

## **Sibford Gower Parish Council**

### **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School on Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> July 2009**

#### **Present.**

Parish Cllrs Peter Abbott, Muriel Chandler, Martin Layer, Oswyn Murray and Robin Spicer (Chairman).  
Eight Local Residents and the Clerk.

#### **Minutes.**

It was proposed by Cllr Martin Layer and seconded by Cllr Peter Abbott that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2009 be approved as a correct record and were duly signed by the Chairman.

#### **Matters Arising.**

There were no matters arising.

#### **Chairman's Report.**

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

#### **Clerk's Report.**

The Clerk reported that on 17<sup>th</sup> June, he and Parish Cllrs Peter Abbott and Martin Layer attended the Cherwell Parishes Meeting at Bodicote House. Presentations were made on (a) a Review re Rural Affordable Housing & Exception Sites, (b) Neighbourhood Action Groups & Rural Community Safety and (c) Sustainable Community Strategy & Local Development Framework. Information about the presentations was subsequently circulated amongst the Parish Councillors.

Cllr Peter Abbott referred to the use of a certain Bridleway by vehicles and motorbikes. Bridleways should only be used by walkers, cycle riders and horses. The Clerk was instructed to establish whether or not the pathway involved is actually classed as a Bridleway.

The Parish Councillors recently had considered the Partial Review of the Regional Spatial Strategy and various matters had been raised. Cllr Martin Layer undertook to formulate the Parish Council's views.

The Clerk reported that Mr John Sabin had offered to provide a seat in the Burial Ground in memory of his late wife who very recently passed away. The offer was accepted with thanks and the Clerk was instructed to contact Mr Sabin to take the matter forward.

Cllr Martin Layer had reported that the owner of the land to which the entry from Pound Lane is to be the site of the new bus stop had expressed concern that Oxfordshire County Council may wish to formalise it by laying a permanent surface and this he would oppose. The Clerk informed the Meeting that he had spoken with Mr Matt Bromley of OCC who said that there would be no question of this and it was accepted that there were many bus stops such as this in the County where underfoot conditions in inclement weather may not be as one might wish. The new bus stop sign will be sited on the other side of Pound Lane, where there is a suitable pathway, with the sign indicating that the bus will stop at the place in question at the other side of the road.

The Clerk reported that OCC is in discussion with Stagecoach regarding the sometime problem of buses keeping to the timetable because it does not give drivers sufficient time between stops.



**Financial Matters.**

Proposed by Cllr Robin Spicer and seconded by Cllr Martin Layer, sanction was granted for payment of the following:-

Cheque No. 95 dated 14<sup>th</sup> July 2009 for £40 in favour of Open Spaces Society being the annual subscription.

Cheque No. 94 dated 10<sup>th</sup> July 2009 for £1,025.00 in favour of Cedric Brown in respect of maintenance of the Burial Ground (£175.00) and the Churchyard (£850.00) –Retrospectively.

**Planning Matters.**Planning Applications received and considered.

No. 09/00653/F                      8 Barley Close, Sibford Gower                      R Morbey  
First floor side extension over existing ground floor.

No. 09/00681/F                      Rosebank Cottage, Main Street, Sibford Gower                      S George  
Two storey rear extension.  
The Clerk had advised Cherwell District Council of certain reservations with regard to this application.

Planning Decisions received.

No. 09/00427/F                      Birch Hill, Burdrop                      C Radcliffe  
Side Extension to provide additional residential accommodation.  
Permission for development subject to conditions

No. 09/00407/F                      7 The Colony, Sibford Gower                      J Yates  
No. 09/00407/F  
Extension to rear of property replacing existing verandah.  
Refusal of permission for development.  
Refusal of Listed Building Consent.

No. 09/00406/F                      Friends Meeting House, Sibford Gower                      Banbury & Evesham Monthly  
Meeting United Trusts  
Reinstatement of external doorway.  
Permission for development subject to conditions.

**Highway Matters.**

There were no matters raised.

**Footpath Matters.**

Regarding a complaint made by a local resident at the Annual Parish Meeting regarding the standard of workmanship of the recently resurfaced footpaths, Oxfordshire Highways advised on 8<sup>th</sup> June that the work had been inspected and found satisfactory and therefore the complaint was considered to be unfounded. The Parish Council is not content with this but will review the situation in six months time to reassess the condition of the footpaths at that time.

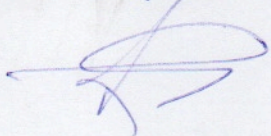
**Rural Exception Sites for Affordable Housing.**

Cherwell District Council has reviewed previously considered sites in Sibford Ferris and Sibford Gower and two have been assessed as being possibly suitably to pursue, one in the Ferris and the other in the Gower. The site in the Gower to the rear of High Meadow has a considerable chance of being successful if an appropriate access could be created. The Parish Council responded by advising CDC that the site appears to have potential worth debating. Highway access is the key and may be costly to overcome but may deliver a solution to the parking problem. There would be no objection should the Ferris site be selected.

**Churchyard.**

The current situation is that Sibford Gower Parish Council engages Mr Cedric Brown to maintain all areas and paths apart from the very old part (which is left as a nature reserve). Sibford Ferris Parish Council has accepted responsibility for the six rows of graves immediately in front of the church entrance which will be maintained on a voluntary basis.

To Folio 712



**Burial Ground.**

The commemorative seats donated by Mrs Evelyn Phillips are now in place and a letter of thanks and appreciation had been sent to her.

