

**Sibford Gower Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held in Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School
on Tuesday, 30th September 2008**

Present

Parish Cllrs Peter Abbott, Muriel Chandler, Martin Layer and Robin Spicer (Chairman), Dr Oswyn Murray, County & District Councillor George Reynolds, six Local Electors and the Clerk.

Co-option of a Parish Councillor

The Chairman expressed pleasure that Dr Oswyn Murray had voiced a willingness to become a Member of the Parish Council to take the place of Eric Payne who passed away a little while ago. The Chairman went on to give an account of Dr Murray's background and experience.

Proposed by Cllr Peter Abbott and seconded by Cllr Martin Layer, it was resolved that Dr Oswyn Murray be co-opted as a Member of the Parish Council. The Chairman formerly welcomed Dr Murray as a Member of the Parish Council and thanked him for offering his services.

Cllr Oswyn Murray signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr Peter Abbott and seconded by Cllr Muriel Chandler that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 29th July 2008 be approved as a correct record and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

The Clerk reported that the hedge at Burdrop Hill had been pruned back by Oxfordshire Highways.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman had nothing specific upon which to report at this stage of the Meeting.

Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that he had attended the Neighbourhood Action Group Meeting at Banbury Police Station on 11th September 2008 and the minutes will follow.

Planning MattersPlanning Applications received

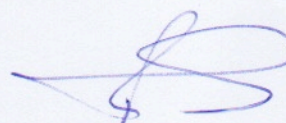
None had been received since the last Meeting.

Planning Decisions received

No. 08/01596/F The Jitty, Burdrop
Extension to residential garage to provide workshop and store
Permission for development subject to conditions

Ms A Broe

To 693



No. 08/01830/TCA Green Acres, Main Street, Sibford Gower
 Fell 1 Leylandii, 1 Cedar and 1 Pine
 Consent in Conservation Area

Mrs M Hobson

Withdrawal of Planning Application

No. 08/01590/F Rosebank Cottage, Main Street, Sibford Gower
 Two storey rear extension. Front porch.

S George

Highway Matters

The wooden arch on the grass verge at a property in Bonds End Lane had been removed by the owners to comply with Planning regulations.

With regard to a property in Burdrop, the Clerk was instructed to write to the owners seeking their co-operation in ensuring that a gate is prevented from swinging into the road creating a possible hazard for passing vehicles.

Footpath Matters

The Clerk was instructed to write to the occupiers of properties on both sides of the 'Piggy' path, Burdrop requesting that overhanging bushes are pruned back.

Financial Matters

Following the death of Cllr Eric Payne and the co-option of Dr Oswyn Murray, it was necessary to submit a new bank mandate and this was completed by all the Parish Councillors and the Clerk. It was proposed by Cllr Robin Spicer seconded by Cllr Martin Layer and resolved that the Resolution set out within the mandate document be passed and the mandate sent to Bank of Ireland.

Annual Financial Return for the year ended 31st March 2008.

The external audit by BDO Stoy Hayward LLP had been completed and there were no matters which came to their attention which required the issuing of a separate issues arising report. The Annual Report was presented to the Council now that the audit opinion had been given and it was approved and accepted by the Council.

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

Cheque No. 74 dated 29th August 2008 for £1,600.00 in favour of Stour Engineering Services in respect of payment towards the cost of the metal fencing at the New Burial Ground. A pro rata payment will be received in due course from Sibford Ferris PC to which a pro rata VAT refund will be made following an application to HM Revenue and Customs.

Cheque No. 75 dated 3rd September 2008 for £141.00 in favour of BDO Stoy Hayward LLP in respect of settlement of the invoice for the external audit of the Parish Council's Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2008.

To 694

Cheque No. 76 dated 20th September 2008 for £50.00 in favour of Royal British Legion by way of a donation. (Sibford Ferris PC and Sibford Gower PC pay on an alternate years basis).

Also sanctioned was a donation of £100 to Thames Valley & Chiltern Air Ambulance.

Site Allocation for Housing

Cllr Martin Layer gave a carefully researched and prepared presentation entitled "New Housing in the Sibfords?" – setting out a background regarding the possibility that Sibford Gower has been earmarked for new housing. The information is attached to these minutes and is available to anyone wishing to have a copy.

It was fortunate that County & District Cllr George Reynolds was present at the Meeting and able to provide additional comments.

