

Sibford Gower Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School on 6th September 2010

Present

Parish Cllrs Roger Alder, Oswyn Murray (Chairman), Alan Parkin and Mrs Gilian Soden.
Four local residents and the Clerk.

Apologies: Apologies were received from Cllr Peter Abbott who was prevented from attending as he was carrying out his Veterinary Surgeon's duties.

Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr Roger Alder and seconded by Cllr Gilian Soden that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th July 2010 be approved as a correct record and they were then signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

With regard to the condition of Footpath No. 18 (from Hawkes Lane to the lane leading to the Surgery), the Oxfordshire CC's Rights of Way Field Officer advised on 23rd July 2010 that she had inspected the path but found it in reasonable condition, although it may be improved by the addition of some stone, compared with many other paths in the district. She is unable to treat the matter with any priority at the moment but will keep the PC's report on the data base so that it can be looked at again should the opportunity arise in the future.

Chairman's Report

Local listed buildings: Cherwell District Council places importance on the preservation of the historic environment, its rural built heritage, landscapes and market towns, all of which contribute to the distinctiveness of the area. To this end, the District Council intends to create a district-wide database of locally important buildings, structures and archaeology which are not included in the nationally compiled List of Buildings or Schedules of Ancient Monuments. Parish Councils and local history societies are asked to be involved in drawing up a local list as local people best know the hidden treasures within local communities. The Parish Council is asked to nominate buildings and structures within our area for inclusion in the local list. The Chairman asked the Members to suggest what should be included and the subject will be on the agenda of the next PC Meeting.

Conservation Area: The Chairman had been speaking with Rose Todd, Cherwell District Council's Conservation Officer regarding a review of the Parish's conservation area. This will be carried out but the timing is uncertain because of staffing problems within Rose Todd's department. However, the review is likely to be high on the list of reviews to be carried out. The Clerk was instructed to write to Rose Todd saying that a review will be very much welcomed.

Parish Plan: Following an approach by Sibford Ferris Parish Council to formulate a Joint Parish Plan, it was agreed that the matter should be taken forward and to this end the Chairman suggested that all bodies in the two Parishes should be involved including, amongst others, the Churches, Schools, the Village Hall, Sibford Society, The Friendship Club and The Town Estate Charity. Contact will be made with all the organisations to seek involvement and, in due course, a Steering Committee will be formed. Currently, local resident Mrs Sue Mattinson (who was present at the Meeting) had volunteered to be a Committee Member and also take on the role of Secretary. It is fortunate that she has carried out research into the subject. Mr Richard Hartree, a resident of Sibford Ferris, had said that he will be happy to join the Committee. It would be appropriate for a Member of each Parish Council also to be Committee Members.

An established Parish Plan will give more weight in respect of matters that may require attention in the future. The Oxfordshire Rural Communities Council will be fully supportive and give any advice and information that may be required. Their Amy Evans said that she would be delighted to speak at a meeting of the Steering Committee.

Clerk's Report

The subject of donation requests, which are quite frequently received, was discussed. Generally speaking, all are good causes but it was decided that at the next Meeting a list of potential recipients should be drawn up and future donations restricted to it. The Members had in mind that donations are paid under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 and should reflect that they should be in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit in a manner commensurate with the expenditure.

The Clerk referred to the plot of land that was bequeathed to the Parish Council by the late Miriam Tebbs some years ago. The intention was that it should be for the enjoyment of local residents. Despite endeavours in inviting usage, no advantage has been taken and it would appear that the land has relatively little appeal. Expenditure is ongoing in respect of periodic maintenance work. The Council will have to consider the best way forward and the subject will be on the agenda at the next Meeting.

A suggestion had been received from a local resident that, in the interest of safety, Vehicle Activated Signs should be installed at two points in The Cross area – one approaching from Colony Road and the other approaching from Pound Lane. The matter was referred to Oxfordshire Highways which brought the response that because of large cuts in the County Council's budget, funding would only be made if there was a higher than normal injury accident problem at the site. This is not the case so any sign would have to be funded by the Parish Council and solar powered signs are extremely expensive which would make the concept impossible taking into account the Parish Council's financial situation. The Clerk was instructed to investigate the possibility of installing speed warning notices similar to those used recently by two neighbouring Parishes.

Financial

Proposed by Cllr Gilian Soden and seconded by Cllr Roger Alder, it was resolved that the following payments be made:-
Cheque No. 114 for £60.00 dated 11.08.10 in favour of Royal British Legion by way of a donation (S137 power. Local Government Act 1972) – Retrospectively.

