

Sibford Ferris Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting

Sports Hall classroom, Sibford School

24th June 2013 – 7.45pm

Present at the meeting were Joanne Connor, Maureen Hicks, Adrian Lamb, Peter Robinson, Vanessa Briggs, Cllr George Reynolds, Oswyn Murray (Chairman Sibford Gower Parish Council), Bruce Petter (Parochial Church Council) and three members of the public.

Apologies were received from Tim Huckvale.

There were no declarations of interest from the Councillors.

The Minutes were agreed as being a true and accurate representation of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 3rd June 2013.

Matters arising from previous meeting held on 3rd June 2013:

2/12 - Ongoing – Affordable Housing – MH had heard back from Tom McCulloch that Greensquare were making good progress with the proposals. They would consult the Parish Council again before they apply for planning permission.

10/12- Closed - Glass recycling – The glass bottle banks had been installed. They should be emptied every month but this will be monitored and may be emptied more frequently if required. The Parish Council have agreed to keep the area reasonably tidy. JC suggested that we put a mention of the new glass bottle banks in the Sibford Scene.

2/3 - Outstanding – Broadband – Tim Huckvale had e-mailed confirming we should have a decision by the end of July/beginning of August.

3/13- Ongoing - New Fitness Equipment at MUGA - MH had established that the project would be eligible for an Awards for All grant. They would need to see some funding from the Parish Council. They would also need confirmation of the agreement with Sibford School as to the ownership of the land. MH would like to form a sub group to work out precise figures. There was also the possibility of some funding from Tesco's Community Fund and from Cllr George Reynolds for supporting community initiatives. Cllr George Reynolds confirmed later that there should be approximately £1000 available from the fund.

4/13- Ongoing – Inter Parish Meetings – Next meeting 6.30pm on 8th July 2013 at Gate Hangs High.

5/13- Closed – Query to Cherwell District Council – Please see 15/13 below re receipt of e-mails.

8/13- Closed - Thames Valley Police – Neighbourhood Action Group Survey – No further action required.

9/13- Outstanding - Vandalised Digger – AL confirmed that he hoped to carry out the repair soon. A PCSO had been to the village which had been most helpful

10/13- Closed - Request to Cherwell District Council to update their website re: Parish Councillors' details – website had now been updated.

12/13 – Ongoing – Wheathills – VB had contacted the Clerk to the Town Estate's Charity, after the Annual Parish Meeting, to inform her of the concerns raised by parishioners that the land was being used for the storage of unused vehicles. A response had been received confirming that pressure would be put on the tenant to remove these vehicles. The meeting was informed that there had been no change to date and this should be monitored and reviewed at the next meeting.

13/13 – Ongoing – Sibford Hall, Walford Road – VB had contacted Cherwell District Council to establish how the spoils from the works should be dealt with and also to enquire about the repair of the boundary wall.

14/13 – Outstanding – Clearing of Gullies – VB has put in a request to Highways to clear the gullies.

15/13- Outstanding – Receipt of e-mails, Cherwell District Council - VB had contacted Judith Humphreys, Law and Governance, Cherwell District Council who had passed this matter on to Garath Jones, IT manager who will look into the problem, in due course and contact VB directly.

Bishop Blaize

Three new planning applications had been received by Sibford Gower Parish Council as follows:-

13/00743/F: Erection of two new dwellings: Land to the east and adjacent to Bishops End Burdrop OX15 5RQ

13/00781/F: Change of use of a redundant barn/store into a 1 bedroom self-contained holiday letter cottage

13/00808/CLUE: Certificate of Lawful Use Existing: Change of use from A4 to A1

Copies of these applications had not been forwarded by Cherwell District Council to Sibford Ferris Parish Council.

JC asked why a decision on these applications could not be postponed until after the outstanding planning appeal decision which is due at the beginning of August? Cllr George Reynolds informed the meeting that the applications have to be dealt with in the 8 week time limit otherwise there is a possibility an appeal could be made for non-determination.

Oswyn Murray said that Sibford Gower Parish Council had prepared a response to all three applications and would send copies for circulation to Sibford Ferris Parish Council members. A brief summary as follows:

- There were five reasons listed to oppose the application for new dwellings on the car park.
- That if consideration is given to the change of use to a holiday letting cottage then it should only be if it is in connection with the business of the public house and on condition that the public house is reopened. Also that there should be a legal covenant restricting the sale of the conversion so it may never be sold separately from the public house.
- This relates to moving 'Bishop Blaize-in Stoves from the 'redundant barn' to the main property. There has been very limited business activity with 3 customers during 5 months of trading. If granted the proposed business premises would no longer be available for the applicants to use as part of a private dwelling and the owners would be unable to legally occupy as a private dwelling any part of their property.

Also it was determined by the Planning Inspector at the first Inquiry that the car park upon which the application is made is within the curtilage of the public house.

Oswyn Murray requested that Sibford Ferris Parish Council formulate its own response. He also mentioned that if the appeal is refused then enforcement would then have to be considered.

