

SIBFORD FERRIS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held Monday, 12 January 2015 in the Sports Hall Classroom, Sibford School at 7.45pm

Present at the meeting were: Joanne Connor (Chair), Maureen Hicks (Vice-Chair), Councillors Tim Huckvale, Adrian Lamb, Peter Robinson, Clerk - Anita Spencer, District & County Councillor George Reynolds, Oswyn Murray (Chair, Sibford Gower Parish Council) and two members of the public.

The Chair read out a statement on the recording of meetings.

Apologies – none.

Declarations of Interest: Cllr Huckvale: prejudicial interest on planning application 14/01515/F and Mannings Close nameplate; Cllr Lamb: personal interest on the planning application 14/01744/F.

Minutes of the previous meeting: The draft minutes of the meeting held on 24 November were agreed and signed by the Chair as an accurate record.

Matters arising from the previous meeting:

2/13 Ongoing – Faster Broadband for Sibford Ferris

TH reported that the likelihood of faster broadband being made available to Sibford Ferris would be known by the end of January.

TH

4/13 Ongoing – Inter-Parish Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, 19 January 2015 and MH would be attending.

MH

17/13 Ongoing – Free School Transport

It was agreed that this item could be closed for the time being and MH would report to councillors on any future developments.

3/14 Outstanding – Defibrillator

MH reported she had learned from Julia Neal of Epwell Community First Responders there had been just one resident of the Sibfords who had shown an interest in training at their open event, and it was agreed that MH would contact this person to see if they were still interested. It was also agreed to put a notice in the Sibford Scene asking for those interested in a responder or coordinator role to register on the Sibfords website, which TH kindly agreed to facilitate. The item would be put on the agenda for the forthcoming Annual Parish Meeting. OM confirmed that it would be discussed at the Sibford Gower APM and that he would approach possible candidates in the meantime. MH also advised that there was a strong possibility that local, established Community Responders would be prepared to put on a practical demonstration, if required.

MH

TH

AS

5/14 Outstanding – Notice Board

AL advised he would shortly be ordering the replacement Perspex.

AL

9/14 Outstanding – Traffic at Temple Mill

This item could be closed.

17/14 Outstanding – Historical Parish Council Records

JC would pick up the records from the previous clerk and deliver them to MH for sorting.

JC

18/14 Ongoing - Affordable Housing/Amenity Land/TOE2 Funding/Rural Community Energy Fund

Outline permission for the affordable housing scheme had been granted by the CDC Planning Committee. PR reported that Sibford School had obtained funding from the Rural Community Energy Fund and had asked local groups and organisations if they would like to benefit from it. PR had tried

to make contact with the developers of the affordable housing scheme, Green Square, but the parish council contact had left but his replacement had not, to date, responded to contact with PR. OM advised that the Sibford Gower allotment project had been withdrawn due to lack of interest.

19/14 Ongoing - New Fitness Equipment

It was agreed that AS would carry out weekly checks on the equipment and keep records, and JC offered to cover for holidays.

AS
JC

The idea of providing a training session on the equipment was still being pursued and PR agreed to let AS have the name of his contact at the district council.

PR
AS

20/14 Ongoing - Cotswold Close Play Area

A contractor to mow the play area was being sought. One quotation had been received and it was agreed to approach Thomas Fox as well. A member of public at the meeting kindly offered to mow the area and the clerk was asked to liaise, although JC cautioned that the insurance position would need to be investigated in view of the Parish Council's duty to ensure volunteer and public safety.

AS

The matter of vehicles parked adjacent to the play area was raised again and it was agreed to approach the district council once more with the parish council's concerns. GR offered to make enquiries and asked AS to provide the contact details.

AS

30/14 Outstanding - Damaged Bench on Hook Norton Road

AL would attend to repairs to the bench.

AL

31/14 Outstanding - Clerk's Contract of Employment/Douglas Tonks/Pensions

The National Joint Council (NJC) national salary awards for 2014 to 2016 had been published and would be implemented from March 2015, as per the clerk's contract of employment. This would impact on the 2015/16 draft budget (see below).

AS

32/14 Outstanding - Hedge along Boundary of Small House – to be kept under review.

AS

34/14 Outstanding - Salt bags and bins – the salt had arrived. Item closed.

49/14 Outstanding - New requirements for meetings/Revision of standing orders – item closed.

50/14 Outstanding - Housing Liaison Meeting 15 October - item closed.

51/14 Ongoing - Revised local plan and implications for Sibford Ferris

GR confirmed that the Sibfords were regarded as a "Category 1" settlement and could be open to speculative planning applications. He advised that the district council had to designate 750 new homes in its rural area as part of the plan. It was possible, however, that large developments attached to towns in the district could reduce this number.

70/14 Outstanding – Gravel Heaps at Sibford Hall

The gravel heaps were still in place and it was agreed to keep this item under review.

74/14 Dog Bins

It was noted that a dog bin could be purchased for around £200 including fixings and the cost of emptying would be £1.40 per visit from April. However, there was no agreement that residents who did not currently pick up their dog's waste would make use of a bin. It was agreed that PR would put an appeal in the Sibford Scene. The item would be taken forward, with inclusion also on the forthcoming Annual Parish Meeting agenda.

PR
AS

77/14 Mowing at the Churchyard and Burial Ground

A quotation from Thomas Fox for the 2015/16 mowing season had been received from Sibford Gower Parish Council and it was agreed to accept the figure, as it was very close to the price for the previous

season, and to continue to provide a donation of half the cost. AS was requested to advise Peter Hardman accordingly.

