

Sibford Gower Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on **Tuesday 12th February 2019** at 7.30pm in the ICT Suite Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School.

Councillors Present: David Allen, Roger Mallows, Hugh Pidgeon (Chair), Tony Skowronski,

In attendance: The Clerk, Vanessa Mulley and 17 other members of the community.

Introduction

All members of the Council were introduced and attending residents welcomed. With special welcome to Ian Sharp and Simon Rayner from SFPC.

No new Declarations of Pecuniary Interest were made.

Meeting Recordings

No requests to record were received.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

All 5 councillors were happy with the minutes from the last meeting and updates on various points raised will be discussed in the meeting. Items still to be actioned are as follows:

- Historical documents ref Class A Village classification located and discussions on how to proceed to take place
- Pond plant has been located and letter read out from Mrs Hardman who is now nurturing it before hopefully replanting in the Spring
- Letter to OCC Highways with reference to the dangerous location of the bus stop at the Burdrop junction has been written with a copy being sent on to the bus company.

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10th December 2018 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr. Roger Mallows and seconded by Cllr. Tony Skowronski.

Correspondence

- Letter from Mrs Hardman previously read out.
- Resignation letter from Trina Crilly stepping down as Councillor has been received and a brief explanation of the process now in motion was made by the Chair.

Assets & Services

Millennium Field Cut – A move to a twice a year cut is being considered by the Council. The extra cut would incur an additional cost of £300 and the Towns Estate Charity have in principle agreed to contribute to 50% of this sum. A possible reduction on hedge cutting may be looked into as a way to reduce costs. Residents are enjoying the field and appreciate the work which took place during the clean-up. The possible 2 cuts would take place in May and October. Second cut to go ahead on firm agreement from TEC proposed by Cllr. David Allen and seconded by Cllr. Tony Skowronski.– **To be actioned**

Finance

Banking – The Clerk confirmed that 2 cheques had been issued and 2 bank transfers made since last meeting, details of which can be located in Appendix B. The new bank account is now up and running and the balance from the old bank has been transferred.

2019/20 Budget Progress – Cllr David Allen reported that, following agreement of the 2019/20 Budget, the Precept Notification has been sent into CDC. The forecast outturn against this year's budget predicts an overspend of £800 but reserved funds will cover this.

Shared Funding – There are three main contracts, two of which fall under the shared funding scheme

- Highway Verges
- Burial Ground – 50% of costs to Sibford Ferris Parish Council
- Millennium Field - 50% of costs to Towns Estate Charity

The annual costs for 2018/19 have now been finalised and statements will go out to both the SFPC and TEC requesting funds. The council may look at issuing a quarterly statement to ease traceability and flow of revenue. **To be actioned**

Donations & Grants – A proposal has been put forward regarding donations included in the inherited budget. The council briefly discussed continuing with these as per the list below –

- Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School - £100
- Sibford Scene - £200
- Sibford Village Hall - £400
- Thames Valley Air Ambulance - £50
- **Total £750**

The council are happy to continue with the above figures with Cllr David Allen abstaining from decision for Village Hall and Cllr Tony Skowronski abstaining from the decision for Sibford Scene. Approval proposed by Cllr. Hugh Pidgeon and seconded by Cllr. Roger Mallows – **To be actioned**

Cllr Hugh Pidgeon expressed his appreciation of all the hard work put in by Cllr. David Allen and the Clerk Vanessa Mulley to ensuring the finances are up to date and running smoothly.

Planning

Applications – Clerk confirmed only one applications to be considered – Methodist Chapel App. No – 18/02159/F. Cllr Roger Mallows spoke briefly to update us on the number of applications received and a spreadsheet containing all applications received and outcomes of previously heard applications can be found in Appendix A. Cllr Roger Mallows also summarized two ongoing applications

- Bishop Blaze – Still awaiting on an appeal date, but the agent details and valuation of the property have now been logged onto the CDC planning portal. A comprehensive formal report from CDC can also be viewed by the public on the planning portal. The council hope to hear more news by the end of the month.
- Methodist Chapel – has previously been supported by the council and the owner has been in touch with CDC regarding the application as CDC had concerns over the parking space, subsidence and contamination from old burials. A new application has been submitted with the removal of the parking space.

The public were asked to make any comments regarding the new application 18/02159/F and one resident spoke of their desire to purchase the property with a view to using it for religious worship. Cllr Roger Mallows confirmed that the current owner was not looking to sell but the resident confirmed he has sent correspondence to the owner concerning this.

