

Sibford Gower Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School on Thursday, 13th January 2011

Present

Parish Cllrs Peter Abbott, Roger Alder, Oswyn Murray (Chairman) and Alan Parkin.
County and District Cllr George Reynolds, Three local residents and the Clerk.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Gilian Soden who was prevented from attending because of a family commitment and these were duly accepted.

Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr Alan Parkin and seconded by Cllr Roger Alder that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th November 2010 be approved as a correct record and they were then signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

Cars illegally parked: The registration numbers (EF02PJX & KU54VVY) of cars regularly parked at the junction of Hawkes Lane and Shepherds Close were reported to Thames Valley Police on 15th November. The following day, the Clerk received a call from Thames Valley Police advising that the car owners had been visited and an undertaking received that the cars would no longer be parked there. Subsequently they were found to be parked in the Village Hall car park. The Secretary to the Village Hall committee was informed of this and subsequently the cars are now parked at the nearby roadside.

Road Surfaces: Oxfordshire Highways were contacted on 15th November 2010 with regard to attention required to poor road surfaces (Road leading from Hawkes Lane to the Doctors' Surgery and Temple Mill Road). Please refer to the Highways section of these minutes.

Sibfords Community Plan

Mrs Sue Mattinson was invited to address the Meeting and she presented a Progress Report. Contained in it were a report of the Launch Event on 7th December 2010, information about a Steering Group which is to be set up and the issuing of the first Newsletter - a copy of which had been delivered to every household in Burdrop, Sibford Ferris and Sibford Gower. The intention is to hold another Community Plan Event in the Village Hall in either February or March. A link to the Sibfords Community Plan has now been placed on the front page of the Village Website.

The Chairman thanked Sue Mattinson for all that she had done and continues to do in progressing the Community Plan and looked forward to further reports.

The Parish Council was very pleased that Cllr Oswyn Murray offered his services as the Parish Council Representative on the Community Plan Steering Group and proposed by Cllr Alan Parkin and seconded by Cllr Roger Alder it was so resolved that he should be elected. One matter that he will bring to a Steering Group Meeting is entering into discussions with The Cotswolds Conservation Board.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman referred to the Thermal Camera offered for use and the Rural Bus Scheme which were discussed at the previous Meeting. The Clerk offered his apologies for the fact that they had been overlooked subsequently and promised to take matters forward.

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Local Government Boundary Commission

The meeting considered the request for comments on the proposals of the Local Government Boundary Commission, involving a reduction of the number of County Councillors to 64. It was agreed that this would lead to serious diminution of the democratic process in the Sibfords, since at present the County and District Councillor, Cllr George Reynolds, is able to attend virtually every PC meeting, and his comments, advice and subsequent action are very effective in ensuring that local views are both well informed and taken seriously at County and District level. If the electoral boundaries were changed it is clear that no subsequent councillor would be able to attend PC meetings as regularly as Cllr Reynolds does. The chairman was asked to draft a letter to this effect to the Boundary Commission.

Clerk's Report

Light at steps to High Meadow: The Clerk has had no success in establishing contact with the resident in the nearby property which houses the meter through which the electricity is supplied. So, for the time being that resident has not been reimbursed for the cost of electricity used.

Following the previous Meeting, the Clerk emailed District Cllr George Reynolds suggesting a use for The Miriam Tebbs' land and the District Council owned land at the top of Burdrop Hill. Cllr Reynolds, present at this Meeting, undertook to investigate the situation.

The Clerk referred to a publication 'Snow Guide' issued by Oxfordshire County Council which explains the law to provide reassurance and offers advice on clearing snow and ice safety in future. It also outlines what the council will be doing to assist communities. Also included is a Parish Council Checklist. Having considered matters, the Parish Council felt, that as far as our local area is concerned and the recent very adverse weather conditions had revealed, there had been a very public spirited response with help in various forms given where and when necessary. The Chairman added that thanks and appreciation should be extended to the Ferris shop for all that the staff had done in keeping residents well supplied in consumer goods and newspapers and to those who had cleared snow from the road in the school area and The Cross.