The Code of Conduct and the Ethical Framework

Cherwell District Council had asked Councils to complete a questionnaire as a way of obtaining background information on the operation and ownership of the Code of Conduct from the perspective of the Parish Councils in the District. The information obtained would help to inform the Standards Committee in meeting its responsibilities in providing advice and guidance on matters relating to the Code for Members of all Parish and Town Councils. The questionnaire, conveying the feelings of the Council, was completed by the Clerk at the instruction of the Members.

Stolen Property

A concrete seat was stolen from its position at the front of Cubbs Cottage, Burdrop during the night of 15th August 2008. The theft was reported to the Police by the property owners. Residents are urged to be very cautious with regard to safeguarding property.

Transport Needs Survey

Oxfordshire County Council proposes to undertake a review of the bus services that it supports financially in Banbury and the surrounding areas over the forthcoming months. The Oxfordshire Rural Community Council has offered to assist with the undertaking of a Local Public Needs Survey should we like to carry one out. This Council (and that of Sibford Ferris) has chosen to do this and the survey forms will be enclosed with the next issue of the Sibford Scene with an invitation that they be completed and handed in to Sibford Ferris Stores. Once collected, they will be forwarded to the ORCC for analysis and the results sent to the Parish Council. These would then be available by the time the formal consultation takes place at the latter end of this year.

Village Pond

At the Chairman's invitation, Mrs Glennis Hardman gave a pond status report. The Parish Councillors expressed grateful thanks to Mrs Hardman for all the work that she had carried out putting in the pond plants in an attempt to create a wildlife pond. Thanks and appreciation were expressed to Cllr Martin Layer for all that he did in the original research when the wildlife aspect of the pond was being planned. It was decided to review the future direction with regard to the pond at the next Parish Council Meeting.

To 695

Village Hall

Cllr Muriel Chandler spoke of the present situation of the Village Hall. Demand for its use is currently quite minimal. The Pre-School (started 1976) has closed because of lack of demand. The monthly Sunday Markets have found a lack of customers and possibly are to finish. On the plus side, a Tots & Babes is to be held two days a week. It is hoped that future fund raising events will have full support from local residents. Cllr Muriel Chandler has been involved with the Village Hall for some seventeen years and a successor for her current role is being sought but with no response so far.

New Burial Ground

With the Churchyard almost at full capacity, the new Burial Ground will be called into action in the relatively near future. The Clerk reported the present situation. The perimeter fencing is now in place and the matter of the maintenance of the grass is ~~a~~ urgent. Liaising with Sibford Ferris Parish Council, the intention now is to put sheep in (by kind agreement of Mr & Mrs Berks) to get the very long grass under control. The land will then be divided by a temporary fence with that part of the land for immediate use maintained to a very acceptable standard with the other part kept under reasonable control by sheep which will be placed there from time to time.

Holy Trinity Churchyard

The Parish Council will, for the time being, arrange for the maintenance of that part of the Churchyard for which it has accepted responsibility with Sibford Ferris PC still remaining reliant on volunteer labour.

The Bishop Blaize

Because of a prior commitment, Mrs Eileen Haynes was unable attend the Meeting, but her husband, Mr Tony Haynes, by invitation of the Chairman spoke. He said that at this stage there was nothing that Mrs Eileen Haynes would wish to say apart from the fact that progress is being made and she will present a report at the next Parish Council Meeting.

Public Participation

Local resident Mrs Kathleen Winter asked whether the Parish Council may be making a donation to the current financial appeal by the Society of Friends. It was agreed that the matter will be considered at the next Parish Council Meeting,

Local resident Mr Cedric Brown suggested that it may be a good idea to hold a Public Meeting concerning the Site Allocation for Housing. The Parish Councillors will look favourably on this,

Cllrs Muriel Chandler and Martin Layer asked that information regarding Gypsy and Travellers Sites should be made available as soon as it is received.

Cllr Muriel Chandler asked that signs requesting caution be installed at the 30mph signs in Pound Lane. The Clerk was instructed to speak with Oxfordshire Highways.


Any Other Business

There were no other matters raised.

Date of Next Meeting

The next Meeting will start at 8pm on 25th November 2008 in the Staff Room of Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked all present for attending and closed the Meeting at 10.05pm.


25/11/08.

NEW HOUSING IN THE SIBFORDS?

