

Sibford Gower Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held in Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School on Thursday, 24th March 2011

Present

Parish Cllrs Roger Alder, Oswyn Murray (Chairman), Alan Parkin and Gilian Soden
County & District Cllr George Reynolds, four local residents and the Clerk.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Peter Abbot who was prevented from attending because he was engaged in his veterinary duties and these were 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 13th January 2011 be approved as a correct record and they were then signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising other than those referred to below in the subjects on the agenda.

Sibfords Community Plan

Unfortunately, because of a prior commitment Mrs Sue Mattinson was unable to be present and her report on the present position of the Sibfords Community Plan was presented by the Chairman. Progress to date will be contained in the next Newsletter to be distributed in April.

The Chairman instructed the Clerk to convey to Sue Mattinson and Richard Hartree the Parish Council's appreciation of and thanks for the tremendous amount of work that they contribute towards the setting up of the Sibfords Community Plan.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that there had been no developments in respect of possible usages for the Miriam Tebbs' Land, including garden facilities, nor for the District Council owned land to the right of the 'Piggy' path. Cty and District Cllr George Reynolds has the matter before him and he will also investigate whether permission might be given for affordable housing or use as allotments of District Council owned land.

At the Chairman's invitation, Cllr George Reynolds updated the Meeting on the progress so far with the Localism Plan which will abolish the SE Plan and which is expected to receive Royal Assent in the Autumn. Details of any future local plan will be forthcoming December.

Clerk's Report

Village Website: The Parish Council will consider the inclusion of a page on the Village Website.

Annual Spring Clean: This will take place on Saturday, 16th April and will be advertised in the next issue of the Sibford Scene and on the notice boards. Villagers are asked to meet at the Village Hall at 10am where Cllr Peter Abbott will allocate areas to receive attention.

Financial

The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (As Amended) – Parish Allowances Schemes: Following the receipt from Cherwell District Council of a copy of the Parish Remuneration Panel's report on the review of Parish Members' Allowances for the 2011/12 financial year, all the Parish Councillors expressed the view that they did not wish to avail themselves of allowances

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Clerk's Salary: Notice has been received from HM Revenue & Customs that as from 6th April 2011 clerks who are at present self-employed cannot continue in that way. The Council must register as an employer and deduct PAYE and NIC. All returns must be done online and payments made electronically. The Clerk had made contact with a company of which he was made aware which is an HMRC agent and which will carry out the payroll service on behalf of the Parish Council at a very reasonable cost. Proposed by Cllr Oswyn Murray and seconded by Cllr Roger Alder, the Clerk was instructed to take matters forward.

Proposed by Cllr Gilian Soden and seconded by Cllr Alan Parkin, the following payments were sanctioned:-
£5.00 to Land Registry in respect of search re Village Pond in an attempt to establish ownership. (Retrospectively)

£133.07 to OALC being the annual subscription – 2011/2012. (Retrospectively)

Planning Matters

Planning Applications received, considered and no objections raised.

No. 10/01869/LB Glebe Farm, Main Street, Sibford Gower Dr & Mrs O Murray

Replace 4no. windows on West elevation and internal glazing on 1 no. window to East elevation.

Cllr Murray took no part in considering this application in view of his personal involvement.

No. 11/00209/F Lowland 6A The Colony, Colony Rd, Sibford Gower Mr C Evans

Demolition of 2 concrete garages and replace with a single wooden garage (double) on existing concrete base

No. 11/0205/F The Leys, Backside Lane, Sibford Gower C Warner

Conservatory to front elevation

No. 11/00278/LB Glebe Farm, Main Street, Sibford Gower Dr & Mrs O Murray

Internal secondary glazing to 5no. windows

Cllr Murray took no part in considering this application in view of his personal involvement.

Planning Decisions received:-

No. 10/00337/TCA Yew Tree House, Main Street, Sibford Gower Mr Sabin

2 x Yew – Crown Lift over neighbouring property to give 2m clearance, Crown Thin 15% deadwood to tidy and remove epicormic growth from main stems.

Grant to undertake works in a Conservation Area.

No. 10/01631/F Barn Close Burdrop 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.

Permission for development subject to conditions.

