

## Sibford Gower Parish Council

### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School on Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> November 2008

#### Present

Parish Cllrs Muriel Chandler, Martin Layer, Oswyn Murray and Robin Spicer, County and District Cllr George Reynolds, 10 Local Electors and the Clerk.

#### Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Peter Abbott whose absence was caused by a family emergency and these were duly accepted.

#### Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr Oswyn Murray and seconded by Cllr Martin Layer that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2008 be approved as a correct record and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

#### Matters Arising

Options for Growth: Cllr Martin Layer brought the Meeting up to date in this matter. After collating the Councillors' views, he had submitted the response to the questions raised in the Cherwell Local Development Framework Options. A letter from a local resident expressing specific views on the consultation document had been received by the Parish Council but it arrived after the closing date of the consultation and so could not be incorporated in the views submitted to Cherwell District Council by the Parish Council. However, a copy of the letter was handed to District Councillor George Reynolds who was present at the Meeting.

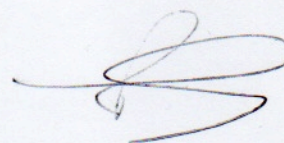
Speed Caution Signs: At each entry into the village by way of Pound Lane and The Colony there are 'Please drive carefully' signs. There are temporary posters emphasizing caution available from Oxfordshire CC's Road Safety Team should they be wanted and they can be displayed from time to time. It was decided not to pursue this matter.

#### Village Pond & Adjacent Roadside Verges

##### Village Pond

Following the reintroduction of ducks to the Village Pond, the work carried out by the Pond Action Team created to implement the recommendations of the ecological survey commissioned by the Parish Council had been undone. The forty potted aquatic plants have in every case been uprooted and destroyed by the ducks. Furthermore, they will cause deterioration in the quality of the water which has been emphasized to be a key element of pond conservation. It is understood that the general consensus reported to the Parish Council is that ducks are welcome. In these circumstances the principles of the wildlife management plan can no longer be sustained and the Parish Councillors felt they had no alternative other than to pass the following resolution which was proposed by Cllr Martin Layer and seconded by Cllr Robin Spicer. Grateful thanks were expressed to Mrs Glennis Hardman and the Pond Action Team for all the work and effort they had contributed in the creation of a wildlife pond over the past two years. Mrs Hardman said that in the Spring of 2008, the plants were looking very promising with a particularly attractive variegated clump, yellow iris blooming and bog bean spreading. Ducklings rapidly matured and by the end of the summer only empty pots were left. The long grass and wildflower area at the back of the pond is maturing nicely as are the two shrubs on the left bank, fortunately not favoured by the ducks. The Pond Action Team will continue in an independent capacity as there is always work to be done to keep the pond and surrounding area tidy. Mrs Hardman will write to all the Pond Action Team members to advise them the changed circumstances.

It was resolved that the financial support of the Parish Council to the Pond Action Team for the maintenance of a wildlife pond is withdrawn.



### Adjacent Roadside Verges

Considerable concern had been expressed by some residents regarding the serious erosion by parked cars of the road side verges in the pond area especially that next to the large chestnut tree. Because of this, site meetings with local residents in attendance were held on 17<sup>th</sup> October and 3<sup>rd</sup> November with officials from Oxfordshire Highways. Various solutions were suggested including the installation of protective wooden posts and the widening of the road to allow for passing traffic. Should road widening be called for, it was learned that the cost would be very high and have to be borne by the Parish Council. The opinions of interested residents were sought and the prevailing view was that the affordable option of wooden posts was not appropriate for the area and would detract from its attractive nature. The matter was debated at length at the Parish Council Meeting at which some of those residents were present. It was apparent that the consensus of the Meeting was that no action should be taken apart from making periodic appeals in the Sibford Scene for greater care to be taken in the parking of cars. The situation regarding the exposed Chestnut tree roots will be monitored by the Tree Officer from Oxfordshire Highways on a six monthly basis.

Cllr Martin Layer raised for discussion that should modest road widening ever be an option, there appeared to be County Council owned land fronting The Old Rectory (managed and planted under license by the property owners) available for the purpose. This was rejected by the property owners. In the light of the level of costs involved for such a scheme (referred to above) the matter was not pursued.

### **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman reported on his and the Clerk's attendance at the Cherwell Parish Liaison Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> November. He felt that the subjects on the agenda were interesting and the event very well worthwhile. He went on to say that he intended to attend the meeting in Banbury Town Hall regarding the review of local bus services. He will be pressing that no reduction is made in respect of route 480 which runs through the Sibfords.

