

Sibford Gower Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held in Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School on Thursday, 29th May 2008

Present

Parish Cllrs Peter Abbott, Muriel Chandler and Robin Spicer, County and District Cllr George Reynolds, three Local Electors and the Clerk.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Martin Layer who had a prior engagement. The apologies were accepted.

Cllr Robin Spicer asked the Meeting to observe two minutes silence in memory of Cllr Eric Payne who died in hospital on the day of the Meeting after a period in a Residential Nursing Home. He had been a Parish Councillor since 21st May 1964 and had held the office of chairman from 10th June 1983 to 17th May 2006. His guidance and invaluable lifetime knowledge of the locality and its history will be very sadly missed.

Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

Proposed by Cllr Muriel Chandler and seconded by Cllr Peter Abbott, Cllr Robin Spicer re-elected as Chairman.
Proposed by Cllr Peter Abbott and seconded by Cllr Muriel Chandler, Cllr Martin Layer was re-elected as Vice Chairman (his willingness having been previously expressed).

Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr Peter Abbott and seconded by Cllr Muriel Chandler that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 27th March 2008 be approved as a correct record and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising apart from those referred to under the various headings below.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman had nothing to report at this point in the Meeting.

Clerk's Report

The Clerk said that it had been reported that the bench in the Miriam Tebbs' land is in a poor condition. With the fact in mind that the land is very rarely used by the public, expenditure on a replacement is not financially viable. Mr Cedric Brown kindly undertook to see whether temporary repairs could be carried out.

The Clerk referred to amendments to Code of Conduct Regime: With effect from 8th May 2008, responsibility for the initial assessment of all complaints about breaches of Code of Conduct are to be referred to the Standards Committee of Cherwell District Council not to the Standards Board for England as previously happened.

Neighbourhood Watch: Following the sad passing of Mr John Mulley, Mrs Mollie Mulley had very kindly agreed to take on the role of Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator for the time being. The Councillors instructed the Clerk to convey their appreciation

Planning Matters

Planning Applications received

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

No. 08/00567/F	Silver Birches, Backside Lane, Sibford Gower	R Turner
Alterations to existing garage to form ancillary accommodation (as amended by drawing no. 8.1.08/1B received 02.04.08)		

To 686

No. 08/01006/F The Old Post Office, Main Street, Sibford Gower J Mulley
Variation of Condition 6 of application 02/01886/F – to allow annex to be used for holiday accommodation or for short term letting

No. 08/01111/F Handywater Farm, Sibford Gower M Fermoy
General purpose agricultural building

No. 08/01148/F 1 Acre Ditch, Sibford Gower R Wallington
Two storey side extension. New porch

Planning Decisions received

No. 08/00244/TCA Holly Close, Main Street, Sibford Gower K W Manning
Fell 1 Prunus
Consent in Conservation Area

No. 08/00134/F 8 Barley Close, Sibford Gower Mr & Mrs R Morbey
Single storey rear extension and alterations to front porch
Permission for development subject to conditions

No. 08/00629/TCA Beecroft House, Burdop Mrs E Fovague
Fell Leylandii and remove stump
Consent in Conservation Area

No. 08/00567/F Silver Birches, Backside Lane, Sibford Gower R Turner
Alterations to existing garage to form ancillary accommodation (as amended by drawing No. 8.1.08/1B and by drawing number 8.108/2C received 22.04.08)
Permission for development subject to conditions

Highway Matters

At the recent Annual Parish Meeting, the following matters were raised by a local resident:-

1. A wooden arch erected at the entrance to the garden of Vine Cottage, Bonds End Lane. The question was as to whether this meets with the approval of CDC Planning Department? The Clerk contacted Cherwell DC and the response was that planning permission is required. As a matter of courtesy, the Clerk had advised the owners that the matter had been raised.
2. A gate at Canny Cottage, Burdop which tends to swing into the road possibly endangering passing vehicles. The Clerk wrote to Cherwell DC but, to date, only an acknowledgement had been received advising that the matter would have attention.
3. The drive constructed across the land in front of The Old Vicarage. The Clerk exhibited a letter from Oxfordshire County Council evidencing that the drive had been inspected and met with approval. He duly conveyed this verbally to the resident who raised the matter.

Footpath Matters

The hedge fronting 1-6 Pound Lane: The responsibility for the maintenance of the hedge has still not been resolved. The Clerk is in contact with Oxfordshire CC, Cherwell DC and Charter Community Housing Ltd.

The Bridleway at the end of Back Side Lane: A complaint had been received concerning the excrement left by dogs being walked there. The Clerk is to obtain suitable warning signs to be posted in the area.

Finance

Proposed by Cllr Robin Spicer and seconded by Cllr Peter Abbott, it was resolved that sanction be given to the under mentioned payments:-

Cheque No. 70 dated 29.05.08 in the sum of £1,006.72 in favour of P B Hardman being the Clerk's salary £880.00 (paid six months in arrears) and £126.72 reimbursement of the Clerk's expenditure in respect of stationery, stamps and pond costs.

Retrospectively – Cheque No.66 dated 29th April 2008 in the sum of £330.85 in favour of Allianz Insurance plc being the insurance premium for cover from 1st June 2008 to 31st May 2009.