AS

78/14 Knotweed – the knotweed was being treated and the item was closed.

80/14 Mobile Library Consultation (ended 31.12.14) – there was nothing further to report and the item was closed.

81/14 Maintenance of verges

The Parish Council had learned that CDC would no longer be maintaining verges on behalf of OCC. GR advised that OCC would now only be cutting the verges twice a year and the sightlines three times. Parish councils had been offered the chance to take on the maintenance but funds were very limited. GR also advised that CDC would no longer be spraying off weeds. It was agreed to monitor the state of the verges under the new arrangement and to keep the matter under review.

All

82/14 Parish Liaison Meeting 12 November 2014 – there was nothing further to report and the item was closed.

01/15 Street Nameplate for Mannings Close

TH declared a personal interest and took no part in the discussion. AS reported that CDC had ordered a new name plate for the verge but had not provided a plan of the location. She agreed to let the residents know when she had obtained a plan from the district council.

AS

02/15 Dog Thefts

A dog theft had occurred in Burdrop since the last meeting, but it was agreed that dog owners had all been sufficiently alerted and that there was nothing further to report. The item could be closed.

03/15 Street Light No. 6 Out of Order – TH reported the light was working and the item was closed.

Correspondence

04/15 2.12.14 Email: SGPC – Number of electors

Peter Hardman had advised there were currently 418 electors in Sibford Gower (AS confirmed the number for Sibford Ferris was 354).

05/15 10.12.14 Letter: OCC Oxfordshire's Learning Disability Plan 2015-2018 Poster

This had been displayed on the notice board.

06/15 11.12.14 Letter: Tony Baldry MP on faster broadband

The letter had confirmed the position as reported by TH.

07/15 12.12.14 Letter: Age UK – Protecting older people in winter campaign.

Two posters had been put on the notice board.

Finance

08/15 Budget 2015/16

The following items in the draft budget were amended:

- Item - Clerk's wages - increased to £2650 to allow for National Salary Award increase and possible increase in administration charges by Douglas Tonks.
- Item - Contribution to Sibford Village Hall - increased to £400 because there had been no increase for some time.
- Item - SLCC/ORCC membership - £30: removed.
- Item – Contingency - it was agreed to keep the budget total the same as for 2014/15, and this item was reduced to £246.

The total amount for the precept request for 2015/16 was agreed at £6858, the same as the previous

year.

AS

09/15 Bank Transfers

There had been none.

10/15 Bank Reconciliation

A bank reconciliation to 4 December 2014 was circulated and noted.

11/15 Budget Calendarisation to 12 January

This was circulated and agreed. It was agreed to rename this document Budget/Actual Comparison.

AS

12/15 SLCC Subscription

It was agreed to pay this retrospectively as per the 2014/15 budget but not for the coming year.

AS

13/15 Cheques to be signed at the meeting:

The following cheques were signed at the meeting:

- 100631 C Etherington-Smith £35.00 for electricity
- 100632 Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association £10.00 donation
- 100633 Sibford School £20.00 donation
- 100634 Banbury Citizens Advice Bureau £25.00 contribution
- 100635 Sibford Village Hall £300.00 contribution
- 100636 SLCC £30.00 subscription

The following payment was agreed:

- Sibford Scene £25.00 donation

14/15 Receipts since the last meeting

- 13.11.14 £100.00 SGPC Burial ground fee
- 17.11.14 £1730.58 HMRC Vat refund 2014/15

15/15 Payments made since the last meeting – none.

Planning

16/15 The following planning applications had been received since the last meeting:

- 14/00404/TCA Works to trees, 4 Home Farm Court
- 14/01762/F Grange Farm – Amended Plans

The amended plans had been viewed by parish councillors and it was agreed there would be no further comment on this planning application.

17/15 The following planning decisions had been received since the last meeting:

- 14/01515/F Application permitted – 2 Mannings Close – two-storey front extension
- 14/00382/TCA No objection to Works to Trees - Orchard House
- 14/00381/TCA No objection to Works to Trees - Home Farm
- 14/01764/F Application refused - Hill House – conversion of existing redundant barn to “live-work” unit
- 14/01744/F Application refused – April Cottage – erection of a single garage
- 14/00962/OUT Application agreed in committee 27 November – Erection of six Affordable Local Needs Dwellings and two Market Sale Dwellings plus open space and allotments OS Parcel 4300 North of Shortlands and South of High Rock, Hook Norton Road

Any Other Business

18/15 Boundary Commission Review of Wards, Cherwell District - Consultation

Information had been received on a review by the Boundary Commission. GR advised that the proposal was to merge the wards of Cropredy, Wroxton and the Sibfords into one big ward, with three councillors and an election every year.

19/15 Solar Farm Trees and Container

AS reported she had been asked when the landscaping conditions of the planning permission for the solar farm would be complied with. GR confirmed that conversations with the landowner were ongoing. It was agreed that the Parish Council would add its voice and AS was asked to write to the Planning Department at CDC to request that the trees were planted as soon as possible and the container painted green to minimise the impact of the panels on the landscape.

AS

20/15 Notice of intention to resign

JC gave notice of her intention to step down from the parish council due to work pressures. She kindly offered to remain on the council until the Annual Parish Council Meeting in May and the offer was readily accepted.

Date of Next Meetings

Monday, 9 March 2015, 7.45 pm

Tuesday, 5 May 2015, 7.45 pm (Annual Parish Council Meeting)

The Annual Parish Meeting was fixed for Monday, 27 April at 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.25 pm.