

Sibford Gower Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held in Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School on Thursday, 31st January 2008

Present

Parish Cllrs Peter Abbott, Muriel Chandler and Robin Spicer (Chairman).
County and District Cllr George Reynolds, five local electors and the Clerk.

Apologies

Apologies received from Cllr Martin Layer and Cllr Eric Payne.

Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr Muriel Chandler and seconded by Cllr Peter Abbott that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 22nd November 2007 be approved as a correct record and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

The Clerk reported that the brambles overhanging the road near the village pond had been pruned by Oxfordshire Highways

Chairman's Report

The Chairman had nothing to report at this stage of the Meeting

Clerk's Report

The Clerk raised the following matters:-

The 2008 Annual Parish Meeting:- It was decided that this will take place on Thursday, 8th May 2008 in the School Hall starting at 7.30pm.

The 2008 Litterblitz:- It was decided that this will take place on Saturday, 5th April 2008 meeting at the Village Hall at 10am. Cllr Robin Spicer is to organise.

Neighbourhood Action Group Meeting: This took place recently but the two representatives from this Parish were given only four days notice which proved insufficient time to allow them to attend. It has been requested that better notice be given in future.

Planning Matters

Planning Applications received

The Parish Councillors had given due consideration to and had no objections in respect of the following:-

No. 07/02424/F	Vine Cottage, Bonds End Lane, Sibford Gower	J A & B K Boyd
Proposed alterations and improvements to parking arrangements		
No. 07/02477/F	New Dwelling at Burdrop Farmhouse, Burdrop	C Hall
Conversion of roof space to form residential accommodation		
No. 07/02505/F	Oaklands, Acre Ditch, Sibford Gower	Mr & Mrs A Watts
Erection of car port		
No. 07/02552/TCA	Bramley Close, Bonds End Lane, Sibford Gower	PJ & JM Abbott
Reduce crown of 1 Damson by approx 2.5 metres		
Cllr Peter Abbott withdrew from consideration of this application		

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- No. 07/02542/TPO Tambun House, Pound Lane, Sibford Gower Mr & Mrs Clacy
Crown lift 1 Ash tree to approx 4.5 metres subject to TPO 33/89(T1)
- No. 07/92543/TPO Tambun House, Pound Lane, Sibford Gower Mr & Mrs Clacy
Crown lift 1 Hawthorn to approx 4 metres over driveway and lower branching lifted on opposite side of crown to re balance subject to TPO 33/89(T1)
- Nod 07/02659/F & 07/02660/LB Burdrop House, Burdrop Mr & Mrs C J Steane
Alterations to roof lights and windows. Amendments to permissions 06/01558/F & 06/01559/LB
- No. 08/0060/F New Barn Farm, Sibford Gower Mr & Mrs G Philip
Remove existing extension and erection of two storey rear extension
- Planning Decisions received
- No. 07/02220/TCA Land adjacent to track leading to Rye Hill Farm, Sibford W J & M E Wealsby
Gower
Pollard Ash Tree
Consent in Conservation Area
- No. 07/02163/F Cels Field, Backside Lane, Sibford Gower Mrs K Winter
Erection of timber framed conservatory
Permission for development subject to conditions
- No. 07/02552/TCA Bramley Close, Bonds End Lane, Sibford Gower P J & J M Abbott
Consent to reduce crown of 1 Damson by approx 2.5 metres
- No. 07/02424/F Vine Cottage, Bonds End Lane, Sibford Gower J A & B K Boyd
Proposed alterations and improvements to parking arrangement
Permission for development subject to conditions
- No. 07/02477/F New Dwelling at Burdrop Farmhouse, Burdrop C Hall
Conversion of roof space to form residential accommodation and addition of four rooflights (amendments to Planning Permission No. 05/00671/F)
Permission for development subject to conditions
- No. 07/02543/TPO Tambun House, Pound Lane, Sibford Gower Mr & Mrs P Clacy
Crown lift 1 Hawthorn to approx. 4 metres over driveway and lower branching lifted on opposite side of crown to re balance subject to TPO 33/89(T1)
Consent under Tree Preservation Order(s) subject to conditions
- No. 07/02542/TPO Tambun House, Pound Lane, Sibford Gower Mr & Mrs P Clacy
Crown lift 1 Ash tree to approx 4 metres and shorten the lowest limb growing towards the road by a maximum of 30%. To crown clean and remove the ivy covering the stem. Subject to TPO 33/89)
Consent under Tree Preservations Order(s) subject to conditions
- No. 07/02505/F Oaklands, Acre Ditch, Sibford Gower Mr & Mrs A Watts
Erection of car port
Refusal of permission for development

Highway Matters

Concern was raised about cars damaging the grass verge adjacent to the lay-by in Pound Lane and the Clerk undertook to pursue the matter.

