

Sibford Gower Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

held in Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School on Thursday, 27th March 2008

Present

Parish Cllrs Peter Abbott, Muriel Chandler, Martin Layer (Vice Chairman), Cty & District Cllr George Reynold, six local residents and the Clerk.

Apologies

Apologies received from Cllr Robin Spicer (Chairman) who was attending elsewhere a previously arranged meeting.

Apologies received from Cllr Eric Payne who is in hospital.

Proposed by Cllr Muriel Chandler and seconded by Cllr Peter Abbott, it was resolved that the absences be accepted as true and valid reasons by the Parish Council.

Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr Muriel Chandler and seconded by Cllr Peter Abbott that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 31st January 2008 be approved as a correct record and they were duly signed by the Vice Chairman.

It was proposed by Cllr Muriel Chandler and seconded by Cllr Peter Abbott that the Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Meeting held on 10th March 2008 be approved as a correct record and they were duly signed by the Vice Chairman.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising at this stage.

Chairman's Report

The Clerk reported that he was not aware of anything that the Chairman may have wished to report and the Vice Chairman, in the Chairman's absence, said that he had nothing on which to specifically report at this stage of the Meeting.

Clerk's Report

Regarding the Parish Council's appointment of Trustees of The Town Estate Charity, the Clerk, after having exchanged correspondence with the Secretary of The Town Estate Charity, was able to clarify the tenure of the terms of office. Trust Members are appointed, initially, for a term of four years. However, Trustees may continue if they so wish. The Parish Council is empowered to remove a Parish Council appointed Trustee and appoint a replacement.

The Clerk reported on his attendance at the meeting held in Banbury Police Station on 11th March 2008 of the Neighbourhood Action Group. Minutes of the meeting had been provided to the Parish Councillors. PC Phil Morris, our Neighbourhood Specialist Officer, had asked for, and was provided with, the contact names for the Village Hall, the Friendship Club, The Fielding Day Centre and the Sibford Scene in order that relevant information may be provided from time to time

A review was undertaken, at the Meeting, of the Parish Council's asset register. Nothing has changed in that the assets are the freehold land at Hawkes Lane (the Miriam Tebbs's plot) and the Burial Ground.

The Clerk reminded the Meeting of the forthcoming Litterblitz on the 5th April.

Planning MattersPlanning Applications received

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

No. 08/00134/F	8 Barley Close, Sibford Gower	Mr & Mrs R Morbey
Single storey rear extension and alterations to front porch		
To 682		
No. 08/00244/TCA	Holly Close, Main Street, Sibford Gower	K W Manning
Fell 1 Prunus		
No. 08/00380/F	5 The Colony Sibford Gower	D C Smith
Demolition of existing garage. New garage with store over. Single storey and first floor extension		
No. 08/00629/TCA	Becroft House, Burdrop	Mrs E Fovague
Fell Leylandii and remove stump		
No. 08/00567/F	Silver Birches, Backside Lane, Sibford Gower	R Turner
Alterations to existing garage to form ancillary accommodation		

Planning Decisions received

No 07/02659/F	Burdrop House, Burdrop	Mr & Mrs C J Steane
Alterations to roof lights and windows. Amendments to permission 06/01558/F		
Permission for development subject to conditions		
No. 07/02660/LB	Burdrop House, Burdrop	Mr & Mrs C J Steane
Alterations to roof lights and windows. Amendments to permission 06/01559/LB		
Listed Building consent subject to conditions		
No. 08/0060/F	New Barn Farm, Sibford Gower	Mr & Mrs G Philip
Remove existing extension and erection of two storey rear extension (as amended by drawing No. 4428-02a received 29.02.08 with agent's letter dated 28.02.08)		

Highway Matters

The Hedge fronting 1 – 6 Pound Lane:- The Clerk reported that ownership had been denied by Oxfordshire County Council and Charter Community Housing Ltd. He was instructed to approach Cherwell District Council to ascertain whether it might admit ownership. The purpose is to establish which body is responsible for pruning and maintenance.

The Clerk reported that he had spoken with PC Phil Morris on 25th Feb concerning parked cars causing problems for refuse collection lorries in High Meadow. PC Morris said that he would arrange for a Community officer to visit and check the position out. There have been no developments since then.

Footpath Matters

The "Piggy Path": Following complaints regarding the very poor condition of the path, the Clerk wrote to Oxfordshire County Council on 17th March and a response is still awaited.

