includes an inaccuracy as the claimed former access had only been a small gate above a churn stand

15. **Financial Matters:**

Cllr Watson gave the meeting a financial update to the end of March 2009.

Payments to be authorised:

Wychwood Primary School donation	£100.00
Shipton Volunteers donation	£100.00
Green Scythe grass cutting	£975.36
SMP (Playgrounds) Ltd	£2535.06
Clerks Salary and Expenses	£317.73
Cllr Jill Mavin (Allotments)	£42.66
Alistair Tomlinson (Key cutting Allotments)	£20.00

15. **Financial Matters cont'd:**

Payments into current account:

P Snare Allotment Rent	£7.50
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16. **Allotments:**

Cllr Mavin gave a report and confirmed the recent correspondence received with regard to a complaint about bonfires had now been sorted. The Clerk reported she had spoken to OALC with regard to boundary walls and they confirmed that these should be noted in the rules and regulations and allotment tenants should sign and agree to abide by them. Cllr Mavin reported that she would re-visit the rules and add any new ones ie boundary walls. Cllr Vickers asked if he could see them prior to being sent out to tenants. **Action Cllr Mavin**

Cllr Watson suggested a detailed map of the allotment field to assist in administering the allotment plots. The Clerk was asked to contact WODC to request one. **Action Clerk**

17. **Correspondence:**

As circulated to Cllrs.

18. **Other Matters for Discussion:**

Cllr McConnachie reported that he had received a complaint from a parishioner about the speed of the traffic on the Leafield Road especially at school times. Cllr McConnachie offered to walk on the school run with her. **Action Cllr McConnachie**

Cllr Watson reported on the recent Flood Meeting held in the Hall with David Cameron. He reported that the meeting had been very useful and that there were four major points concerning Shipton. Cllr Watson suggested the PC keep track of them. **Action Clerk**

Cllr Jagger reported on the flooding of the brook and that children were continually damming the brook with large stones. Cllr Vickers suggested a short note be sent to parishioners in Reynolds Close. **Action Cllr Vickers**

Cllr Cochrane reported on the state of the electrics underground on the Village Green by the Christmas Tree site. He reported that a new junction box would need to be erected on the wall of the Green.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.25pm and confirmed the next meeting would be Tuesday 15 September.