A background paper on

the possibility that Sibford Gower has been earmarked for new housing

1. It all starts with the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the South East otherwise known as the South East Plan. This Plan is the work of the South East England Regional Assembly, one of 9 across England, which was formed in 1999 and is made up of elected councillors nominated by the region's local authorities and representatives from other sectors of the community. The SE Plan is a policy document looking at the key issues of transport, employment, the environment and of course housing for the period to 2026.
2. Consultation on the draft SE Plan was carried out through 2005 and in respect of housing recommended that the south east region should make provision for 28,900 new homes each year to 2026. For Cherwell this meant an annual provision of 590 new homes a year on average totalling 11,800 over the next 20 years.
3. This draft plan was then sent to Government for approval in March 2006 and was examined in public by an independent Panel. The Panel published its findings in August 2007 and recommended changes to the Plan including an increase in the level of housing provision across the region to 32,000 new homes a year.
4. It was largely assumed that these recommendations would be adopted by government but instead it has proposed further changes which have been out for consultation since July ending on 24th October. These changes include an increase in the housing provision to 33,125 new homes per year across the region. This is a 15% increase from that originally identified in the draft SE Plan and means that 662,500 new homes are now proposed to be built in the South East over the next 20 years.
5. In Oxfordshire only Cherwell has had its allocation increased from the levels identified in the Panel report and these have gone up by 4.7% to 670 new homes per year, (and this doesn't include the proposed ecotown at Weston Otmoor). The Government is proposing that 600 new homes be provided at Bicester which is in addition to the existing recommendation of the independent Panel for an extra 1000 to be provided at Banbury. It is estimated that Banbury's requirement has increased from some 3,800 homes to about 4,800. The total for the district is now 13,400
6. So what this means is that Cherwell have to make provision in their housing allocations for an additional 1600 new homes in the period to 2026. The means by which Cherwell will achieve this is through policies contained in a set of documents which collectively are known as the Local Development Framework or LDF. These are currently in preparation but once adopted will guide the future development of the district to 2026.
7. Today, a decision on what development goes where and when uses a process known as spatial planning. It is referred to as "place shaping" and is an evidence based process which aims to ensure that the best use is made of land by balancing competing demands. Although the location of any proposed development remains of crucial importance the decision making process also takes account of social, economic and environmental considerations.

8. Spatial planning is seen as the key delivery mechanism for achieving sustainable development and is also key to the Core Strategy document in the LDF setting out an overall vision for the district. For housing the Core Strategy will indicate in broad terms where new developments should go by allocating what are known as strategic sites. Proposals in the Core Strategy will be in outline only with the detail coming later.
9. Cherwell are taking the work on the Core Strategy forward with a new consultation document called **Options for Growth** (Consultation commences on this on 29th September). This will set out the alternatives available for planning for the increase in housing provision given to Cherwell; both major developments in Banbury and Bicester and elsewhere in the district.
10. The possibility that the Sibfords may be identified for growth is entirely new. Before the preparation of the current LDF and the emergence of the SE Plan Cherwell was making housing provision in accord with the Oxfordshire Structure Plan at a level of 623 new homes a year to 2016. However villages like the Sibfords were not identified for development because in the Non-Statutory Cherwell Local Plan 2011 Sibford Gower was classified as a Category 2 village. Category 2 villages were defined as the smaller villages, with fewer services and/or are relatively remote with limited public transport. They were identified as having only limited potential for further residential development mainly in the form of infilling. It was recognised however that limited development would have the advantage of offsetting a decline in the population of such villages which in turn threatened local services, community activities and clubs.
11. However the Sibfords are now classified as Type B Villages with a medium level of sustainability together with Drayton, Hanwell, Shenington, Steeple Aston and Wroxtton. (It should be noted that the Sibfords have to be taken together for as individual villages they do not have the level of services necessary for them to be considered a type B village). Type A villages in this area are Adderbury, Bloxham, Bodicote, Cropredy, Deddington and Hook Norton. The proposal that is understood to come forward in the consultation document is the rural housing is either all located at the type A villages or some of it is also located to the type B villages. (George Reynolds has indicated that housing in the type B villages would have to be of at least 10 units)
12. So the current position is that the Sibfords, together with the other type B villages, may be identified by Cherwell in the Core Strategy as suitable for some additional housing. This is a question in principle and details of when and where would come at a later stage. The proposal has come about simply because of the increased provision levels coming through from the SE Plan which means that further locations for new housing have to be found. Also because of the spatial planning process other factors have to be taken in to account to ensure that the developments are sustainable. The services which the Sibfords currently enjoy; the school, shop, GP surgery, church, village hall and pub may, arguably, be capable of supporting an increased population. This enlarged community may in turn help such services survive and may also deliver affordable housing for local families.
13. For the time being (and subject to exactly what the Options For Growth consultation document may say come 29th September when it is issued), the debate to be had is whether the principle of having new housing in the Sibfords is to be seen as a blight or a benefit?