Confirmation had been received from Oxfordshire Highways that Pound Lane, Acre Ditch, Main Street, Burdrop Hill and Hawkes Lane will be gritted as a matter of course in any future adverse weather treatments. The Parish Council appreciated the representations made by Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School to Oxfordshire Highways in this matter.

Financial

Parish Precept 2011/2012

The Councillors gave due consideration to setting the Precept for 2011/2012 and anticipated expenditure for general matters is in line with the previous financial year when the precept was set at £5,000. However, the cost of maintaining the Parish Council Burial Ground at an estimated £500 (shared with Sibford Ferris Parish Council) and Holy Trinity Churchyard at an estimated £3,000 causes the precept request from Cherwell District Council to be set at £8,000. With regard to the maintenance of the Churchyard, please refer to 'Churchyard' later in the minutes.

Proposed by Cllr Oswyn Murray and seconded by Cllr Roger Alder, the following payments were sanctioned to be made:-

£860.00 to Mr G. Hall in respect of (a) rebuilding part of the Church wall and (b) painting the gates to the entrance to the Churchyard – Retrospectively.

£2,650.00 to Mr C H Brown in respect of (a) maintenance to the Churchyard (£2,200.00) and maintenance of the Burial Ground (£450.00) – Retrospectively.

£900.00 to Sibford Village Hall by way of a grant to allow work to be carried out on the storage room – Retrospectively. This included £450 granted by Sibford Ferris PC and in respect of which they will be issuing a cheque in favour of Sibford Gower PC by way of reimbursement.

£237.45 to Mrs Susan Mattinson by way of a grant to cover refreshments, hire of village hall and cost of printing in respect of the Community Plan Launch – Retrospectively. This includes £100 received from ORCC and £65.26 from Sibford Ferris PC.

To Page 744

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Planning MattersPlanning Applications received, considered and no objections raised.

No. 10/00298/TCA Brent, Main Street, Sibford Gower L Williams
 1xConifer Hedge – Reduce height by 1/3. 2xWillow – Pollard. 3xConifer – Fell. 1xBlue Cyprus – Reduce by 50%
 1xLaburnan – Fell

No. 10/00300/TCA The Mount, Main Street, Sibford Gower P Hardman
 1xWeeping Willow – Crown reduce by 35% and generally thin and tidy.

No. 10/01631/F Barn Close, Burdrop Ms S Haden
 Single storey extension to rear. Extension of garage to provide boiler room. Construction of lean-to greenhouse adjacent to existing hovel building. Reinstate chimney to West Gable and installation of flue and solar panels. Installation of pellet boiler. Replace UPVC windows with timber casements. Replace doors to barn with timber doors.

No. 10/00337/TCA Yew Tree House, Main Street, Sibford Gower Mr Sabin
 2 Yew Trees – Crown lift over neighbouring property to give 2m clearance, Crown thin 15% deadwood to tidy and remove epicormic growth from main stems.

Planning Decisions received:-

No. 10/00298/TCA Brent, Main Street, Sibford Gower Mrs L Williams
 Specification as shown above.
 Granted

No. 10/00300/TCA The Mount, Main Street, Sibford Gower P Hardman
 Specification as shown above.
 Granted

Highway Matters

The Clerk reported that the poor condition of the road surface in Colony Road, The Colony and the road leading to The Surgery from Hawkes Lane had been referred to Oxfordshire Highways. All roads will be inspected by Oxfordshire Highways following the recent adverse weather conditions that have caused potholes etc. With regard to the Surgery Road, the Clerk is to have a site meeting with a staff member from Oxfordshire Highways to establish suitable remedial work. At the same time, he will draw attention to the excess water than runs from an adjacent property into Hawkes Lane.

Footpath Matters

No matters were raised.

Burial Ground

Mr Cedric Brown was thanked for the maintenance work that he carries out, the cost of which is shared with Sibford Ferris Parish Council.

Holy Trinity Churchyard

The cost of maintaining the Churchyard for the current financial year stands at £2,200 which is paid by the Parish Council under the powers available to it under a Local Government Act - the Church does not have the financial resources to meet the cost. Sibford Ferris Parish Council has expressed the view that it does not wish to contribute towards the cost and feels that the Church should provide volunteers to carry out the work. It is known that, because of the elderly nature of the Church Members, this is not practicable. Sibford Gower Parish Council whilst acknowledging that technically the Church falls within the Gower Parish, it is used by Ferris residents is disappointed at the line taken by the Ferris PC. The Clerk was instructed to write to the Ferris PC to ask that it gives further consideration to sharing the maintenance costs.

