

Minutes of the meeting of the Shipton under Wychwood Parish Council held at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 18th March 2008 at the New Beaconsfield Hall.

Present: Cllr. Alan Vickers (Chairman), Cllr. Joanna Cook, Cllr. Jill Mavin, Cllr. Malcolm Cochrane, Cllr. Neil Jagger, Cllr. Robin McConnachie, Cllr. Mike Watson, Cllr. Hilary Biles (District Councillor).

Also Present: Mr. Stuart Edlington, Operations Manager, Cottsway Housing.

1. **Apologies:** Cllr. Rodney Rose.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** No declarations of interest were made.
3. **Minutes of the Meeting of 19th February:** An amendment was made to Agenda Item 13 Correspondence: The cost of erecting a new street light was £6,000.00 not £60,000.00. With this amendment the minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
4. **Public Time:** No Members of the public were present.
5. **Langston House and Bowerham (Agenda Item 12):** The Chairman proposed that this item be taken at this point in the meeting to allow Mr. Edlington to talk about the Open Day and associated items before other business. Councillors agreed to this proposal. Mr. Edlington outlined the current position from the perspective of Cottsway about the future of Langston House and Bowerham. Cottsway were keen to work with OCC and WODC to meet the needs for extra care beds in the Wychwoods and had embarked on a thorough consultation to assess need now and in the future. A financially viable extra care housing scheme would need at least 50 units and the Langston /Greenlands site may not lend itself to that scale of development. The final strategy would be in place by late summer. No decision had been taken about Bowerham. Flats had been left vacant to allow for possible re-housing of Greenlands tenants but as they will not be needed the two vacant flats will be let. Cottsway were aware that acquiring land was expensive and selling assets could be difficult. Cllr. Vickers drew attention to the pollution problem associated with the area round Bowerham as it was sited over an old gas works and associated tar pits. Decisions about the future use would be made by August. Cllr. Biles reminded Councillors of the promise that extra care beds would be available in the Wychwoods after Langston House closed, and requested assurances from Mr. Edlington that the comments of the Shipton Parish Council would be taken into account. Mr. Edlington assured Councillors that they would be consulted.
6. **Matters Arising from the Minutes:**
 - a) **Play Area:** Mr. Stewart had repaired the damaged post.
 - b) **Emergency Plans:** Cllr. Biles confirmed that the paper from Mr. parry would be issued to Parish councils through WODC
 - c) **Verges:** Mr. Paul Wilson had suggested two colleagues to liaise with the Wychwood Project on planting of some areas of verge. The Clerk would remind OCC and Green Scythe of the action required.
7. **County Councillor's Report:** In the absence of Cllr. Rose no report was available.

8. District Councillor's Report:

a) Roads: The WODC road sweepers would be in the village in the next few days. Cllr. Biles requested that the Shipton Volunteers should not sweep leaves into gullies which caused blockages.

b) Community Safety: Weight restrictions for lorries were being imposed on the A361 into Shipton and Chipping Norton. Signs would be going up soon. Cllr. Biles saw this as a first step in reducing the amount of heavy traffic but there was still more to do. Cllr. Cook raised the question of the weight restriction sign in Milton which has the effect of diverting local lorry traffic through Shipton.

c) Flood Plan: The reports had been delayed until May. As soon as the proposals were available a joint meeting would be arranged for Ascott, Milton and Shipton. Cllr. Biles would ask David Cameron MP to chair the meeting. Thames Water had raised the height of the telemeter on the bank of the Evenlode. This error had been brought to their attention and it would be re-sited upstream.

9. **Planning Matters: a) Applications and Decisions:** There were no new planning applications for consideration. The application for the erection of a single storey side extension at The Tithings, Prebendal Drive had been granted with conditions.

b) Potential Development Sites in Shipton: One site in Shipton had been suggested as a potential site for development as part of the WODC Local Development Framework consultation process. This was the Glebe Field, Ascott Road put forward by the Oxford Diocesan Board as a potential site for housing. Councillors agreed to write to WODC objecting to this proposal on the grounds that it was outside the development envelope, access along Ascott Road was potentially dangerous and development would affect the open nature of this approach to the centre of the village. Councillor Watson suggested that a discussion should take place soon about how the parish should deal with adding to housing stock to ensure that the village did not atrophy.

10. Financial Matters: a) Payments to be authorised:

The following payments were authorised. Russel Bailey £251.67 expenses relating to the website in the period 2001 to 2007; Scribe Software licence renewal £195.00; Clerk salary 3862.33; Shipton Volunteer expenses Paul Chantry £193.85; Sweat Shirts Shipton Volunteers £243.23

11. Allotments: Cllr. Mavin reported that the quote of £500.00 for improving the roadway was confirmed. Mr. Benfield would be ready to proceed in 3 to 4 weeks. Cllr. Jagger asked that a check be made to confirm that the use of rubble was permitted and the Clerk would contact Mr. Lightfoot at WODC for his opinion. Mr. Terry Wigley had also offered the stone remaining after the recent improvements to the stone walls around the site if it was suitable for use. One tenant, Carolyn Bond, had given up her allotment.

12. Transport: Cllr. McConnachie reported that the Parish Transport survey would go ahead. Mr. John Gittings had offered his assistance. ORCC would analyse the findings. It would be completed in time to contribute to the review of the Chipping Norton/Woodstock bus services to be conducted by OCC this summer.

13. Annual Parish Meeting Arrangements: The agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting was agreed. There had been a reminder from the Shipton United Charities that the Parish Council appointed Trustees, Mrs. Audrey Fincham and Mrs. Barbara Pearce were willing to serve another term. Cllr. Cochrane proposed that Mrs. Fincham and Mrs. Pearce be confirmed as Trustees, seconded by Cllr. Cook and agreed unanimously. Cllr. Cook and Cllr. Mavin agreed to provide tea and biscuits after the meeting. The A361 Group would give a short update on progress at the beginning of Other Matters for Discussion.

14. Meeting on July Floods: Cllr. Vickers gave a summary of the recent meeting with WODC and the Environment Agency. A copy of the notes of the meeting is attached to these minutes for the record. Thames Water had not sent a representative which was a matter of concern. The basic problem was achieving some co-ordinated action amongst the agencies and finding the money to put plans into place.

15. Other Matters for Discussion:

a) Potholes: The clerk was requested to contact Northern Area OCC and ask that potholes in Mutton Lane, at Judd's Grave and the raised grating by the Red Horse be dealt with.

b) A361 Campaign: Cllr. Watson gave a brief update on progress. Regular meetings were being held with representatives from other owns and villages along the A361.; the Community Support Officer had organised a series of speed checks in the village; residents along the A361 were displaying 30 mph reminder signs on their wheelie bins; Campaign leaflets had been circulated in the parish; a 'Wall of Shame' had been set up on the website identifying offending vehicles and 10 operators had agreed to re-educate drivers who use the route. The campaign now needed to raise a small amount of money to meet the costs of printing leaflets. Cllr. Vickers proposed that grant of £100.00 be made and this was agreed unanimously.

c) WODC Arts and Sport Achievement Awards: Cllr. Biles informed the Council that Jo Muddle from Shipton had received a Sports Achievement Award.

d) Caring Homes: The Clerk was requested to contact Caring Homes to remind them about the Cricket Club use of the land at the rear of the Tall Trees site.

e) Emergency Plan: A copy of the draft would be available for people to see at the Annual Parish Meeting.

f) Recruitment of New Clerk: Notices would go up in the next few weeks and insert about both posts, Parish Clerk and Hall Manager, was to be included with the Wychwood Magazine.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 21.30