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Footpath Matters

Complaints had been received regarding overhanging brambles and branches at the footpath between Pound Lane and High Meadow. Bushes by the steps to the right of the lay-by in Pound Lane require cutting back. Bushes in the Quaker burial ground adjacent to the footpath need trimming. The Clerk was instructed to speak with the involved property owners.

Finance

Proposed by Cllr Peter Abbott and seconded by Cllr Muriel Chandler it was resolved that retrospective sanction be given to the under mentioned payments:-

Cheque for £59.00 dated 01.12.07 payable to SLCC in respect of the Clerk's membership for 2008.

Cheque for £515.00 dated 10.12.07 payable to C Brown being £350 in respect of payment for maintenance of the Churchyard and £165.00 in respect of payment for work involved in the siting of the seat at Burdrop Hill.

Precept for 2008/2009: The precept request for the forthcoming financial year was discussed and in view of the uncertain aspect in respect of outgoings relating to the new burial ground and the maintenance of the churchyard it was felt prudent to ensure that sufficient monies are in place. To this end, and to meet the usual and known items of expenditure, the precept request was set at £6,000. In the event that some of the monies are not needed during the year they would be available for the following financial year and have a due impact on the next precept request. This figure was proposed by Cllr Robin Spicer and seconded by Cllr Peter Abbott and it was duly resolved.

Clerk's Salary: Proposed by Cllr Robin Spicer and seconded by Cllr Peter Abbott it was resolved that the Clerk's salary be increased from £1,614 pa to £1,760pa (maximum for the grade) in view of his fully satisfactory performance. The salary is declared for tax purposes and the Clerk's tax coding is duly adjusted.

Village Pond

With regard to Health and Safety, Cllr Martin Layer had provided to each Parish Councillor for consideration, prior to the Meeting, his suggestions in respect of good sense guidelines when visiting the pond. These were based on a risk assessment which had been carried out and included possible hazards, risk, vulnerable groups and proposed actions. The Parish Councillors duly considered and discussed the suggestions expressing their thanks and gratitude to Cllr Martin Layer for the very obvious amount work and thought that had been involved. The Clerk was instructed to have a suitable notice prepared for publication in the Sibford Scene and to write to groups where visits to the pond are probable seeking co-operation in ensuring that suitable Health and Safety measures are taken. An information board sited at the pond was felt by some assessors as being too obtrusive. The whole matter will be kept under review.

Mrs Glennis Hardman, Leader of the Pond Action Team and present at the Meeting, was asked about the present condition of the pond. She reported that all is fairly dormant at this present time of year, but the pond is clear and all appears to be in good order. It remains to be seen how well plants come along during the coming growing season. Planting had been carried out on the grass bank at the back of the pond. Mrs Hardman pointed out the damage being done by parked vehicles to the grass verge adjacent to the pond and asked whether vehicle owners could be asked to park elsewhere. This, it was acknowledged by the Parish Councillors, is a difficult subject and County and District Cllr George Reynolds confirmed this. The only remedy is to make an appeal in the Sibford Scene and the Clerk will deal with this. The Chairman thanked Mrs Hardman for her report.

New Burial Ground

The Clerk reported that matters are proceeding, albeit slowly. The erection of the metal fencing will take place as soon as practicably possible. The matter of insuring the fencing against theft and vandalism is being taken forward with the Council's insurers, especially with the current thefts of metals in mind.

Holy Trinity Churchyard

The Clerk reported that arrangements have been made with regard to maintenance of the Churchyard and thanks were extended to Mr Cedric Brown for his involvement.

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The Bishop Blaize

Mrs Eileen Haynes was invited to update the Meeting with regard to the Bishop Blaize. On behalf of the Bishop Blaize Action Group she is keeping in close contact with Cherwell District Council Planning Department to ascertain any developments and pressure is maintained in an endeavour to prevent the Bishop Blaize's closure. Currently the building is unoccupied and has been for some little time. The Chairman thanked Mrs Haynes for her report and involvement.

Public Participation

The Parish Council discussed the differing ways in which Members of the Public attending Meetings might be involved. It was decided that the present format of allowing matters and questions to be raised at the end of each Meeting and comments expressed, by permission of the Chairman, as subjects arose on the agenda should continue.

Any Other Business

Mr Alf Mullis, present at the Meeting, said that he is a Panel Member of Charter Community Housing and the matter of the positioning of a postal box in High Meadow had been raised. He asked whether the Parish Council might have any objection. It was thought to be a good idea and as such the Parish Council had no objection.

Mr Cedric Brown, present at the Meeting, drew attention to the poor state of some gullies resulting in flooding. The Clerk was instructed to contact Oxfordshire Highways.

Mrs Glennis Hardman, present at the Meeting, highlighted various holes in roads. These were noted by the Clerk who will contact Oxfordshire Highways.

