

Minutes of the Meeting of Shipton-under-Wychwood Parish Council
7.30pm on Tuesday 20 January 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 Neil Jagger, Cllr Jill Mavin.

Parish Clerk: Angela Barnes

Members of the Public:

Michelle Williams, Home Manager
Sarah Fish, Commissioning Director for Caring Homes Group Limited

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr. Mike Watson sent his apologies.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** There were no declarations of interest.
3. **Minutes of the Meeting of 18 November 2008:** The minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
4. **Public Time:** Please refer to Tall Trees below.

5. Tall Trees:

Cllr Vickers introduced Sarah Fish, the Commissioning Director for Caring Homes Group Limited and Michelle Williams, the Home Manager of Tall Trees and welcomed them to the meeting. Ms Fish gave a brief background to the re-development of Tall Trees and was hopeful that building works would be complete early in March.

They were actively recruiting staff and so far had had 30 applications. They were looking to employ some 20 employees in total. Within the first three months there would be up to 12 residents.

Q: The meeting asked if Dog Kennel Lane would be returned to its former state and what were the plans for the entrance?

A: Sarah Fish replied that it was their wish to restore as much as possible back to the original state including some re-surfacing. They were planning to clean the entrance posts and would like to invite PC members to inspect the works. She would liaise with the Clerk on dates.

Q: Cllr Cochrane asked what the Care Home's admission criteria were and was there a provision for terminally ill patients.

A: Ms Fish replied that, in essence, the Home was for older people including those suffering with dementia for whom there will be a separate wing. Nursing and residential care would be on the other side of the building.

Q: District Cllr Hilary Hibbert-Biles asked how many beds would be allocated to the County?

A: Ms Fish answered six initially and confirmed that a new Spot Contract had been signed as opposed to a Block Contract.

Cllr Vickers thanked both Ms Fish and Ms Williams and asked them if they had any questions for the PC. Ms Williams asked the PC about the lamppost by the pillars not working. County Cllr Rose said he would look into this and get back to them. Ms Williams asked the PC for their help in arranging a nameplate or sign directing traffic and visitors from the Chipping Norton end of the Village. Cllr Vickers advised that the PC would look into this and meet with them to discuss.

6. Grasscutting Contract 2009:

The quotation supplied by Green Scythe for 2009 was discussed. Cllr Vickers would speak with them and ask for the quotation to be revisited, in particular regarding the amount quoted for the new burial ground. The Clerk was asked to invite WODC to tender and an advertisement would also be put on the Website.

7. Sandbag Sites:

After discussion about size and possible sitings the Clerk was asked to write to Bob Lightfoot at WODC and invite him to the February meeting.

8. RoSPA Inspection:

Cllr Cook reported that the RoSPA Inspection had highlighted (a) a crack on the Skateboard surface, (b) a need for the ground by the Slide to be reinstated. It was discussed and decided that the conditions were presently too wet and the works would be addressed once the weather had improved. Cllr Cook asked the meeting if she could purchase a new swing seat and this was agreed.

District Councillor Hilary Hibbert-Biles reminded the meeting about match funding still available for play equipment and confirmed the cut off date was 9 February 2009.

9. Matters Arising from the Minutes:

(a) Oxfordshire County Council Highways; the Clerk was asked to speak with Paul Wilson with regard to a large pothole on the Burford Road before the Charlbury turning, some 200 yards back towards Four Winds which was reported to be 5" to 6" in depth. The clerk was asked to also chase outstanding Highways issues following Paul Wilson's meeting with Cllr Vickers and Cllr Cochrane and in particular the hedge requiring cutting at Fiveways junction.

(b) Carols around the Christmas Tree; the collection of £432.55 from the Carol Service around the Christmas Tree had been given to the Church Warden. Cllr Vickers thanked everyone for all their efforts in collecting and especially thanked Cllr Cochrane for all his work in erecting and lighting the tree.

(c) Wychwood Day Centre; It was agreed that a donation of £100 be given to the Wychwood Day Centre.

(d) Ballards Close and St Michael's Close Signs; the Clerk reported that Laurence King at WODC had sent his apologies for the delay, but confirmed that this was on his agenda to be included by the end of the financial year.

(e) Shipton Volunteers Recruitment Evening; Cllr Vickers reported that he had been advised the recruitment evening had gone well and that 10 new volunteers had been recruited. It was also reported that the Volunteers had carried out considerable work during January in Meadow Lane.

10. **County Councillors Report:**

County Councillor Rodney Rose reported that there was much focus on cash. Budgets were due to be set in February. Cllr Rose reported that the Community Safety and Trading Standards were offering debt advice and he was hopeful that more money would be given to the Citizens Advice Bureau. There was a meeting scheduled in February to discuss this. As a board member of the Oxfordshire South East Fire Control Centre Limited, he expressed concerns at how this would be managed without impacting negatively on the public.

11. **District Councillors Report:**

District Councillor Hilary Hibbert-Biles reported on the review of the Ambulance service for Oxfordshire which was scheduled for Cabinet in April. There would also be an Ambulance review for the Cotswold District.

12. **Planning:**

08/1875/P/FP Springside Chapel Lane Shipton-under-Wychwood

New

08/1897/P/FP Dove Cottage High Street Shipton-under-Wychwood

New

13. **Financial Matters:**

Payments to be authorised:

Shipton Volunteers Expenses August to December 2008 £296.70

Thames Water 16 September to 11 December 2008 £29.52

Clerks Monthly Salary, Expenses and Backpay £423.15

Alfred Groves & Sons Ltd Light Bulbs for the Christmas Tree £26.08

Southern Electric Contracting electric supply to Christmas Tree £103.50

WODC RoSPA Inspection £52.90

Payments into current account:

ORCC Calor Oxfordshire Villages of the Year Competition prize £100.00

14. **Charity Commission:**

This is ongoing. Cllr Vickers reiterated to the Meeting the agreement, minuted in the November Minutes, that the Parish Council are both content and confident for the Hall Committee, with representing Parish Council Members, to reach an Agreement with the Tennis Club which would then be put before the Parish Council for approval.

15. **Allotments:**

Nothing to report.

16. **Correspondence:**

A list of correspondence received was circulated to Councillors to consider.

17. **Other Matters for Discussion:**

Cllr McConnachie reported that OCC Highways had erected three posts, two plastic and one stone outside the Post Office. The Clerk was asked to write to Paul Wilson and request these to be replaced with three matching wooden posts. Cllr Cochrane produced the Sub-Committee Wild Flower Agreement which was duly signed by Cllr Vickers, this being the Section 96 Agreement of Plant Sites one and two.

There being no further business, Cllr Vickers declared the meeting closed at 9.50pm and confirmed the February meeting would be held on Tuesday 17 February 2009.