### **Clerk's Report**

The Clerk referred to an offer made by the District Council to install, over the Christmas period, bottle banks. He was instructed to carry this forward

### **Planning Matters**

#### Planning Applications received

The Parish Councillors had considered the following and raised no objections:-

No. 08/02304/F	Buttslade House, Temple Mill Road, Sibford Gower	J Thompson
	Remove existing dormer with 3 conservation style rooflights	

#### Still to be considered

No. 08/02363/F	Birch Hill, Burdrop	C Radcliffe
	Side extension	

#### Planning Decisions received

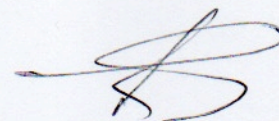
No. 08/02304/F	Buttslade House, Temple Mill Road, Sibford Gower	J Thompson
	Remove existing dormer with 3 conservation style rooflights	
	Permission for development subject to conditions	

### **Highway Matters**

Work had been carried out very recently to prevent flooding in Hawkes Lane. This would appear to have been unsatisfactory as at the next downpour flooding occurred. The Clerk was instructed to write to Oxfordshire Highways. It was suggested that photographs of any future flooding should be taken by way of evidence.

The matter of mowing grass verges was raised by a member of the public, the report being that this does not happen. The Clerk was instructed to write to Oxfordshire Highways.

To 699



**Footpath Matters**

'Piggy' Path, Burdrop: Patching work was carried out by Oxfordshire Highways on 6<sup>th</sup> November but in the opinion of the Parish Council to a very poor standard. The Clerk was instructed to write to Oxfordshire Highways and also to highlight the slippery nature of the path creating a hazard.

**Finance**

Proposed by Cllr Robin Spicer and seconded by Cllr Martin Layer, it was resolved that sanction be given to the payment of the following:-

Payment on 21.10.08 of £950 to Mr Cedric Brown in respect of maintenance of the Churchyard £850.00 and the Burial Ground £100.00. (Retrospectively).

A donation of £100.00 to the Sibford Scene.

A grant of £300.00 to Sibford Village Hall (Cllr Muriel Chandler, because of her Village Hall connections, took no part as far as the resolution related to this payment).

A donation of £100.00 to Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School.

Payment of £999.75 to P B Hardman being the Clerk's salary (six months in arrears) and £119.75 reimbursement for the cost of stamps, stationery etc.

Payment of £61.00 to the Society of Local Council Clerks being the annual membership of the Clerk.

The Sibford Meeting House Appeal is to be considered at the next Meeting.

Clerk's Salary: Proposed by Cllr Robin Spicer and seconded by Cllr Muriel Chandler, it was resolved that the Clerk's salary be increased to £1,802.00 pa being at spinal column point 22 within the substantive benchmark range (b) as set out in the 2008/09 National Interim Salary Award for Local Council Clerks published by NALC and the Society of Local Council Clerks. This is the maximum for the grade. The Parish Councillors unanimously expressed their thanks to the Clerk for his hard work that far exceeded what was required of him.

The Precept request for the financial year 2009/10 is to be discussed at the next Meeting and the Clerk provided the Parish Councillors with financial details to enable the matter to be considered prior to the Meeting.

**Review of the Asset Register, Risks and Councillors' Interests**

A review of the Asset Register took place and no changes had occurred since the previous review.

It was confirmed that there had been no change in the risk situation.

It was confirmed that Councillors' declared interests remain unchanged.

**Freedom of Information Act**

Information regarding the Act had been provided to the Parish Councillors prior to the Meeting and exactly how this will be publicized will be discussed at the next Parish Council Meeting. However, in the meantime, proposed by Cllr Martin Layer and seconded by Cllr Oswyn Murray, it was resolved that the Freedom of Information Act: New Model Publication Scheme be adopted.

**Burial Ground**

Discussion took place concerning regulations to be published and the installation of a notice board, The Clerk is liaising with Sibford Ferris Parish Council and the matter will be on the agenda of the next Parish Council Meeting.

To 700

**Holy Trinity Churchyard**

The Clerk had nothing to report at this stage apart from the fact that there is now only one grave space available and so progress with the Burial Ground is pressing.

**Miriam Tebbs' Land**

The Clerk provided details of financial expenditure to date and the subject will be discussed at the next Parish Council Meeting.

**Public Participation**

Mrs Glennis Hardman raised the matter of a blocked grating in the Village Pond area causing excess water on the road. It is a problem but acknowledged that clearance by Oxfordshire Highways takes place only on an annual basis.