Council felt that the removal of the parking space was more favourable although it would result in extra vehicles parked on the roadside.

Vote: The council unanimously voted to support the application with the following recommendation.

This amendment acknowledges that the applicant has due regard to the identified issues raised by various objectors.

However, there continues to be concerns around the consequent on-road parking arrangements in regard to the existing footpath provision in a potentially hazardous location. Consideration should also be given to sensitive parking arrangements for work vehicles associated with the proposed development.

Given the above, The Parish Council continue to support this application.

Planning Committee minutes – The minutes of the Parish Council Planning Committee Meeting held on 8th January 2019 were approved and signed.

Hook Norton Road Development – Cllr. Simon Rayner from the Sibford Ferris Parish Council spoke regarding the development and the updates the council had received regarding the application. The planning meeting to be held on 14th February by the CDC has now been postponed over concerns regarding housing position, archaeology and waste water.

- Housing position – Land & partners have yet to respond regarding updates on this
- Archaeology – a simple survey was conducted in January 2019 but a further larger study is now to take place.
- Waste water – Seven Trent Water have now responded, and a survey will need to be done regarding the capacity to handle the waste water from this development.

A new date to be heard by the CDC Planning Committee has now been arranged for 18th April 2019. Cllr. George Reynolds who will attend this meeting may recommend a site visit by the whole CDC planning committee which could delay the meeting to 20th May 2019.

Activities are still ongoing by the Action Group. Katherine Roussel had been unable to attend the evening's meeting but indicated in correspondence that the mid-Cherwell district's housing needs had already been met. The group is presently researching the statistical detail which would demonstrate that the built-up limits of the village do not need to be built upon.

A resident confirmed that 76 letters against the proposal were received at CDC with only one in favour. Cllr. Simon Rayner and the SFPC are passing on as much information as they can so the community as a whole is fully aware of the situation.

Highways & Footpaths

Footpath Access for dogs in the village – A resident spoke regarding her concerns regarding footpaths not being accessible to people out walking with their dogs. More footpaths are having styles with lower gaps wired off making them unavailable for dogs to pass through and owners are having to carry dogs - often large dogs - over styles. Ian Sharp, the Sibfords Footpath Warden spoke to those present of the various rules which apply when walking in the country, for example ensuring dogs are kept on leads when walking through fields containing sheep. A resident asked if a facility could be added to the Sibford website by which dog walkers could notify other walkers of issues on various routes and potential inaccessible paths. Cllr. David Allen confirmed this could be done, subject to receiving suitable content from Ian Sharp - **To be actioned.**

Ian confirmed he would contact CDC to see what could be done but anticipated it would be a slow process. Warwickshire are very proactive regarding this issue, with swing gates being fitted benefitting land owners as well as walkers and their dogs. Ian also confirmed he often cuts back obtrusive greenery from footpaths but due to legal reasons isn't able to fix gates etc.

Ian also spoke to the meeting briefly regarding footpaths which pass through land-owners fields. Footpaths are often destroyed when ploughing and should be reinstated but this often doesn't happen - leaving walkers to walk around the field. Ian would like residents to notify him if they come across cases where this is happening but also reiterated that walkers should stick to the designated route which appear on maps to encourage land owners to maintain them.

Cllr. Hugh Pidgeon told the meeting he had several detailed OS footpath maps that he would be happy to pass on to anyone who would like a copy *, and suggested he accompany Ian to meet with the land owner of one particularly troublesome spot. [* cllr.hugh.pidgeon@thesibfords.org.uk]

Community Development

Defibrillator – Hugh Pidgeon and Trina Crilley had met with Tricia Everett, the school nurse from Sibford School who was very helpful and the meeting itself was very informative. Hugh Pidgeon has enquired about Hook Norton's first aid training scheme and is looking into a possibility of their coming to Sibford to offer residents parallel training support in first aid to complement the instillation of the defibrillator. A resident asked if suitable signage would be erected so residents clearly knew the location of the defibrillator and Cllr. Hugh Pidgeon confirmed this would be the case.

A resident with a medical background spoke about the ease with which the defibrillators can be used but advised the council that providing additional training to willing residents would be beneficial.

Cllr. Hugh Pidgeon to meet with the resident to discuss further **To be actioned**

Annual Parish Meeting & Community Celebration – the Annual Parish Meeting has often been confused with the Annual Parish Council Meeting which take place at a similar time of year. Research has been done by the Chair to clarify the associated legislation regarding the meeting including its definition and purpose. Cllr Hugh Pidgeon outlined the details briefly to those present, and has provided a further elaboration in a short discussion paper 'Not many people know that' to be published in the March edition of the Sibford Scene.