Correspondence received

<u>Date</u>	<u>Rec'd</u>	<u>Sender</u>	<u>Subject</u>
31.07.08	CDC	Govt Office for the SE	Appeal by North Oxfordshire Consortium re Heyford Park Proposed changes to the draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the SE
01.08.08	CDC	OCC	Re BiP Select
04.08.08	Bk of Ireland	Thames Valley Police	New Children's Centre services in Oxfordshire from April 2009
		Warwickshire CC	Bank statement No. 66
		Banbury Town Council	re next NAG Meeting
		OCC	Minerals Local Development Framework
07.08.08	CDC		Banbury Produce Show
08.08.08	CDC		Cycling with Children poster
	OALC		Standards C'tee - 03.07.08 - Minutes
09.08.08	Cotswolds Conservation Bd		Poster - Annual Electric Blanket Testing Campaign 2008
12.08.08	CDC		Update - Aug 08
16.08.08	SFPC		Update - Summer 2008
20.08.08	CDC		Planning application No. 08/01830/TCA. Green Acres. Mrs M Hobson
			Various matters
			1. Launch of the Cherwell "Play Spotlight" Newsletter
			2. Withdrawal of Planning Application No. 08/01590/F - Rosebank Cottage, Main Street, Sibford Gower
22.08.08	CDC		Visit to Old Wolverton Recycling Facility
23.08.08	Warwickshire CC		Biodiversity Strategy - Consultation
	AirAmbulance		Request for financial support
27.08.08	Glasdon UK Ltd		Latest products for Local Councils
29.08.08	CDC		Planning application No. 08/01596/F. The Jitty, Burdrop, A Broe
			Permission for development subject to conditions
		Stour Engineering Services	Invoice re Burial ground fencing
30.08.08	ORCC		Area Review of subsidised Bus Services
01.09.08	Clerks & Councils Direct		News - Sep 2008 - Issue 59
02.09.08	CDC		The Code of Conduct and the Ethical Framework
03.09.08	Oxfordshire Rural Children's Centre Project		Project Newsletter - Autumn 2008 - issue 4
	SLCC		The Clerk - September 2008
	BDO Stoy Hayward LLP		Completion of Audit y/e 31.003.08
	Eileen Haynes		Letter and progress report re The Bishop Blaize
04.09.08	CDC		Town and Parish Local Development Framework Liaison Meeting 25.09.08
	Bk of Ireland		Bank statement No. 67
05.09.08	ORCC		News Bulletin - September 2008
	OCC		Review of Subsidised Bus Services, Banbury Area 2009
	Cotswolds Conservation Bd		1. Cotswolds Voluntary Warden Service - Parish Wardens
			2. Cotswolds Lion - Autumn/Winter 2008
06.09.08	CDC		Poster - Register to Vote
	OALC		Update for Members - September 2008
08.09.08	Warwickshire CC		Minerals Local Development Framework - Summary and Request for Potential Strategic Sites
09.09.08	OCC		Home to School Newsletter - Autumn 2008
	Oxfordshire Highways		Re speed limit - Backside Lane
10.09.08	Banbury & District Community Bus Project		Explanation of the Project
	ORCC		Re Transport Survey
	SE England Regional Assembly		Partial Review of the SE Plan: Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs
11.09.08	CDC		1) Re above
			2) Options for Growth - CDC Local Development Programme
12.09.08	OCC		"Your Guide to Road Safety in Oxfordshire 2008/9"
	Bicester CAB		Community workshop on an Eco-Town for Weston Otmoor
13.09.08	ORCC		Invitation to 2008 AGM - 08.10.08
	Soldiers of Oxfordshire Trust		Re home for County's military heritage
	CDC		Re Annual Parish Liaison Meeting - 12.11.08
20.09.08	CDC		Planning application No. 08/01830/TCA. Green Acres. Mrs M Hobson. Consent.
24.09.08	Standards Bd for England		News - Sep 2008 - Issue 3
	OCC		Re Backside Lane
	Dept of Communities &		The making and enforcement of byelaws - a consultation
25.09.08	CDC		Planning for Gypsy's, Traveller's and Travelling Showpeople's Accommodation Needs
26.09.08	ORCC		Transport Needs Survey timetable
	OALC		Update for Members - September (second edition)2008

27.09.08	CDC Oxfordshire Playing Fld Assn CDC	Gates at Canny Cottage AGM 23.10.08 'Options for Growth' Public Consultation
29.09.08	Cotswolds Conservation Bd	Board Meeting - 02.10.08