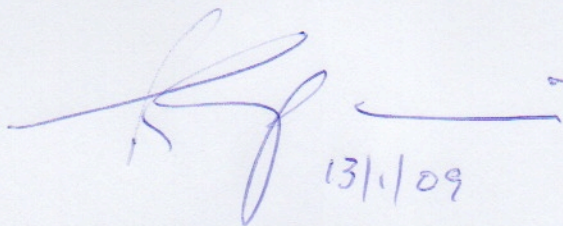
**Any Other Business**

The Bishop Blaize: The Clerk read an updating report by Mrs Eileen Haynes, who was prevented from attending the Meeting by a previous engagement. Presently, developments are awaited. Her report is published in the current issue of the Sibford Scene.

**Date of Next Meeting**

The next Meeting will be on Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> January 2009 starting at 8pm in the usual venue – 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**



13/1/09

## Correspondence received

<u>Date</u>	<u>Rec'd</u>	<u>Sender</u>	<u>Subject</u>
02.10.08	CDC	SE England Reg. Assembly	1. Draft Cherwell Rural Strategy - End of Consultation Period 2. Upper Heyford Base Planning Forum - Cancellation of the next programmed meeting Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs - Replacement Public Consultation questionnaire
03.10.08	Bk of Ireland		Bank statement No. 68
04.10.08	CDC	Thames Valley Police	Options for Growth Consultation: 29.09.08 - 24.11.08
	OCC		Banbury Rural NAG - Action Log re 11.09.08
06.10.08	Shaw & Sons Ltd		Ack re request for Safety road signs
08.10.08	Cotswolds Cons Bd		Forms, records and registers for Parish, Town and Community Councils
	CDC		Appointment of replacement Parish Members - Notice of Vacancies
09.10.08	CDC		CDC - Options for Growth Consultation - poster
			1. Request for contact details
			2. Cherwell Link - Autumn 2008
			3. Cherwell Safer Communities Partnership 2008-2011
11.10.08	OCC		Bloxham & Surrounding area Children's Centre
14.10.08	NHS Oxfordshire		Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust Strategy 2008-2013
	CDC		Planning application No. 08/02034/F. Buttslade House. J Thompson
16.10.08	CDC		CDC - Options for Growth Consultation - Leaflet
	Thames Valley Police		Firework posters
18.10.08	SLCC		International Experience Programme - Chicao
	Oxfordshire NHS Primary Care Trust		Survey - Mental Well-being
20.10.08	Open Spaces Society		Magazine - Autumn 2008 - Vol 29 - No.3
21.10.08	OCC		Temporary road closure - Hawkes Lane
23.10.08	Bk of Ireland		Re new bank mandate
24.10.08	OCC		1. Re Town & Parish Liaison Event - 29.10.08
			2. Ack re letter concerning erosion of grass banks near village pond
25.10.08	Oxfordshire NHS		NHS Oxfordshire strategy 2008-2013 & questionnaires
	OALC		1. Winter General Meetin - 24.11.08 - agenda
			2. Update for members - October 2008
28.10.08	OCC		Ref Public Footpath 21 - leading from Burdrop Hill to Church
	CDC		1. Supply of Full Electoral Register
			2. Agenda - Standards Committee meeting - 06.11.08
29.10.08	Oxfordshire Rural Children's Centre Project		Project Newsletter - Early Winter 2008 edition
30.10.08	CDC		Further information re Cherwell Parishes Liaison Meeting - 12.10.08
	OCC		Review of subsidised bus services - 31.05.09
	Communities and Local Govt		Communities in control: Real people, real power: Code of conduct for local authority members and employees - A consultation
03.11.08	Open Spaces Society		Appeal for funds to support legal action
	Cotswolds Cons Bd		Update - Autumn 2008
	Playing Fields Assn		Newsletter - Autumn 2008
05.11.08	Oxfordshire Carers' Forum		Request for donation
	Bk of Ireland		Bank statement No. 69
	Clerks & Councils Direct		News - Nov 08 - issue 60
07.11.08	SLCC		"The Clerk" - Nov 2008
14.11.08	CDC		Parish Precept 2009/10
	Stratford-on-Avon DC		Stratford-on-Avon District Local Development Framework - Draft Core Strategy
19.11.08	CDC		Change to procedures for works to trees subject to Tree Preservation Orders and to trees within Conservation Areas
20.11.08	CDC		Planning application No. 08/02034/F. J Thompson. Permission for development.
21.11.08	CDC		Play & Youth Spotlight Newsletters Autumn/Winter Edition
	ORCC		News Bulletin - Nov 2008
22.11.08	Cotswolds Cons. Board		Hedgelaying Training Courses 2008/09
24.11.08	M Mulley		Re Options for Growth
25.11.08	CDC		Planning application No. 08/02363/F. Birch Hill, Burdrop. C Radcliffe