

**Minutes of the South Hinksey Parish Council
at South Hinksey Village Hall**

Monday 2nd November 2015

Present: Sarah Balaam (Vice-Chair), Christine Chater, Matthew Frohn, Maggie Rawcliffe (Chair)

Geoffrey Ferres (Clerk),

Other attendees: Brett Leahy (VoWHDC)

Time commenced: 7.05pm

1. Apologies

Liz LeFevre, Cllr Bob Johnston (OxonCC), Cllr Debby Hallett (VoWHDC)

2. Declarations of interest

MR – Village Hall.

3. Public questions, comments or representations

PR attended the meeting to discuss item 12.

4. Minutes of October 2015 meeting

The Council **resolved** to agree the minutes of the October 2015 meeting. The Clerk reported that it has been confirmed that what currently happens is that the draft minutes are uploaded onto the website but can be replaced if there were any major changes in the final version.

5. Green Belt Policy

Brett Leahy, Development Manager (Vale) explained that because local Green Belt Policy GS3 predates current national policy (called the National Planning Policy Framework) where it is in conflict or not in accordance with national policy, the latter has more material planning weight/influence.

He said the most important paragraph for members was probably para 89 which has relaxed issues surrounding brownfield land and replacement buildings, also extensions and alterations provided these do not result in “disproportionate additions”. He explained that for something to be an extension it must be ancillary or subservient to the pre-existing building; it cannot dominate it and still be considered an extension.

As a result of the new national policy VoWHDC cannot even insist on volume figures being supplied for proposed extensions or alterations.

Mr Leahy also explained to members the wider planning context. He said the Government set a number of statutory planning performance targets for councils and underperforming councils could have their planning function removed to be run by the Standards Authority (Planning Inspectorate) in which case the council would still fund the planning function but the Planning Inspectorate would take the planning fee and make planning decisions without any involvement of the council and its members.

A non-statutory target set by Central Government is the expectation that 98% of applications should be approved. There were also targets for the percentages of major and minor applications determined within a certain number of weeks of registration and appeals performance. These are statutory and fall under the Standards Authority (Planning Inspectorate).

Signed: _____

Date: _____

But it was important to understand planning departments were now expected to facilitate rather than simply block development. Their role is to seek solutions so it would be helpful if parish councils gave officers a steer as to how to reach an acceptable compromise with developers rather than expecting the Vale council simply to fold its arms and say no to applications.

Mr Leahy said VoWHDC does not currently have plans that are fully compliant with the national planning policy requirement to identify and keep up to date a deliverable five-year housing land supply but it hoped to have adopted fully compliant plans by June 2016.

Action: Clerk to thank Mr Leahy for attending the meeting and explaining the current position.

6. Matters arising

Thames Water. SB reported further work has been undertaken and the problem may have been resolved.

External audit. The Clerk had contacted his predecessor to remind the Council of the reason for the decrease in assets from £109,834 to £30,894 in the 2014-15 accounts. He was advised that the auditors had added the Village Hall as an asset valued at £80,000 in the 2013-14 accounts producing a large increase in the assets that year but last year had removed it again producing this large decrease.

VoWHDC's Town and Parish Forum, 16th November. The Clerk has submitted registrations for MR and LLF who will represent the Council.

Change of Parish Clerk. Up-to-date contact details have been placed on the Parish Council notice boards.

7. Finance – payments and receipts

Payments

Payee	Reason	Amount	Power to act
Information Commissioner	Data controller registration 2015/16	£35	s226 LGA 1972

The Council **resolved** to approve the payment.

Receipts

Payer	Reason	Amount
Scottish and Southern Electricity	Wayleaves	£21.01
Midcounties Co-op Ltd - Funerals	Gibbons interment	£300.00
Edward Carter Funeral Directors	Gustafson interment	£300.00

8. Planning applications

P15/V2211/HH – Kestrel Lodge, Hinksey Hill Farm – alterations to dwelling to enclose carport and open storage area, creation of new parking spaces

The Clerk submitted an objection as agreed.

VE15/383 – 48 Manor Road – breach of planning control: creation of new vehicular access

The Clerk has contacted Rob Raynsford, VoWHDC's Enforcement Officer (Planning) for an update regarding a breach of planning control as the Council has not been notified of a retrospective planning application. SB reported that further work has been undertaken.

9. Correspondence

None.

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Date: _____

10. County Councillor's report

BJ had sent a report to be read at the meeting covering three matters: he gave his view that OxonCC's the Oxfordshire Together proposals are a thinly disguised attempt to offload expenditure onto Town and Parish Councils; with regard to OxonCC's 2016-17 budget, he said his view was that in the light of uncertainties about the future of Business Rates and the New Homes Bonus there should be a graded list of reductions, not all of which might need to be made; and he regretted that due to personnel changes at Network Rail he has not been updated on relevant matters but he understood the railway line would be closed for up to 22 days in February while work was undertaken to raise the height of the railway line south of Hinksey above flood level.

11. District Councillors' report

DH had been unable to attend the meeting as planned but a report had been circulated to councillors.

12. Campaigns

Footbridge over the railway. PR reported that the Leader of Oxford City Council has met Sir Peter Hendy, the new chairman of Network Rail. Fresh designs are being sought for the new footbridge. PR intended to circulate a new petition and to approach both local MPs.

