

SIBFORD GOWER PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held in Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School on 17th January 2012**

Present

Parish Councillors Peter Abbott, Roger Alder, Oswyn Murray (Chairman) and Alan Parkin.
Peter Hardman (Clerk) and eighteen local residents.

Apologies

Apologies received from Cllr Gilian Soden who had a previously arranged engagement and Cllr and District Cllr George Reynolds who is in Australia

Minutes of the previous Meeting on 22nd November 2011

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

Matters arising

Matters arising were included in the reports of the Chairman and the Clerk.

Chairman's Report

Sibfords Community Plan: In the absence of Mrs Sue Mattinson, the Chairman read her report which sets out the current situation: there had been a 79% response to the questionnaire, and the answers were being correlated; the next Newsletter (News 8) will be issued at the end of January.

The Sibfords Broadband Usergroup: Mr Paul Hobson and Mr Tony More, who were at the Meeting, have agreed to form a group to press for improvements to Broadband speeds in the area. The Ferris PC had already indicated its support. The group will be announced in the Sibford Scene.

The Local Plan and The Neighbourhood plan: These have the Chairman's attention and updates will be provided in due course. The eventual Sibfords Community Plan will, when completed, require adoption by the Parish Council.

Conservation Area: Dr Rose Todd (Conservation Officer, Cherwell District Council) and her team are working on a review of the Ferris, Gower and Burdrop conservation areas and an exhibition will take place from 3pm to 6.30pm in the Village Hall on 21st February 2012 followed by a Public Meeting from 7 to 8pm.

Co-operation between the Ferris and the Gower Parish Councils: a response is still awaited from the Ferris Parish Council as to agreement on exchange of agendas and the attendance of members from one Council at the other's meetings. The Clerk was instructed to contact the Clerk of the Ferris PC.

Diamond Jubilee: The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, that a grant of £500 be made in connection with the cost of celebratory events that may be organised. The Clerk was instructed to take matters forward with the Village Hall Committee.

Clerk's Report

Grit Bins: In previous years, the filling and refilling of grit bins rested with Oxfordshire County Council. However, starting this year, the initial filling will be carried out by the County Council but the responsibility for refilling has been laid on the shoulders of the Parish Council which has been supplied with grit for refilling the bins as and when required. When, and if, residents find that a particular bin requires topping up they are asked to phone the Parish Clerk (Peter Hardman – Tel: 780391) who will make the appropriate arrangements. In this regard, Sibford Gower Parish Council is very grateful to local resident Alan Berks for undertaking to accommodate the reserve grit and carry out the refilling as and when needed. It should be noted that the grit is for highway use only and is not to be used for private properties. The Parish Council has been given to understand that legal action will be taken against anyone found so doing.

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Container sited on Conservation Land at Burdrop Hill: The Clerk is still awaiting information from the Enforcement Officer (Cherwell DC) regarding its removal.

Speed signs where Burdrop Hill joins the road to Sibford Ferris: There is an extremely short distance between the two where the speed limit is derestricted. The question had been asked as to why. Some time ago, enquiries had been made in this regard and the answer given was that as two parishes are involved it was a technical requirement. The Clerk was instructed to enquire again.

Financial

Prior to the Meeting, the Parish Councillors had considered the Precept request for the next financial year; and proposed by Cllr Peter Abbott and seconded by Cllr Roger Alder the sum of £6,250 was considered sufficient to cover all known commitments and give some reserve.

Proposed by Cllr Peter Abbott and seconded by Cllr Roger Alder the following payment was sanctioned.

£61.00 to the Society of Local Council Clerks being the Clerk's membership for 2012 (Retrospectively)

Planning Matters

Since the previous Meeting, consideration and approval was given to the following applications-

No. 11/01728/F Barn Close, Burdrop Ms S Haden
 No. 11/01729/LB
 (Planning & Listed Building)
 Single storey extension to rear. Alterations to garage to provide boiler room. Reinstate chimney to west gable and installation of flue and solar panels. Installation of peller boiler. Replace UPVC windows with timber casements. Replace doors to barn with timber doors.

No. 11/01866/F Birch Hill, Burdrop C. Radcliffe
 Side Extension
 (Approval recommended subject to clarification of planning rules and consideration of the views of neighbours.)

The following decision had been received:-

No. 11/01728/F Barn Close, Burdrop Ms S Haden
 No. 11/01729/LB
 (Planning & Listed Building)
 Single storey extension to rear. Alterations to garage to provide boiler room. Reinstate chimney to west gable and installation of flue and solar panels. Installation of peller boiler. Replace UPVC windows with timber casements. Replace doors to barn with timber doors.
 Listed Building Consent and Permission for development subject to conditions.

Village Pond

Cllr Roger Alder reported on progress made to date with regard to the Parish Council registering the pond. One matter that will help is to obtain statements from local residents as to their use and enjoyment of the pond going back some twenty years. An item seeking such information from long-term residents will appear shortly in an issue of the Sibford Scene. These statements will be collated by Cllr Alder in preparing the case for Village Green status for the pond.

Allotments

In the knowledge that Cherwell District Council will grant a lease of the land in Burdrop adjoining the Piggy Path for a peppercorn rent, it was decided to leave matters until the Sibfords Community Plan is in place and arrangements can be handled by an appropriate committee.

Highway Matters

The road between the Ferris and The Gate Hangs High will be closed for maintenance work from 20th January to 3rd February. Appropriate signs will be in place.

Bonds End Lane is in a poor state and the Clerk was instructed to contact Oxfordshire Highways.

Footpath Matters

No matters were raised.

Churchyard

An estimate for maintenance for the next financial year is £2,500. The Parish Council, under the power available to it, will make a grant of £1,250 to Holy Trinity Church and the Ferris Parish Council undertook to pay £300.

Public Participation

Mr Richard Butt, on behalf of The Bishop Blaize Support Group, addressed the Meeting. It was this subject that probably attracted the unusually large number of residents in attendance. He handed out papers that set out his questions to the Parish Council concerning planning contraventions at the Bishop Blaize Inn/End. The Parish Council had been well aware of Mr Butt's dealings with Cherwell District Council and was awaiting the outcome. However, the meeting requested more active involvement by the Parish Council; and the Chairman proposed that it should seek an urgent meeting of the Parish Council with the Head of Planning at Cherwell DC, attended by the Case Officer concerned and the Enforcement Officer, to discover what action has been and will be taken by Cherwell District Council. This was approved unanimously by all present. The Chairman also proposed that the Parish Council should seek a separate meeting with an official from the Legal Department in order to receive advice on the duties and responsibilities of the Parish Council in relation to reporting and acting on apparent breaches of planning regulations.

The Clerk was instructed to write to Cherwell District Council to arrange these meetings with the Head of Planning, the Case Officer and the Enforcement Officer, and with a Legal Officer to clarify the duties of the Parish Council.

Any Other Business

No matters were raised.

Date of Next Meeting

This will be on Wednesday, 21st March 2012 in the Staff Room of the Primary School starting at 8pm.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked all for attending and closed the Meeting at 9.40pm.

Oswyn Murray 21st March 2012