Cllr Robin Spicer raised the matter of the Local Bus Service timings and Cllr George Reynolds provided clarification. Mr Alf Mullis mentioned that he had heard that the buses may omit Sibford Ferris from the route because of the great difficulties, at times, in negotiating between parked vehicles.

Date of Next Meeting

The next regular Council Meeting will be on Thursday, 27th March 2008 commencing at 8pm and to be held in the same venue.

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

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Correspondence received

<u>Date</u>	<u>Rec'd</u>	<u>Sender</u>	<u>Subject</u>
23.11.07	CDC	AOLC	Annual Parish Liaison Meeting - 07.11.07 - Notes County Circular - Nov 2007
26.11.07	CDC		Parish Precept 2008/2009
29.11.07	CDC		Planning application No. 07/02424/F. JA & BK Boyd
01.12.07	Oxfordshire Highways	SLCL CDC	Ack re branches and brambles overhanging highway Membership Renewal 1. Change re Planning Applications 2. Planning Application No. 07/02477/F. C Hall
03.12.07	H & C Seely		Request for permission to site rubbish skip for 7 to 10 days
04.12.07	Adams Hendry		Re Cherwell District Council Local Development Framework Stakeholder Forum - Report of Forum Process and Outcomes Register of Electors
05.12.07	Oxfordshire Highways	CDC Bk of Ireland	Ack re trees on verge at Burdrop Hill Statement No. 58
06.12.07	CDC		Planning application No. 07/02505/F. Mr & Mrs A Watts Planning application No. 07/02552/TCA. PJ & JM Abbott Planning application No. 07/02542/TPO. Mr & Mrs P Clacy Planning application No. 07/02543/TPO. Mr & Mrs P Clacy
07.12.07	The Public Catalogue Foundation		Re paintings in Council's ownership
08.12.07	Adams Henry	OCC CDC	Same subject as 04.12.07 Review of external transport posts Upper Heyford Base Planning Forum - Cancellation of next programmed meeting
12.12.07	CDC		Planning Application No. 07/02220/TCA - WJ & ME Wealsby - Consent
15.12.07	OCC		Temporary Road Closure - Colony Road
20.12.07	CDC		1. Local Development Framework 2. Do 3. Parish Liaison
21.12.07	Allianz Insurance plc	ORCC	Burial Ground Insurance
22.12.07	CDC		Changes to the Post Office Network in Oxfordshire 1. England's 2008 Bus Concession 2. Planning applications Nod 07/02659F & 07/02660/LB. Burdrop House. Mr & Mrs C J Steane
29.12.07	OCC		Temporary Road Closure - Colony Road
04.01.07	CDC		Planning application No. 07/02163/F. Cels Bield, Backside Lane, Sibford Gower. Mrs K Winter. Permission for development subject to conditions
05.01.08	CDC		The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (As amended) - Parish Allowances Schemes
07.01.08	Clerks & Councils Direct	Bk of Ireland	News - January 2008 - Issue 55 Bank statement No. 69
11.01.08	CDC		Parish Precept 2008/2009
12.01.08	OCC		Home2School Newsletter - Spring 2008
	Oxfordshire Playing Fields Assn		Newsletter - Winter 2007-08
14.01.08	CDC		Cherwell Countryside Forum - Biodiversity and the NERC Act Duty 06.02.08
	Queensbury Shelters Ltd		Information
16.01.08	CDC		Cherwell Seniors Group's Newsletter - Jan 08 to Apr 08
17.01.08	CDC		1. Agenda - Standards (Special) C'tee Mtg - 24.01.08 2. Planning application No. 07/02552/TCA. Bramley Close, Bonds End Lane Consent
	Dept for Communities and Local Government		Consultation on orders and regulations relating to the conduct of Local Authority Members in England
18.01.08	ORCC		News Bulletin - January 2008
	CDC		Planning application No. 07/02424/F. JA & BK Boyd. Permission for development subject to conditions
22.01.08	Alan Waterhouse	CDC	Information re mole trapping 1. Community Hall, Recreation and Sports Facilities Grants 2008/2009 2. The Recreation Strategy for Cherwell 2008/09 Action Planning Workshop 3. Planning application No. 08/0060/F. New Barn Farm. Mr & Mrs G Philip
23.01.08	CDC		1. Spring Clean 2008 2. Local Development Framework Update
26.01.08	CDC		1. Planning application No. 07/02477/F. C Hall. Permission 2. Planning application No. 07/02543/TPO. Mr & Mrs P Clacy. Consent 3. Planning application No. 07/02505/F. Mr & Mrs A Watts. Refusal

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30.01.08 Audit Commission
31.01.08 ORCC
OCC
CDC

Appointment of external auditor
The Challenge of Community Change - 13.02.08
Oxfordshire Public Transport Guide
Planning Application No. 07/02542/TPO. Mr & Mrs P Clacy. Consent