

Sibford Gower Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School on Tuesday, 16th September 2009

Present.

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

Minutes.

It was proposed by Cllr Peter Abbott and seconded by Cllr Muriel Chandler that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14th July 2009 be approved as a correct record and were duly signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising.

With regard to Gypsy, Travellers and Travelling Show People, Cllr Martin Layer presented a paper (See Appx A to these Minutes) that he had prepared for the other Parish Councillors. Oxfordshire CC has to provided for sixty two permanent sites and thirty seven sites for travelling show people. Of this total, Cherwell DC has to find fifteen permanent sites and eleven for Travelling Show People.

The Clerk reported that the footpaths in High Meadow had been sprayed to remove slippery moss by Oxfordshire Highways. Oxfordshire Highways had also noted the condition of the road leading from Hawks Lane to the Surgery and remedial attention promised. With regard to misuse by vehicles of bridleways, the advice received is that a record should be kept of dates and registration numbers and these be reported to the police. The matter of the collapsing wall adjacent to the footpath between Backside Lane and Main Street had been referred to the property owners and the Clerk was instructed to speak with the Rights of Way Officer at Oxfordshire County Council to seek advice as to what might be done to prevent any possible danger to those using the path.

Chairman's Report.

The Chairman reported that the National Woodland Trust had offered to the Scouts thirty natural woodland trees for planting and a site for them is sought. A possibility is Wheathills and the Clerk was instructed to write to the owner (The Town Estate Charity) to establish whether or not the trees would be welcomed. If this proves not to be the case, the trees will be planted in the Horley Scout Camp Site.

Clerk's Report

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

Financial Matters.

External Audit for the year ended 31st March 2009.

Messrs Stoy Hayward LLP completed the Audit for the year ended 31st March 2009 and there were no matters which came to their attention which required the issuing of a separate additional issues arising report. The Annual Return was presented to the Council and proposed by Cllr Robin Spicer and seconded by Cllr Peter Abbott, was approved and accepted. The notice of the conclusion of the Audit will be displayed on the Parish Council notice board for a period of fourteen days.

Proposed by Cllr Muriel Chandler and seconded by Cllr Martin Layer, retrospective sanction was granted for payment of the following:-

Cheque No. 96 £138.00 in favour of BDO Stoy Hayward LLP being the fee in respect of auditing the Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2009.

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Planning Matters.

Cllr Martin Layer recommended strongly that when planning applications are considered by Councillors, in addition to any comments that may be made, each Councillor should state whether approval is given or whether objection is made.

A tree in the land at the rear of The Red House, Burdrop had been taken down. The land is within the Conservation Area and doubts were expressed as to whether planning permission had been obtained. The Clerk was instructed to make appropriate enquiries.

A courtesy notice had been received from Mr Ivor Hopkyns that he is to submit an application to the District Council regarding the removal of ash tree from land he owns behind the Village Pond.

Planning Applications received and approved.

No. 09/00808/F Oaklands, Acre Ditch, Sibford Gower A Watts
 Alterations to current Planning Permission (07/01227/F) to include:-
 Pair of timber 5 bar gates and pedestrian timber gate to main access

No. 09/00136/TCA The Court House, Main Street, Sibford Gower Mrs S Thomas
 1 x Cedar Tree – Crown thin by 15%

No. 09/00953/LB Pond Cottage, Main Street, Sibford Gower C Fletcher
 Re-instate two mullion windows on gable end, lay Terracotta flooring in kitchen, replace upvc window at rear of kitchen with period wooden framed window and repair damp plaster kitchen and apply injected damp-proof course

No. 09/00953/LB As above As above
 Proposal is the same as above with the addition, after damp-proof course, of 'with additional elevation and section plans received 07.08.09

No. 09/01070/F Arundel House, Backside Lane, Sibford Gower A Bishop
 Demolish existing garage and flat roof extensions and construct two storey extension and double garage including internal alterations

Planning Application received and objections raised.

No. 09/00990/F Holly Close, Main Street, Sibford Gower K Manning
 Erection of detached dwelling and garage, new vehicular access from highway and boundary fence
 CDC advised in letter dated 26.08.09 that the application had been withdrawn
 Cllr Oswyn Murray made no comment as he had declared an interest.

Planning Decisions received.

No. 09/00653/F 8 Barley Close, Sibford Gower R Morbey
 First floor side extension over existing ground floor
 Permission for development subject to conditions

No. 09/00136/TCA The Court House, Main Street, Sibford Gower Mrs S Thomas
 1 x Cedar Tree – Crown thin by 15%
 Consent (Tree(s) in Conservation Areas)

No. 09/00808/F Oaklands, Acre Ditch, Sibford Gower A Watts
 Alterations to current Planning Permission (07/01277/F) to include:-
 Pair of timber 5 bar gates and pedestrian timber gate to main access
 Permission for development subject to conditions

Application withdrawn

No. 09/00681/F Rosebank Cottage, Main Street, Sibford Gower S George
 Two storey rear extension



Highway Matters.

There were no matters arising.

Footpath Matters.

Footpath No 22 – Burdrop Hill leading behind the Church.

The Clerk has been in dialogue with Sarah Aldous (OCC's Rights of Way Officer). The tenant of the land through which the path runs has given permission for work to be carried out to deal with waterlogged situations that occur from time to time. On 5th August Sarah Aldous emailed that remedial work had been ordered but she is not sure when this will go ahead but the matter is in the 'queue'.

Churchyard.

There were no matters arising apart from appreciation expressed to Mr Cedric Brown for his attention to the maintenance work that he carries out.

Burial Ground.

In preparation for its usage, when the occasion occurs, the Parish Council authorised the Clerk to attend a day-long Cemetery Management course in Daventry on 7th October organised by the Society of Local Council Clerks.

Allotments.

Following an item placed in last month's Sibford Scene, an interest was expressed by a small number of local residents. Unfortunately, a piece of land that the Parish Council thought may have been utilised has proved not to be so. The land is in the ownership of Cherwell District Council and had, in the past, been used for allotment purposes. However, the District Council is not now willing for it to be made use of as allotments. The Parish Council is considering how to take matters forward to ascertain whether alternative land may be available. Those local residents who expressed interest will be kept informed.

Public Participation

Reference was made to the mobile home situated in the car park of the Bishop Blaize. The Clerk was instructed to refer the matter to the District Council to ascertain whether it meets with Planning Regulations.

Any Other Business

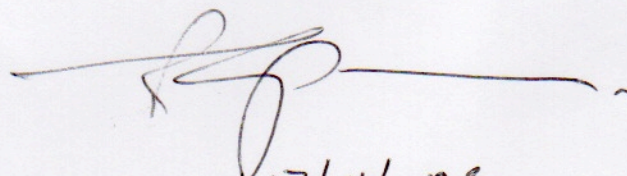
Cllr Martin Layer expressed his willingness, subject to availability, to attend a special meeting of the Countryside Forum to discuss the draft Cherwell Sustainable Community Strategy at Steeple Aston Village Hall on 30th September.

Cllr Robin Spicer gave verbal notice of his resignation from the Parish Council brought about by his intended move from this Country to live, with his wife, in Thailand. The other Parish Councillors accepted this with sadness and the matter of the vacancy to be caused will have attention in due course. For the sake of the record, Cllr Robin Spicer has been a member of the Parish Council since 26th September 1986 and Chairman since 17th May 2006.

Date of Next Meeting

The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday, 17th November 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 9.25pm.


17/11/09