Retrospectively – Cheque No. 67 dated 1st May 2008 in the sum of £125.85 in favour of OALC being the annual subscription 2008 –2009.

Retrospectively – Cheque No. 68 dated 8th May 2008 in the sum of £20.00 in favour of ORCC being the cost of membership 2008/2009.

Retrospectively – Cheque No. 69 dated 13th May 2008 in the sum of £180.00 in favour of Julie Goodlake being payment for maintenance of Miriam Tebbs' land.

Annual Financial Return and Receipts & Payments Account for the year ended 31st March 2008

The above had been examined by the Parish Councillors prior to the Meeting. Proposed by Cllr Robin Spicer and seconded by Cllr Peter Abbott, it was resolved that they be accepted as correct and be signed off by the Chairman and the Clerk as Responsible Finance Officer. The Return will be submitted to the External Auditor and copies of both will be displayed on the Parish Council's notice board for the required period of time.

The duties of Internal Auditor were once again carried out by Mr David Soden to whom the Parish Council is very grateful. The Clerk was instructed to write to him expressing thanks and appreciation.

Annual Governance Statement

Section 2 of the Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2008 requires that the Annual Governance statement is approved by the Council and recorded as a Council minute. The Members of the Parish Council are satisfied that all the parts of the Annual Governance Statement have been fulfilled.

The aspects of the Annual Governance Statement contained within the Audit Commission Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2008 received attention and all matters were considered to have been fulfilled. Having been proposed by Cllr Robin Spicer and seconded by Cllr Peter Abbott, it was resolved that it be approved by the Council.

Asset Register

The Members of the Parish Council reviewed the Asset Register and were satisfied that it remains accurate and a true record of the Parish Council's assets.

Village Pond

Mrs Glennis Hardman, Leader of the Pond Action Team, reported that the pond is looking very good although some replanting work is needed and this will receive attention very shortly. There has been an extreme shortage this year of frog activity but this is in common with other neighbouring ponds.

The Clerk had been in contact with Oxfordshire County Council with regard to the protection of the grass verges adjacent to the pond. He was told that a small lay-by and retaining wall near the large elm tree would not be permitted to safeguard the tree roots. Wooden posts are allowable and it was suggested that a site meeting be held with residents closest to the pond being invited to meet with Mr Tim Shickle (Tree Officer, Oxford CC) to seek common consent. The owners of The Old Rectory are willing to have posts erected at their side of the road but it would mean giving up two or three feet of their land – which is County Highway owned but in respect of which there is a licence to plant granted. The Clerk will speak with all the parties involved.

To 688

In an attempt to lessen the number of vehicles parked in the pond area, an appeal is to be made to owners who are fortunate enough to have an alternative parking facility available to make use of it.

New Burial Ground

A grant of £336.61 was received on 03.04.08 from Sibford Ferris PC being a pro-rata in respect of the recent cost of repairs to the Burial Ground stonewalls. The SFPC Councillors declined to contribute towards the cost of the repairs to the Churchyard stonewalls.

The Clerk informed the Meeting that Mr & Mrs Alan Berks are willing to put their sheep on the land for maintenance purposes as and when required. The offer was appreciated and the Clerk will speak to Mr & Mrs Berks with regard to the way forward. Meanwhile, Mr Cedric Brown is keeping the growth of the grass under control.

Holy Trinity Churchyard

The Parish Council expressed its thanks to Mr Cedric Brown for his continued maintenance of the grounds.

Public Participation

There were no matters raised apart from one particular instance of clippings from pruned hedges being left on the road. The Clerk was instructed to speak with those responsible to seek their future co-operation.

Any Other Business

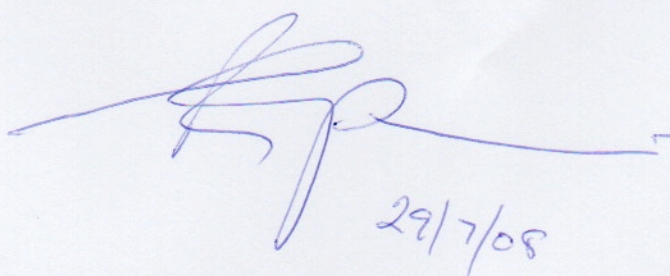
Mrs Evelyn Phillips had kindly offered to provide a seat in memory of her husband who sadly died very recently. She would like it to be in an area where people might meet and pass the time of day. The situation she had suggested appeared to the Councillors as not practicable (on Wheathills) but it was thought that the land at the rear of the Village Hall may be suitable. Cllr Muriel Chandler will speak with the Village Hall Committee to ascertain whether it would be agreeable and the Clerk will speak with Mrs Evelyn Phillips to find out as to whether the positioning would be acceptable to her.

The matter of replacing the late Eric Payne on the Parish Council was discussed. There is a correct and laid down procedure to follow and the Clerk will attend to this.

Date of Next Meeting

With regard to the next regular Council Meeting, a provisional date of Tuesday, 29th July 2008 has been arranged – to be confirmed later - 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 9.15pm.



29/7/08