

SIBFORD GOWER PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held in Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School on 22nd November 2011**

Present

Parish Councillors Peter Abbott, Roger Alder, Oswyn Murray (Chairman), Alan Parkin and Mrs Gilian Soden. County and District Cllr George Reynolds, five local residents and the Clerk.

Minutes of the previous Meeting on 21st September 2011

Proposed by Cllr Peter Abbott and seconded by Cllr Gilian Soden, the Minutes of the previous Meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising

The Chairman is still in discussion with the Chairman of Sibford Ferris Parish Council concerning the practicalities of merging the two Parish Councils and how this may impact upon the classification of housing category is concerned.

The reassessment of the Conservation Area is still being considered by Cherwell District Council.

With regard to the Village Pond and the intention of the Parish Council to obtain ownership, this is being carried forward by Cllr Roger Alder. An important factor is to establish its use, past and present, as a Community asset.

Play Area: Muriel Chandler on behalf of the Village Hall Committee is in discussion with Sibford Ferris Parish Council (which has a play area) to establish how matters may be taken forward.

Queen's Diamond Jubilee: The Parish Council is in consultation with the Village Hall Committee Secretary with regard to any village celebration.

Grit Bins: Mr Alan Berks has very kindly agreed that he will accommodate the bag of grit from Oxfordshire County Council in Wheathills. It is from this that grit bins will be refilled as and when required, by Mr Berks. Whilst at a recent Parish Liaison Meeting at Bodicote House, the Clerk learned that anyone taking grit for private use from the grit bins sited in the Parish is liable to prosecution.

Chairman's Report

Local resident Mr Paul Hobson is carrying out an analysis of Broad Band speeds which vary quite significantly between the Ferris and the Gower with the latter's being much stronger. The Chairman has promised the Parish Council's assistance in the work being carried out by Mr Hobson.

The Chairman referred to the thoughts of merging the Parish Councils of the Ferris and the Gower having in mind various places that are in common such as the church, schools, village hall, the surgery and the shop. As a possible step towards this, the Chairman suggested that it could be of benefit if Chairman or other representatives from one Council would attend the other's Parish Council Meetings with formal representation at Annual Parish Meetings. In this way, each Council would be aware of the feelings and views of the other. The Clerk was instructed to write to the Ferris Parish Council to ascertain its views on the matter.

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