Flood barriers. PR said agreement has now been reached that the flood barriers will be deployed through some resident's gardens. Training on deployment of the barriers will not be undertaken until after the winter and, if a flood situation were to arise during the winter, workmen would deploy the barriers. The Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme is on track and options will be published for consultation in 2016.

Barleycott Lane. The Clerk has contacted Laura Hutchins, OxonCC's Area Steward for the Vale area, to enquire again as to when the work may take place.

13. South Hinksey to North Hinksey footpath

MR was not able to attend the Midcounties Co-operative Half-Yearly Members Meeting in Oxford on 20th October but with her agreement the Clerk, who did attend, raised the Council's request with a member of the Executive and has followed up that discussion with an email.

14. General Elliott

The Clerk has written to Helen Hazlewood regretting that no response had been received to the Council's letter sent in July regarding progress on agreed work to improve safety and reduce noise, and asking for firm dates when the outstanding work would be completed. SB had felt it was important to distinguish between works that had formed part of the 2008 planning conditions for the car park and works that had been agreed more recently between the new owners and the Council. SB had looked up the relevant planning conditions from 2008: they related to the signage and the rumble strips. The Clerk had drawn attention to these in his letter.

15. Track beside A34 between South Hinksey and Botley

MF raised concerns about the narrowness of the track and its condition, and the lack of any safety barrier between the track and the road. The track was already used as a route to and from school but improvements were needed before parents and children could feel safe using it. **Action: Clerk to contact parish clerk of North Hinksey seeking the support of North Hinksey Parish Council and to send a letter to Highways about the narrowness of the track, its condition, the branches obstructing it and the lack of a safety barrier.**

16. Speed limits on Hinksey Hill and in the village

A redrafted consultation document had been circulated to the Council covering two separate proposals.

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Date: _____

LLF had contacted the Boars Hill Association and learned it did not seek a 30mph limit on the whole length of Hinksey Hill but was only concerned to obtain a 30mph limit in Boars Hill. LLF wanted the South Hinksey residents to be included in or informed of the Sunningwell Parish Council's consultation. The Clerk has contacted Colin Weyer of Sunningwell Parish Council. CC was concerned at the number of Hinksey Hill residents who might not receive Shinfo. She felt the survey should be posted or delivered to Hinksey Hill properties.

Action: SB to create an online survey; Clerk to amend paragraph 4 of the current draft to include a link to the online survey, the date by which responses should be sent and relevant email addresses.

17. Leylandii in the burial ground

MR and GF had met Simon Ringrose and Carol Colclough at the burial ground. Ringrose Trees has submitted a new quotation to the council addressing the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment's two conditions, the need to replace the existing fence and the option of using a mini-digger to dig out and remove the stump grindings. The cost of the revised works was far higher than originally expected. SB raised the question of whether another quotation should now be sought. **Action: MR to discuss possible funding with BJ**

18. Traffic issues

None, apart from those mentioned above.

19. Maintenance issues

Bench by the General Elliott. It appeared the bench may have been hit by a vehicle. Members did not believe it should be replaced. **Action: MR to contact local builder to have it removed.**

Autumn leaves. CC was particularly concerned about how slippery the footpath was from the bus stop but it was suggested the problem was in part due to weeds. **Action: Clerk to check whether weeding was included in the specification for the Council's contractors.**

Pillar Box. Concern was expressed at the condition of the pillar box. **Action: Clerk to contact Royal Mail.**

20. Defibrillator and Village Emergency Telephone System

The Clerk had placed the child pads with the defibrillator. PR is making arrangements for the existing sign to be moved to the front of the building.

Members felt that a Village Emergency Telephone System would have to be community-led. The Parish Council might fund it but could not run it. **Action: The Clerk to seek a volunteer through Shinfo.**

21. Village Hall

The Clerk forwarded to PR and CC the advice received from Lesley Pollock of Henmans Freeth and has now forwarded to her for her opinion a draft vesting declaration from the Parish Council (as custodian trustee for the charity South Hinksey Village Hall) to the new Charitable Incorporated Organisation (South Hinksey Village Hall) with the Managing Trustees joining in. **Action: Clerk to send the document to the Land Registry for approval if Lesley Pollock is satisfied with it.**

MF pointed out that the address for the council in the document was incorrect.

22. Oxfordshire County Council Budget

MR had attended OxonCC's Town and Parish Council event on 21st September on the Council's behalf. She had discussed the county's ideas for devolving services to town and parish councils with BJ. In her view there was nothing OxonCC wanted to devolve that was appropriate for a council of our size. She reported that OxonCC was interested in parish councils clustering and this might be a matter for future discussion.

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Date: _____

23. Any other business

The Clerk summarised a report he had just received from VoWHDC's Tree Officer of a site visit he had recently undertaken at Bagley Croft. The Tree Officer was satisfied the work was the implementation of the planning permission for the construction of the new vehicular access and that the work is being implemented with appropriate care. **Action: Clerk to circulate the report to all councillors and to request a report from the Tree Officer after his next visit.**

24. Feedback from members of the public

None.

Time concluded: 9.15pm

MINUTES SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Date of the next Parish Council meeting: 14th December 2015 at 7.30pm
in South Hinksey Village Hall

Signed: _____

Date: _____