Finance

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

Retrospectively - Cheque No. 65 for £950.00 dated 13.03.08 in favour of George Hall being the cost of building and repairing the stone walls of the Burial Ground and the Churchyard. Pro rata reimbursement has been sought from Sibford Ferris PC.

To 683



Opportunities for Play and Children

Cllr Muriel Chandler spoke on this subject (and in addition referred to equipment which benefit those of perhaps more senior years) and a discussion took place as to desirability and practicality). It was agreed that the democratic way forward would be to have the matter included for discussion at the forthcoming Annual Parish Meeting so residents thoughts may be heard. The Clerk was instructed include the subject in the agenda.

Register of Interests and Parish Councillors' Allowances

The only interest declared was that of Cllr Muriel Chandler's position of Secretary to the Village Hall Committee.

As to Parish Councillors' Allowances, the Parish Councillors agreed to continue without claiming them.

Village Pond

Cllr Muriel Chandler voiced appreciation of all that Cllr Martin Layer had done in carrying out the risk assessment and the good sense guidelines. The guidelines had been published in an issue of the Sibford Scene (to be repeated at reasonable intervals) and copies are to be sent by the Clerk to Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School, the Friendship Club, The 1st Sibfords Scout Group and Sibford Pre-School.

A letter had been received from a concerned resident regarding the damage to the grass bank in front of the Chestnut tree caused by the parking of cars where drivers attempt to give more space for passing farm vehicles thus creating increasing erosion of the bank. The present effect is that the roots of the tree are becoming exposed. The suggestion has been made that a narrow lay-by be created with kerb stones to protect the grass bank from further damage. The Clerk was instructed, as a first step, to approach the Tree Officer at Cherwell District Council to seek his opinion as to any danger to the tree (which is in a conservation area). When his opinion is to hand, the matter of approaching Oxfordshire Highways as to the creation of a narrow lay-by and the installation of kerbing will be considered.

New Burial Ground

In the light of current country wide thefts, the Clerk had been instructed to ascertain whether the metal fencing that is to be erected in due course might be insured. The Council's insurance company has advised that the present cover in respect of gates and fences is restricted to impact damage only by motor vehicle and animal and may not be extended.

Holy Trinity Churchyard

There was nothing to report in this regard.

The Bishop Blaize

Mrs Eileen Haines was invited to report on any developments. She told the Meeting that Legal advice received informed that nothing more may be done at the present time. A complete log of any activity is maintained and any changes are advised to Cherwell District Council. Mrs Haines was invited to speak at the forthcoming Annual Parish Meeting and the Vice Chairman thanked her and the Support Group for all that they have done and continue to do. He added that Parish Council is most appreciative.

Public Participation

Bus Passes: Mr Alf Mullis, a local resident, was allowed to speak earlier in the Meeting as Cty & District Cllr George Reynolds was able to be present but could not stay for the whole session because of another engagement. Mr Mullis took issue with Cllr Reynolds over what he had said at the previous Parish Council Meeting and it involved the matter of the new passes being available from 9.30am and not the previous 9am. He felt that this badly effected those who had used the 9.00am start. Cllr George Reynolds was quite adamant that the facts were as stated by him at the previous Meeting but added that a review of the situation would take place after three months.

Any Other Business

The Parish Councillors had previously read the letter from the ORCC concerning the Oxfordshire County Council review of primary school provision – update. Cllr Martin Layer expressed the Council's view that everything possible should be done to promote the school in every possible way

Cllr Peter Abbott spoke on the matter of Parish Councils and Wildlife where new legal duties now exist. Parish Councils now have a legal duty to conserve biodiversity and Parishy Councils can help by considering the matter when commenting on planning applications.

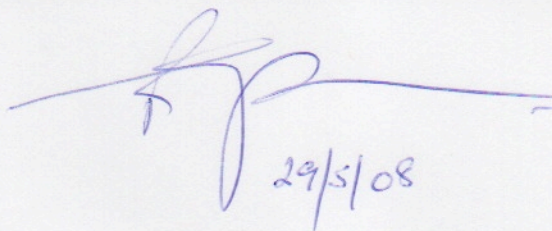
To 684

The Councillors considered a consultation document from the District Council which identifies areas of land throughout the Cherwell District that has been put forward as possible sites for future housing development. There are no proposals for the Sibfords in the document. Cllr Muriel Chandler expressed concern about the impacts of new housing on the rural environment, the provision of affordable housing and the overall costs of the consultation process. Cllr Martin Layer explained that Cherwell has to allocate land for housing as part of the wider provisions of the South East Plan and that this document is just part of a lengthy and complex consultation designed to let as many people as possible have their say in the decision making process. Should local people wish to engage in the process and express their views, all the documents are available on www.cherwell-dc.gov.uk.