To Page 745

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Public Participation

Village Pond: Concern had been expressed concerning the current dropping water level and the ownership of the pond needs to be established. The Clerk reported that in 2007 enquiries were made. Oxfordshire County Council (although it owns the surrounding land) and Cherwell District Council denied ownership. Gloucester Land Registry Office advised that the pond is not registered under the Land Registration Act and, therefore, no information was available. Consequently, positive ownership could not be established. The Clerk was instructed to write to the Legal Department of Cherwell District Council setting out the situation and to seek its advice.

The Council then turned its attention to the subject of cars parked at the edge of the Pond which create a problem for passing farm vehicles, including milk tankers, and from time to time cause considerable damage to the grass verge on the other side of the road –evidenced by recent photographs taken by a local resident. Whilst accepting that parking space is somewhat limited in the area, it is desirable to keep cars away from the immediate edge of the pond. The Clerk was instructed to speak with Oxfordshire Highways to ascertain whether or not 'Keep Clear' signs might be painted on the road.

Any other Matters

Miriam Tebbs' Land: The Clerk reported that no response had yet been received from Cherwell DC to his email about the Chairman's suggestion that the Miriam Tebbs' Land might be combined with the plot opposite for housing or other purposes. Cllr Reynolds agreed to consult further on whether Cherwell DC might be willing to release their land, whether for housing as a rural exception site or for sale, or as allotment land to be administered by the Parish Council together with the Miriam Tebbs' Land.

Date of Next Meeting

The next Meeting will be in the Staff Room of Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School on Thursday, 24th March 2011 starting at 8pm.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked all present for attending and closed the Meeting at 9.37pm.

Osgy - Murray

24th March 2011

Correspondence received

<u>Date</u>	<u>Rec'd</u>	<u>Sender</u>	<u>Subject</u>
16.11.10		CDC	Information following the Parish Liaison Meeting
20.11.10		ARCh	Ack re £50 donation
22.11.10		OCC	Local Transport Plan 3
25.11.10		CDC	Planning application No. 10/00298/TCA. Brent, Main Street, Sibford Gower. Mrs L Williams
			Planning application No. 10/00300/TCA. The Mount, Main Street, Sibford Gower P B Hardman
26.11.10		OCC	Re Flooding (by email)
30.11.10		OALC	Update for Members - Nov/Dec 2010 (email)
03.12.10		CDC	New Register of Electors
		OCC	Introduction to OCC Stewardship
09.12.10		Cotswolds Consv Bd	Agenda - 24 th Meeting - 9 th Dec
		CDC	Planning application No. 10/01631. Barn Close, Burdrop. Ms S Hadden
10.12.10		Bank of Ireland	Bank statement No. 94
16.12.10		Cotswolds Consv Bd	Update - Newsletter Dec 2010/Jan 2011
17.12.10		CDC	Planning application No. 10/00337/TCA. Yew Tree House. Mr Sabin
20.12.10		SLCC	Oxfordshire Branch Newsletter
04.01.11		OALC	Update for Members - Jan 2011 (by email)
06.01.11		NHS Oxfordshire	Newsletter - Issue 25 - December 2010
07.01.11		OCC	Snow Guide
		CDC	Planning application No. 10/00300/TCA. P B Hardman - Granted
			Planning application No. 10/00298/TCA. Mrs L Williams - Granted
08.01.11		Clerks & Councils Direct	News - January 2011 - Issue 73
		Bk of Ireland	Bank statement No. 95
		Guideposts Trust	Poster re Dementia Helpline
10.01.11		SLCC	'The Clerk' Jan 2011
11.01.11		ORCC	News Bulletin - January 2011 (by email)
13.01.11		Local Govt Boundary Comm	Electoral Review of Oxfordshire
		CDC	Planning application No. 10/00337/TCA. Mr Sabin - Grant