Cheque No. 115 for £376.00 dated 16.08.10 in favour of Oxfordshire County Council being the purchase of two Grit/Salt Bins. (S137 power. Local Government Act 1972) – Retrospectively

Cheque No. 116 for £57.20 dated 21.08.10 in favour of Cherwell District Council being the cost of the uncontested Parish Council Elections – May 2010 - Restrospectively

Planning Matters

No planning applications had been received since the previous Parish Council Meeting.

Highway Matters

Local resident Mrs Sue Mattinson had previously advised the Parish Council of her concern regarding the trees and bushes on the verge to the front of her property (West Farm Cottage, Main Street) which are considerably overgrown. She is in contact with the appropriate department at Cherwell District Council and in due course a site visit will be made to discuss pruning.

The matter of a car frequently parked at a junction in Burdrop had been referred to the Parish Council. It was seen as a possible dangerous situation and the Clerk was instructed to seek Police advice in this regard.

Footpath Matters

There were no matters to discuss

Churchyard

There were no matters to discuss.

Burial Ground

There were no matters to discuss.

National Census – 27th March 2011

The Council had received a letter from Cherwell District Council concerning the above and enclosed was a handbook for reference purposes. This included a section 'How can councillors help' which gives suggestions as to Parish Councillors' involvement. Councillors had been given the opportunity to read this but it did seem that the suggestions more readily apply to much larger communities where staffing facilities are available.

Public Participation

A resident, present at the Meeting, raised two matters and both relate to the Village Pond area. The first concerned the poor condition of a small road area where water constantly gathers and will not drain away. The Clerk was instructed to contact Oxfordshire Highways. The second related to cars parked on the road at the edge of the pond. These were seen as preventing a view of the pond by those visiting it. The Council acknowledged that this is a difficult position bearing in mind the lack of parking facilities in that area. It was decided to carefully monitor the situation over the coming months so that a view as to any appropriate action may be taken.

Any other Matters

No matters were raised.

Date of Next Meeting

The next Meeting will be in the Staff Room of Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School on Thursday, 11th November 2010 starting at 8pm.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked all present for attending and closed the Meeting at 9.26pm.

Oswyn Murray 11th November 2010

Correspondence received

<u>Date</u>	<u>Rec'd</u>	<u>Sender</u>	<u>Subject</u>
19.07.10		Thames Valley Police	Letter and posters re Open Day - 04.09.10
20.07.10		Cotswolds Cons Bd	Update - June/July 2010
23.07.10		CDC	Mast Income
		AirAmbulance	Ack re donation
26.07.10		Banbury TC	Posters re Banbury Flower and Produce Show
28.07.10		Oxfordshire Assn for the Blind	Request for financial support
29.07.10		OCC	Road Safety Casualty Report 2009
02.08.10		OCC	Highways and Transport Customer Satisfaction Survey
			Local Transport Plan 3 (2011 - 2030) Issue newsletter
04.08.10		ORCC	Invitation to 90 th Birthday AGM - 08.10.10
		NSPCC	Fundraising Event - 05.09.10
05.08.10		CDC	Annual Electric Blanket Testing Campaign 2010
07.08.10		No-NED for Nucleat	Campaign Newsletter
		Bank of Ireland	Statement No. 90
		SLCC	Forthcoming courses
09.08.10		Playing Fields Assn	Newsletter - Summer 2010
13.08.10		ORCC	Celebrating Community Life in Rural Oxfordshire
		OALC	Update for Members - August 2010
14.08.10		OCC	Provision of Salt/Grit Bins
16.08.10		NHS Oxfordshire	Health News - July 2010
18.08.10		CDC	Supply of Full Electoral Roll
19.08.10		OALC	Local Referenda to veto excessive council tax increases (by email)
21.08.10		SLCC	Course - 'Working with your Council'
		CDC	Parish Council Elections - May 2010. Fee and Charge £57.20
23.08.10		Banbury CAB	Invitation to Annual Public Meeting - 08.09.10
25.08.10		OCC	The Oxfordshire Big Debate re reductions in budget
27.08.10		CDC	1. Cherwell Countryside Forum - 28.09.10
			2. Environment Forum - 04.10.10
28.08.10		OALC	Proposed Council Tax Increase Referendums
01.09.10		Clerks & Councils Direct	News - September 2010. Issue 71
03.09.10		OSCA	Project monies available
		OALC	Local Councils & Charitable Trusts - Workshop 01.11.10
06.09.10		SLCC	Notice of AGM - 16.10.10
		Cotswolds Cons Bd	The Cotswold Lion - Issue 23 - Autumn/Winter 2010
			Annual Review 2009-10