

SIBFORD GOWER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School on 21st September 2011

Present: Parish Cllrs Peter Abbott, Oswyn Murray (Chairman), Alan Parkin and Mrs Gilian Soden. County & District Cllr George Reynolds. Five local Residents and the Clerk.

Apologies: Apologies were received from Cllr Roger Alder who was unwell.

Minutes

Proposed by Cllr Peter Abbott and seconded by Cllr Alan Parkin, it was resolved that the minutes of the Meeting held on 16th June 2011 be approved. They were then signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising

Various matters arising are detailed in the relative parts of the agenda below.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman referred to the recent sad loss of Mrs Eileen Haynes who had regularly attended Parish Council Meetings and was very much involved in community life. The Clerk is to prepare, for the Chairman's signature, a letter of condolence on behalf of the Parish Council to be sent to her husband expressing the Council's appreciation of all that Eileen had contributed.

The Chairman referred briefly to The Bishop Blaize and it is understood that the matter of the ownership of the adjoining piece of land claimed by the Barton Family as theirs is still to be resolved with a recent court hearing having been adjourned and to be heard at a later date. With regard to the horse box and metal barrier positioned on the roadside verge, the matter is still to be resolved by Oxfordshire Highways.

Land at Burdrop adjoining Piggy Path: The Parish Council some time ago approached Cherwell District Council which owns the land as to whether it may be used for allotments. The response was that the District Council would be reluctant to see the land transferred to the Parish Council for allotment use unless it was satisfied that there is no foreseeable prospect of development. The Chairman instructed the Clerk to approach the District Council to enquire as to the possibility of a relatively short term lease (say for twenty years). District Cllr George Reynolds said that he would also look into the matter.

The Chairman referred to the two villages having been combined for planning purposes and now being classed as a single Category A village, which could make them liable for a larger increase in house building. He is in discussion with the Chairman of Sibford Ferris PC about the fact that this was done without consultation and they intend to mount a protest at the arbitrary decision by Cherwell District Council; he will report to the Parish Council in due course.

The Chairman spoke of the forthcoming conservation area and listed buildings review by the conservation team at Cherwell District Council; Mrs Mattinson had already been approached by Dr Rose Todd in relation to the Parish Plan, but there had not been any contact with the PC or with any of the organisations that hold records relevant to the history of the villages. It was agreed to pursue this matter with Dr Todd.

The Chairman referred to the letter that had been drafted by himself to the Electoral Review concerning the reduction of representation for rural areas. Cllr George Reynolds approved its contents and it was agreed to send it as the views of the Parish Council. The letter is appended to the minutes.

Sibfords Community Plan

Mrs Sue Mattinson reported on the current position and briefly took the Meeting through the Sibfords Community Plan News - September 2011 a copy of which is being delivered to every household in the