Date of Next Meeting

The next regular Council Meeting will be on Thursday, 29th May 2008 commencing at 8pm and to be held in the same venue.

There being no further business to discuss, the Vice Chairman thanked all present for attending and closed the Meeting 10.04pm.



29/5/08

Correspondence received

<u>Date</u>	<u>Rec'd</u>	<u>Sender</u>	<u>Subject</u>
01.02.08		Cotswolds Conservation Board	Update - Winter 07/08
02.02.08		CDC	Planning application No. 08/00134/F. Mr & Mrs R Morbey
		Bk of Ireland	Bank Statement No. 60
06.02.08		George Reynolds	Re School Review
		CDC	Cherwell Green Spaces & Playing Pitch Strategies
08.02.08		Oxfordshire Highways	Acceptance to attend APM by Ralph Grant
13.02.08		CDC	Planning application No. 08/00244/TCA - K W Manning
15.02.08		Oxfordshire Training Partnership	2008 Training Programme for Local Councils
		CDC	Planning Applications Nod 07/02659/F & 07/02660/LB Permission for Development Subject to conditions and Listed Building Consent subject to conditions.
16.02.08		CDC	Distribution of February 2008 Youth Spotlight Newsletter
20.02.08		ORCC	OCC review of primary school provision - update
		Allianz Insurance plc	Re insurance of metal railings
21.02.08		Oxfordshire Highways	Re hedge - Pound Lane, culvert in Hawkes Lane, and potholes
22.02.08		OCC	Draft Report of Childcare Market Assessment
		CDC	New National Concessionary Bus Pass Scheme April 2008
23.02.08		CDC	Cherwell Local Development Framework Consultation
27.02.08		CDC	Notice of alteration to Register of Electors
28.02.08		Open Spaces Soc	Open Space - Spring 2998 - Vol 29 - No.1
		Record RSS Ltd	Playground Inspection and Maintenance
		The Town Estate Charity	Re PC Nominees as Trust Members
29.02.08		Warwickshire CC	Changes to the Minerals & Waste Development Scheme
01.03.08		Banbury WRVS	General Information
		CDC	Planning Application No. 08/00380/F - 5 The Colony, Sibford Gower - D C Smith
03.03.08		SLCC	"The Clerk" - Mar 2008
06.03.08		Clerks & Councils Direct	News - Mar 2008 - Issue 56
		CDC	Cherwell Local Development Framework Village Policy Workshop - 11.03.08
		ORCC	News Bulletin - Mar 2008
08.03.08		CDC	Planning application No. 08/00629/TCA. Beecroft House, Burdop. Mrs E Fovague
		Thames Valley Police	Community Policing Awards
10.03.08		CAG Project Oxfordshire	News - Feb 2008
11.03.08		CDC	Planning Application No. 08/0060/F. New Barn Farm, Sibford Gower. Mr & Mrs G Philip
			Permission for development subject to conditions
13.03.08		CDC	Planning application No. 08/00567/F. Silver Birches, Backside Lane, Sibford Gower. R Turner
14.03.08		Standards Board for England	News - Mar 2008
15.03.08		Oxfordshire Partnership	Details re Sustainable Community Strategy briefing meetings
20.03.08		BDO Stoy Hayward LLP	Local Council Briefing - Spring 2008
		Audit Commission	Appointment of external auditor
		CDC	Cherwell District Council Calendar of Meetings 2008/09
22.03.08		OCC	Invitation to Youth Opportunity Fund and Youth Capital Fund Celebration Event - 03.04.08
		Cotswold AONB	1. News - Issue 18 - Spring/Summer 2008
			2. Cotswold Warden - Special 40 th Anniversary Edition 2008
25.03.08		Cotswold Cons Bd	Agenda - Twelfth Board Meeting - 27.03.08
26.03.08		Warwickshire CC	Temporary road closure - Traitors Ford Road, Whichford
		CDC	Agenda - Standards Committee - 02.04.08
27.03.08		ORCC	Oxfordshire Village of the Year Competition 2008
		CDC	Planning application No. 08/00716/OUT. Heyford Patk Camp Road, Upper Herford. North Oxfordshire Consortium