He explained that the Annual Parish Meeting comes up in April and that the Gower councillors were keen to develop a conversation with their counterparts in the Ferris to consider whether, for the more informal purposes for which the Annual Parish Meeting was devised and set in law, it might actually be more appropriate that for this one occasion in the year we conduct the Annual Parish Meeting as one community, and that we devise an event that is more celebratory of that community in its character. This would involve the many associations, organisations, clubs and societies that are normally invited at this time of year to report on their activities in the year having a free hand to devise displays or presentations of their own choice.

Residents were asked for their responses and a lively conversation followed. The general consensus was in favour. Some concerns were expressed over possible competitiveness between societies over presentations. The support of the Ferris Council was seen as highly desirable and it became clear that careful thinking through and planning would be needed. The chairman invited several of those present to help him with this outside the meeting, and residents were encouraged to come together to form a working group to help make the event a success.

Noticeboard – This has now been delivered and will be erected fairly soon. A 50% grant has been approved by the TEC with much thanks from the council.

Village Pond - A resident raised the issue of the village pond being due for a clean out. This has not been done for the last 14 years and concern was expressed that if not done soon the only two remaining residents who know how to do this will be long gone. Cllr. Roger Mallows led the conversation that followed. He had been reading through the past history of the pond and confirmed that Oxfordshire County Council owned the land around the pond but not the pond itself. In the past villagers had come together and concreted the bottom as a safety measure.

An old application for ownership of the pond had been found amongst the archiving but this had been rejected by the OCC. If the current council were to push for ownership again, in Roger Mallows' view there would be lots of financial, insurance and H & S implications which would fall on the shoulders of the Parish Council. In the past funds from the Parish council were given for the upkeep of the pond but these were withdrawn in November 2008 and it was left to the locally assembled Pond Group to fund and maintain the pond.

A 'drain and scrape' process has been suggested by a resident to clean the pond but the pond is currently being run as a wildlife pond which by its nature needs to be self-maintaining. The fish are also a cause of concern as they are large in size as well as in number and although lovely they are the wrong type of fish for a wildlife pond as they will eat all the smaller wildlife within the pond itself. Local residents have observed what appears to be a leak in the pond as the water level is very low.

The Council was encouraging of the Pond Group's work, and noted the suggestions for advancing the investigation of what might be done further outside the meeting.

Nomination for Town Estates Vacancy - The Chair confirmed that there were several vacancies for Parish Council elected positions on the TEC due later in the year. Details of the positions would appear in due course on the website and in the Sibford Scene.

Sibford Gower remaining a dark village – A resident raised a request to put street lighting into the Gower. The issue has been discussed at length in previous meetings and it was strongly felt by the meeting that it should remain as a dark village. The issue may require further discussions at a later date.

Speeding Group – The speeding Group still meets with approx. 6 active members working to reduce speeding throughout the village. The group lead has now been given the contact details of two officials who would be happy to meet with the group in person and discuss options. The Gower and Ferris are working together on this as it effects both villages. The group lead is currently away so it was recommended that the group meet fairly soon to move things forward once more. Members of the group spoke briefly regarding possible investigations into methods other villages have used to reduce speed and the effectiveness of these methods. A further update to be shared at the next Parish Council meeting. The Chairman expressed his appreciation on behalf of the council to the members of the Speeding Group present in the meeting, and to Simon Rayner for his collaborative work on behalf of the Ferris Council and his informative contribution to the meeting.

Both Cllr Hugh Pidgeon and Cllr Rayner said they would be happy to attend the next meeting of the Group.

The Great March Spring Clean – This will be taking place **on Saturday 30th March** and will take place with the support of supplies and equipment from CDC. Details will be in the March edition of the Sibford Scene and on the Sibfords website. **To be actioned**

Future Meetings

Next Open Meeting – likely to be Tuesday 14th May 2019 but this will be confirmed on the website

There being no further business to discuss, the chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.40pm

Signed.....

Dated.....