A member of the public discussed the possible implications of the change of use being granted and also that there was concern amongst the villagers that CCTV cameras had been placed pointing directly at the place where notices would be read by parishioners.

The letter received from Peter Hardman, Clerk to Sibford Ferris Parish Council and circulated to the members was discussed. This was asking for confirmation of support for a village buyout of the freehold of the pub should it become available on the market. JC confirmed that Sibford Ferris Parish Council would support this.

Closure of the Churchyard

JC started by the discussion by indicating that she would prefer to see a sub-committee meet to discuss options and cost of the upkeep of the Churchyard following the closure and responsibility passing from the PCC. Once this information was gathered it could then be put to the parishioners to decide which option they preferred.

Oswyn Murray said that they would take the advice of the PCC and manage the Churchyard as they suggest. Sibford Gower Parish Council were not prepared to continue to negotiate with Sibford Ferris Parish Council as previous negotiations had not been successful and an agreement reached with the PCC had been thrown out some 18 months ago by Sibford Ferris Parish Council. JC questioned what had been thrown out by the Sibford Ferris Parish Council? Although it may have perceived as such, Sibford Ferris Parish Council were not negating its responsibility but had to consider that the costs would be passed onto its parishioners.

JC continued that she thought it very important that the parishioners are given the option to decide what level of maintenance they require and it could be done in such a way that three options are given showing level of maintenance and then cost and the majority view would be taken. Oswyn Murray said that they had already consulted their parishioners at their recent public meeting but the costs were unquantifiable.

Bruce Petter said that he would be able to find out some costs including producing a tombstone stability report. Bruce Petter also said that if Sibford Ferris Parish Council could give him details of the options they would like to put forward to their parishioners then he should be able to put to tender and obtain some costs.

A member of the public also indicated that it was important to be clear on precisely what the contractors would be required to do and that some people might complain if areas are overgrown. JC confirmed that was why it was important to go through the democratic process and finding out what the majority of the parishioners would like to see. Then if there were complaints they could be dealt with by referring back to the agreement reached at the outset.

Oswyn Murray indicated that they would have to take responsibility by March although Bruce Petter did say this may possibly be deferred if there was good reason for not being ready. Also that the PCC would ensure that when the Churchyard is handed over it would be in good order. With next March in mind, it was agreed that the costs involved would have to be obtained by September, if possible, so they could be put to the public in October. All the information would then have to be gathered in time for the precept agreement at the January meeting.

AL did ask if the responsibility for the Churchyard was passed to Cherwell District Council who would be responsible for the cost of the upkeep? Bruce Petter confirmed that the cost would fall on the parishioners of Sibford Gower. Cllr George Reynolds confirmed that North Newington and Broughton operate a similar system of joint responsibility.

It was agreed that the members of Sibford Ferris Parish Council would discuss the options and get back to Bruce Petter asap.

A letter received from Peter Hardman was also discussed regarding the Churchyard.

Correspondence

Correspondence listed was discussed.

- Letter dated 18th June from Cherwell District Council re Councillors' code of conduct. Oswyn Murray said that Sibford Gower Parish Council had changed their standing orders at the last meeting so that the complainants must complain directly to the person they have the complaint against, in the first instance, to give them the opportunity to respond. He also intends to complain against the procedure to Cherwell District Council as there is no opportunity, at present, to put forward a response. Sibford Gower Parish Council had changed its standing orders so that agreement can be made by e-mails between the members of the parish council.

- It was agreed that a salt bag was not needed as there was still a full bag being stored.
- Cllr George Reynold's e-mail was discussed regarding review of local free transport to Sibford Gower Primary School. The review by Oxfordshire County Council will mean that pupils are transported to their nearest school as opposed to their catchment school. The proposals will have significant effect on rural schools and their communities. It may mean that families have to send their children to different schools and that children from the same village may have to attend different schools, depending on which is the nearest. It may affect numbers at local village schools and, in turn, the budget and how the school can operate. The motivation is financial but the savings will be minimal and there will be no savings for at least 5 years. It was agreed that MH would put a letter together to the leader of the Council which she would circulate before sending.

Finance

Payments:

24/6/13 - Cheque No. 100595 – Gerry Melvin – Play area maintenance

Receipts:

None

Risk Assessment: - Closed

On-line Banking: - Closed

11/13 – Insurance cover Came and Company – Schedule had been received and in order and could now be closed.

16/13 – Annual Return for Audit was agreed and signed off.

Planning:

Outstanding 12/000678/F

Appeal by Mr & Mrs Noquet

Bishops End, Burdrop, Banbury

Change of use of a vacant public house to C3 residential

Outstanding – 13/00134/TCA

Notice of Intent to Undertake Tree Works

Mrs Sian Stokes
The Small House, Small House, Sibford Ferris

Any other business:

AL reported sign at the end of Cotswold Close had fallen down. VB to contact Cherwell District Council to repair.

Future meeting dates:

Next Parish Council Meeting – 9th September 2013 – 7.45pm

Following meeting – 11th November 2013 – 7.45pm

There being no further business to discuss the Chair thanked those present for attending and the meeting was closed at 9.30pm.