No. 10/01632/LB Barn Close, Burdrop S Haden

Single storey extension to rear with associated internal refurbishment works. Extension of garage to provide boiler room. Construction of lean-to greenhouse adjacent to existing hovel building and associated works. Reinstate chimney to West gable and installation of flue and solar panels. Installation of new pellet boiler and reinstate inglenook to groundfloor. Replace UPVC windows with timber casements. Replace doors to barn with timber doors.

Listed building consent subject to conditions.

No. 10/01869/LB Glebe Farm, Main Street, Sibford Gower Dr & Mrs O Murray

Replace 4no. windows on West elevation and internal glazing of 1no. window to East elevation.

Refusal of Listed Building Consent.

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Highway Matters

On 8th February 2011, the Chairman and the Clerk had site meetings with Mr Simon Marsden of Oxfordshire Highways in respect of the following:-

The narrowness and slope of the kerb at the junction of Pound Lane/Main Street create a hazard for those using mobility vehicles and this was demonstrated by local resident, Mr Alf Mullis, who was present. Mr Marsden recognized the situation and will arrange for the kerb to be widened and attention given to the current slope.

The deteriorating condition of the road adjacent to the Village Pond was inspected and it is suspected that there may be a leak in the pipe between the pond and the nearby drain which runs under the road surface and this may be a problem. The Clerk has written to Oxfordshire Highways asking that the matter be investigated.

Cars parked at the edge of the pond cause a problem for passing vehicles especially the large ones (including milk tankers) that serve the nearby farm. The Parish Council has been promised that appropriate 'Keep Clear' signs will be marked on the road in an attempt to deter possible parking. Mr Marsden said that he will arrange for a churned up section of grass verge (caused by a milk tanker avoiding parked cars) to have remedial work carried out.

With regard to the very poor condition of the road from Hawkes Lane to the Surgery, Mr Marsden said that he had already applied for capital funding to enable repair work to be carried out.

All the above are very much subject to the current financial constraints under which Oxfordshire Highways operates and, therefore, timescales are quite uncertain.

Since the above mentioned meeting, the 'Keep Clear' markings at the pond have been painted on the road and the result is, so far, very effective. With regard to the Surgery Road, Oxfordshire Highways will arrange for temporary patching work pending funding for road resurfacing.

Footpath Matters

With regard to the footpath between Backside Lane and Main Street, the stone wall of a property adjacent to part of it is in a state of collapse. The Clerk was instructed to speak with the property owners requesting that repair work be carried out.

Village Pond

A Land Registry search revealed that there is no owner of the Village Pond. The Clerk was instructed to make enquiries as to the cost of registering ownership by the Parish Council. Once this is known, a decision will be taken as whether or not to proceed.

Burial Ground

No matters were raised.

Holy Trinity Churchyard

An explanatory notice will appear in the next issue of the Sibford Scene in respect of the increase in the Precept for 2011/2012 to cover the estimated amount of £3,000 to pay for Churchyard maintenance and £1,000 to pay for the ongoing costs of the setting up of The Sibfords Community Plan (Please see Appx A)

Annual Parish Meeting

This will be held in Sibford Village Hall on Thursday, 12th May 2011 starting at 7.30pm. The Clerk will send out invitations to those who normally make presentations at the Annual Parish Meetings to do so again this year.

Public Participation

A local resident, present at the Meeting raised two matters:-

Speeding traffic along Colony Road and Pound Lane – he asked that the Police be requested to carry out camera speed checks especially at school arrival and departure times. Another resident asked that this should also be carried out in Burdrop. The Clerk was instructed to liaise with Thames Valley Police and also write to Sibford School, Sibford Ferris asking whether it would consider seeking parents' co-operation in slower driving through the villages.

The second matter was to enquire the possibility of the installation of a mirror at the junction of Backside Lane/Pound Lane for the benefit of motorists exiting Backside Lane. The Clerk was instructed to approach Oxfordshire Highways.

Any other Matters

No matters were raised.

Date of Next Meeting

The next Meeting will be The Annual Parish Council Meeting and take place in the Staff Room of Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School on Thursday, 16th June 2011 starting at 8pm.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked all present for attending and closed the Meeting at 9.27pm.

Oswyn Murray 16th June 2011