

Sibford Gower Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

held in Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School on Tuesday, 13th January 2009

Present

Parish Cllrs Muriel Chandler, Martin Layer, Oswyn Murray and Robin Spicer (Chairman), Four Local Electors and the Clerk.

Apologies

Apologies were accepted for the absence, due to illness, of Cllr Peter Abbott.

Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr Muriel Chandler and seconded by Cllr Martin Layer that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 25th November 2008 be approved as a correct record and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

Donation to Sibford Meeting House: The matter was discussed. Proposed by Cllr Oswyn Murray and seconded by Cllr Martin Layer it was resolved that a donation of £150 be made. (Section 137, Local Government Act 1972). The Clerk understood that, at the present time, the Ferris PC had chosen not to make a donation as no direct invitation to donate had been received.

Piggy Path, Burdrop: The resurfacing work had been carried out to what is now considered an acceptable standard.

Flooding in Hawkes Lane: Work to stop flooding had been carried out by Oxfordshire Highways but later recurred. Oxfordshire Highways could not understand the reason for this and asked that if and when it happens again a photograph be taken and submitted for consideration.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman expressed his thanks and gratitude to Cllr Martin Layer for all the work and research he undertook in connection with implementing the recommendations of the ecological survey commissioned by the Parish Council. Unfortunately, all his efforts and those of the Pond Action Team (to whom the Chairman also expressed thanks) were undone by the introduction of Indian Runner ducks. Leader of the Pond Action Team, Mrs Glennis Hardman, was interviewed by Radio Oxford and BBC South Today. Both programmes went out on 12th December 2008. Cllr Martin Layer complimented Glennis on her diplomatic handling of both interviews in which she expressed her disappointment over the destruction, during the summer of 2008, of the forty well established aquatic plants following the introduction of the ducks.

With regard to the temporary Christmas bottle banks installed in Acre Ditch, these were well used. So much so, that the green bank became full and could not be emptied by the District Council and the advice received was that green bottles should be deposited in either the clear or brown banks with the assurance that the green bottles would be outsourced in due course. Should the facility be offered again this year, more capacity for green bottles should be requested and a somewhat longer period for the banks to remain in place. The Clerk had been told that of the seven temporarily installed Christmas bottle banks, the one in Sibford Gower was the most used.

The Chairman intends to attend the next Thames Valley Police Neighbourhood Action Group Meeting to be held at Banbury Police Station. Thames Valley Police acknowledged that previous meetings evidenced that some revitalization is called for and the Chairman will report at the next Parish Council Meeting on this aspect.

With regard to the Review of Subsidised Bus Services in the Banbury Area, the Chairman had attended a recent Consultation Meeting and was disappointed as he felt that decisions had already been made without due consideration of the recent Transport Needs Survey. The Parish Council subsequently had received a letter from Oxfordshire County Council acknowledging receipt of the survey forms. All the contained comments are to be summarized and made

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available to the Cabinet Member for Transport before he makes the final decision on the award of new contracts in March 2009. In due course details of the 480 service will be published.

Clerk's Report

The Clerk requested the Parish Council to consider suitable dates for the following and they were decided as follows:-

Annual Litterblitz	Saturday, 4 th April 2009 (Meeting in the Village Hall Car Park at 10am. Cllr Robin Spicer will handle the organization)
Annual Parish Meeting	Thursday, 14 th May 2009 (To be held in the hall of Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School commencing at 7.30pm)

Thames Valley Police has asked that a representative be allowed to attend the next Parish Council Meeting in order to achieve a closer relationship between the Police and Parish Councils. The Clerk was instructed to make the necessary arrangements.

The Clerk read a letter received from a local resident regarding the temporary Christmas bottle banks with various suggestions for improving the service if it is again offered by the District Council. The Clerk was instructed to take the matter forward.

Planning Matters

Planning Applications received

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

08/02371/F & 08/02373/LB	Jasmine Cottage, Burdrop	J Skowronski
Demolition of existing lobby and erection of kitchen extension		
08/02529/TCA	Bramley Close, Bonds End Lane, Sibford Gower	P Abbott
Remove suppressed co-dominant stem on Apple Tree		
08/02559/F	Vine Cottage, Bonds End Lane, Sibford Gower	J A & B K Boyd
Walls with trellis to highway boundary and parking area (retrospective) and as amendment to permission 07/02424/F		

Planning Decisions received

None had been received since the date of the last Meeting.

Highway Matters

Notification had been received from Oxfordshire Highways regarding capital maintenance schemes planned in the next financial year (2009-2010). Details are still provisional as the capital budget is not finalized until March. Included in the list of intended works are:-

Acre Ditch	Footway resurfacing	Estimated cost £6,240
Main Street (Pound Lane to School annexe)	Footway resurfacing	Estimated cost £7,920
High Meadow (Pound Lane all round)	Footway resurfacing	Estimated cost 19,740

Footpath Matters

No matters were raised.

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Finance

Parish Precept 2009/2010: Having considered the known and probable outgoings plus sufficient funding for any contingencies for the next financial year (as shown below), the Parish Councillors agreed that £6,000 was an appropriate figure (unchanged from the previous year).

Administrative costs (including grants, donations, insurance, stamps & stationery, clerk's salary)	£3,200
Maintaining Burial Ground	£1,000 (pro rata with Sibford Ferris PC)
Contributing to the cost of maintaining the churchyard	<u>£1,800</u>
TOTAL	£6,000

Freedom of Information Act New Model Publication Scheme

The Parish Councillors considered what might be the most effective and appropriate way of making information from the Parish Council available to the public. It was decided that a detailed list should be displayed on the Parish Council notice board and that attention should be drawn to this by a notice in the Sibford Scene.