With regard to ongoing maintenance, Mr Cedric Brown expressed a considerable reservation regarding dividing the area into two, with one part for current use and the other as a reserve for the future. The intention was that the reserved area should be sheep maintained from time to time but it has been found that sheep will probably not be available. The matter requires to be reassessed and will be referred to the Parish Councils' Burial Ground Working Committee for consideration.

**Allotments.**

It had been brought to the attention of Cllr Martin Layer that there may be a wish to have the facility for allotments in the Parish. Initially, it was thought that the Parish Council owned Miriam Tebbs' land may be suitable but objections were raised by adjacent local residents. The Clerk was instructed to place a notice in the Sibford Scene to establish what demand there may be for allotments and whether any local resident may be willing to devote land for this purpose. There are other avenues to pursue but these will await the result of the Sibford Scene notice.

**Public Participation**

Mrs Fiona Pidgeon referred to a tree near her property that requires pruning as does the hedge of a plot of land adjacent to Burdrop Hill. The Clerk will take matters forward.

Mrs Glennis Hardman referred to the stone wall on one side of part of the pathway between Backside Lane and Main Street that is a state of collapse and a potential hazard. The Clerk will speak with the owners of the property concerned.

Mr Cedric Brown referred to the bus stop sign to be installed at Burdrop Corner and suggested a position for it to easier facilitate access to buses. The Clerk will take this matter forward.

**Any Other Business**

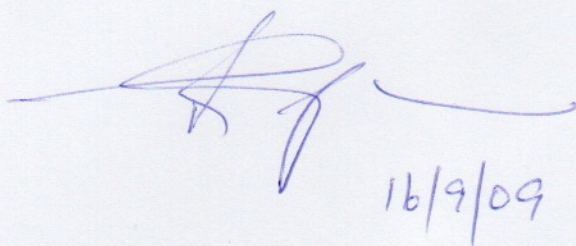
Cllr Peter Abbott referred a recent difficult situation where an ambulance called to an emergency situation at a property at the end of Bonds End Lane could not effect entry because of parked cars. The Parish Council is very aware that parking in some areas is an on-going problem and a solution is not easily found. From time to time, residents are asked to give due consideration in parking vehicles.

Cllr Martin Layer referred to the deteriorating condition of the surface of part of the road leading from Hawkes Lane to the Surgery. The Clerk was instructed to speak with Oxfordshire Highways.

**Date of Next Meeting**

The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> September 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 9.35pm.**



A handwritten signature in blue ink, followed by the date 16/9/09 written vertically.

## Correspondence received

<u>Date</u> <u>Rec'd</u>	<u>Sender</u>	<u>Subject</u>
27.05.09	OCC	Revised bus timetables
28.05.09	CDC	Planning application No. 09/00427/F. C Radcliffe. Permission for development
30.05.09	OALC	Update for Members - May 2009
01.06.09	CDC	Planning Applications Nod 09/00407/F & 09/00408/LB. 7 The Colony. J Yates Refusal of development and Listed Building Consent
03.06.09	CDC	Rural Exception Sites for Affordable Housing
04.06.09	CDC	Planning Application No. 09/00653/F. 8 Barley Close. R Morbey
	Bk of Ireland	Bank statement No. 76
05.06.09	NHS Oxfordshire	Health News - Issue 2 - 2009
06.06.09	Open Spaces Soc	Summer 2009 - Vol 29 - No. 5
10.06.09	CDC	Planning Application No. 09/00681/F. Rosebank Cottage, Main Street, Sibford Gower S George
11.06.09	CDC	1. Upper Heyford Base Planning Forum - Cancellation of 25 <sup>th</sup> June Meeting 2. Planning Application No. 09/00406/F. Friends Meeting House. Permission for development subject to conditions
	SE England Partnership Bd	Provision for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople
12.06.09	OCC	Community Support Fund - grants available
17.06.09	Govt Office for the S.East	Erratum re partial review re Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople
18.06.09	CDC	Planning Futures Newsletter
19.06.09	OCC	Revised Bus Strategy
20.06.09	CDC	1. Presentation re Development Control Planning Matters - 13 <sup>th</sup> July 2. Govt Consultation 43 pitches/plots for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople
	Cotswolds Cons Bd	Board Meeting - 25 <sup>th</sup> June. Agenda
22.06.09	Oxfordshire NHS	Newsletter - Issue 14 - 19.06.09
	Nicholson Nurseries Ltd	Duty of Care Tree Surveys
24.06.09	CDC	1. Parish Liaison Meeting - Notes 2. Planning Application No. 08/02363/F - Explanation re Martin Layer's involvement
25.06.09	SLCC	35 <sup>th</sup> National Conference 2009
	ORCC	Introducing the new Rural Housing Enabler
27.06.09	ORCC	1. Strategic Plan 2009-11 2. Review - Spring/Summer 2009. Issue 5
29.06.09	Oxfordshire Rural Children's Centre Project	Project Newsletter - Summer 2009 edition - Issue 8
	Clerks * Councils Direct	News - July 2009 - Issue 64
04.07.09	CDC	Planning application No. 09/00406/F. Banbury & Evesham Monthly Meeting United. Permission for development subject to conditions
	OALC	Update for Members - June 2009
	Bk of Ireland	Bank statement No. 77
07.07.09	CDC	Cherwell Seniors Groups Newsletter - Jul - Oct 2009 - Volume 17
09.07.09	ORCC	News Bulletin - July 2009 (by e-mail)
14.07.09	Oxfordshire Playing Fields Assn	The Playing Field - Summer 2009