APPENDICES

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Chair Initials:

Appendix A to Minutes of SGPC Meeting – 12th February 2019

Planning Applications

Since the previous Meeting, the following planning applications had been considered and decisions received: -

Date	To be in by	App. ref	Site	Owner	Application	Comments	Council Decision
05/03/2018	26/03/2018	18/01505/LB	Barn Close, Street Through Burdrop, Burdrop, Banbury, OX15 5RQ	Mrs S Downes	Amendment to approved planning 16/01954/LB - Garage Building to include "In-line" Photovoltaic panels	Supported with no additional comments	
22/03/2018	11/10/2018	18/00374/DISC	Quince Cottage, Ponds End Lane, Sibford Gower, OX15 5RT	Mrs R Watson	Discharge of conditions 4 (Slate Sample) & 5 (Brick sample) of 13/00653/LB	Supported with no additional comments	
03/10/2018	23/10/2018	18/01501/F	The Pheasant Pluckers Inn, Burdrop, Banbury, Oxon, OX15 5RQ	Mr G.R Noquet	Change of use from class A4 (ACV Listed) to class C3 dwelling house	Application not supported with various comments	
22/11/2018	12/12/2018	18/01853/F	Nicholas Corner, Burdrop, Banbury, OX15 5RQ	Mr & Mrs T Woolhouse	Demolition of existing and erection of replacement stables	We strongly recommend that due consideration is given to potential parking difficulties in regard to the Village Surgery which is accommodated adjacent to the property. This can be achieved by utilising the available track across the paddock for all vehicle movements associated with the works to be undertaken, together with any subsequent parking.	Granted subject to the conditions set out in the schedule
22/11/2018	12/12/2018	18/01872/F	Nicholas Corner, Burdrop, Banbury, OX15 5RQ	Mr & Mrs T Woolhouse	Erection of a cabin	We strongly recommend that due consideration is given to potential parking difficulties in regard to the Village Surgery which is accommodated adjacent to the property. This can be achieved by utilising the available track across the paddock for all vehicle movements associated with the works to be undertaken, together with any subsequent parking.	Application withdrawn
21/11/2018	10/12/2018	18/00441/DISC	Barn Close, Street Through Burdrop, Burdrop, Banbury, OX15 5RQ	Mrs S Downes	Discharge conditions 4 (external walls and roof materials), 5 (stone sample), 8 (proposed rooflights) and 9 (hard landscaping treatments) of 16/01953/F	No comments	

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21/12/2018	10/12/2018	18/01335/LB	Barn Close, Street Through Burdrop, Burdrop, Banbury, OX15 5RQ	Mrs S Downes	Amendment to form and layout of Barn staircase as previously approved under 16/01353/F and 16/01354/LBC for use by partially disabled users and addition of ground floor bathroom for disabled use.	We note the term "residential amenity" in the planning application (p3) and consider that greater clarity would be helpful in regard to anticipated useage. Perhaps this could be addressed through an appropriate condition.	Granted subject to the conditions set out in the schedual
30/11/2018	19/12/2018	18/00346/TCA	The Court House, Main Street, Sibford Gower, Banbury, OX15 5Rw	Mrs Ann Walker	T1 x Yew cube - Fell T2 x Holly - Fell to near ground level, treat stump to discourage re-growth	Supported	No further comments or objections
27/12/2018	14/01/2019	18/02153/F	Methodist Chapel, Temple Mill Rd, Sibford Gower, OX15 5RX	Mr N Aircraft	Alterations to & conversion of existing redundant chapel to residential use & alterations to front boundry wall to create single parking space	Supported	
27/12/2018	14/01/2019	18/02124/F	Woodhall, Backside Lane, Sibford Gower, OX15 5RS	Mr & Mrs Allen	Variation of condition 2 of 17/02573/F - Make minor amendments to the approved scheme, including the removal of the proposed loft conversion, dormer windows & balcony, along with small amendments to the internal layout & fenestration	No objections to this application	
03/01/2019	14/01/2019	18/02142/F	Burdrop Farmhouse Acre Ditch, Sibford Gower, OX15 5RN	Mr Chris Hall	Addition of two conservation rooflights	This application is directly related to the provision of emergency means of escape, as required by Building Regulations, and is to be resolved by the relevant Planning Officer	Granted subject to the conditions set out in the schedual

Appendix B to Minutes of SGPC Meeting – 12th February 2019

Cheques issued/Bank Transfers made

Date	Cheque No.	Amount	Payee	Details
07/01/2019	357	£689.76	Tomas Fox Landscaping	Churchyard bush maintenance. Strim & rake wild area
08/01/2019	358	£12,600.00	SGPC	Transfer of funds to Lloyds Bank
18/01/2019	BACS	£102.00	OALC	Year End and Audit Training
04/02/2019	BACS	£15.00	Village Hall	Hall hire for planning meeting