Cotswolds Conservation Board

The Parish Council considered the appointment of a replacement Parish Member and having read the statements and descriptions of persons nominated chose to vote for Elizabeth Hodges.

Burial Ground

The Parish Council, after much discussion, decided that a notice board displaying regulations concerning the types of headstones and what is permitted to be placed on burial plots would be insensitive. Therefore, the suggested purchase of a notice board was abandoned. The best way forward is that the undertaker dealing with a burial be supplied with the agreed regulations and that one should be handed to those arranging a burial with the request that a signed acknowledgement be obtained for handing to the Clerk. The Clerk was instructed to speak with the local undertaker which handles most of the burials in this area to establish an acceptable system.

Miriam Tebbs' Land

Consideration was given as to the future of the land and, for the time being, it was decided to continue financing the maintenance work required from time to time. The matter will be considered again in due course.

Public Participation

Mrs Glennis Hardman raised the matter of overgrown bushes and hanging brambles at a verge adjacent to the Village Pond and the Clerk was instructed to speak with Oxfordshire Highways. Cllr Martin Layer suggested that the Parish Council may be prepared to pay locally to have this type of work carried out. Here again, the Clerk will discuss the viability of this with Oxfordshire Highways.

Mrs Glennis Hardman raised the matter of blocked drains in the pond area and although reported to Oxfordshire Highways nothing had been done apart from the Parish Council being informed that this type of work is carried out on a periodic basis.

Any Other Business

Cherwell District Council Rural Strategy: Cllr Martin Layer spoke on this matter and it was agreed that the Parish Council generally supported the conclusions reached at the present stage.

Parking in the Lay-by, Pound Lane: Cllr Muriel Chandler questioned the parking by non residents of the High Meadow properties and this matter will be taken forward by the Clerk with Oxfordshire Highways.

Cllr Muriel Chandler raised the matter of broken fencing of a property in High Meadow (adjacent to the footpath between High Meadow and Pound Lane). The Clerk was instructed to speak with Charter Community House which owns the property.

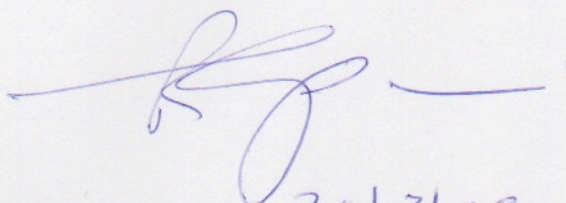
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Cllr Martin Layer said that a local resident had suggested that Sibford Gower may wish to feature a seasonal lit and decorated Christmas tree – as some other local villages enjoy. The suggestion met with mixed reaction with questions as to the siting of the tree and responsibility for provision, erecting, decoration, and removal.

Date of Next Meeting

The next Meeting will be on Tuesday, 24th March 2009 starting at 8pm in the usual venue – The Staff Room of Sibford Gower Endowed School.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked all present for attending and closed the Meeting at 9.40pm.


24/3/09.

Correspondence received

<u>Date</u> <u>Rec'd</u>	<u>Sender</u>	<u>Subject</u>
26.11.08	OCC	Oxfordshire Road Casualty Report 2007
27.11.08	Greenbarnes Ltd Thames Valley Police	Costing for Burial Ground signpost Action log re NAG Meeting on 13.11.08
28.11.08	CDC CDC	Cherwell Link - Winter 2008 Register of Electors Re Parish Precept Dept of Communities and Local Govt Eco - Town Roadshow - 28.11.08 Re Freedom of information
29.11.08	Information Commissioner's Office	
02.12.08	CDC	Planning applications Nod 08/02371/F & 08/02373/LB. Jasmine Cottage, Burdrop. Demolition of existing lobby and erection of kitchen extension. J Skowronski
03.12.08	Thames Valley Police Bk of Ireland	Banbury Rural NAG Bank statement No. 70
04.12.08	CDC	Annual Report and Summary of Accounts 2007/08 Brief update of Rural Strategy
05.12.08	Oxfordshire Highways Victim Support	Ack re recent letter Letter re its work and help
06.12.08	Cotswolds Cons Bd	Agenda for meeting on 11.12.08
10.12.08	-do-	Appt of replacement parish members - statement of persons nominated
12.12.08	CDC ORCC	Planning application No. 08/02529/TCA. Bramley Close. P Abbott Review - Autumn/Winter 2008 Issue 4
13.12.08	Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust CDC	Health News - Winter 2008 - Issue 2 Appeal Decision re Oaklands, Acre Ditch, Sibford Gower
15.12.08	OCC	Local village/town web pages
17.12.08	Oxfordshire Highways	Re matters raised at PC Meeting -25.11.08
18.12.08	ORCC CDC Bk of Ireland OALC	Re Transport Needs Survey CDC scrutiny review into Rural Affordable Housing and Exception Sites Ack re new mandated 1. Minutes of 68 th General Meetin - 24.11.08 2. Update - Dec 2008
24.12.08	Air Ambulance (Berks/ Oxon/Bucks)	Ack re £100 donation
03.01.09	Bk of Ireland CDC	Bank statement No. 71 Cherwell Seniors Groups Newsletter
06.01.09	CDC	Upper Heyford Base Planning Forum - Cancellation of 21.01.09 Meeting
07.01.09	CDC	Capital maintenance schemes planned for Cherwell area
08.01.09	SLCC	'The Clerk' Jan 2009
09.01.09	Thames Valley Police CDC	Leaflets 'Police Station Front Counter Opening Times' Planning application No. 08/02559/F. Vine Cottage, Bonds End Lane, Sibford Gower. J A & B K Boyd
10.01.09	OCC Clerks & Councils Direct	Re Review of subsidised bus service, Banbury Area News - Jan 2009 - Issue 61