

## Minutes of the South Hinksey Parish Council

at South Hinksey Village Hall

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2010

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Present: Sarah Balaam (Vice-Chair), Sheridan Edward (Clerk), Liz LeFevre, Maggie Rawcliffe (Chair)  
Arash Fatemian (Cllr, OxonCC) (from item 6)

Parishioners: None

### 1. Apologies

Elizabeth Halcro

### 2. Declarations of Interest

MR – Village Hall

### 3. Parishioners' Comments

None

### 4. Minutes of November 2010 Meeting

Read and agreed.

### 5. Matters Arising

**Flooding.** SB reported that there had been no news from VoWH about putting culverts under the substation access road. **Action: SB to draft letter to VoWH and SE to send.**

**Millennium Yew Plaque.** MR Reported that this was still to do. **Action: MR to follow-up.**

**Grit bins.** SE reported that the Church Close grit bin had now been filled, the Betty Lane grit bin was to be installed imminently and that a refund for the Spring Copse grit bin was being sought. It had been reported that the footbridge over the railway had become slippery again. It was stated that a grit bin could be installed by the bridge but not filled or maintained due to its location. It was also noted that the bridge falls outside the parish and the responsibility for maintaining it was Oxford City Council. **Action: SE to ask the City Council to maintain the footpath and enquire about installing a grit bin.**

**Leylandii in Burial Ground.** MR reported that this work had now been completed.

## 6. Finance – Payments and Receipts

### Payments

BDO	External audit fee	£193.88
Matthew Ellett	October grass cutting fee	£399.50
Sheridan Edward	Wages October to December	£417.59
Simon Ringrose	Leylandii and horse chestnut pruning	£160.00
Maggie Rawcliffe	Expenses – printing and NPS supervision	£30.60
Village Hall	Hire for NPS	£20.00

### Receipts

Tony James	Memorial fee	£60.00
Forestry Commission	Woodland Grant	£274.42
VoWHDC	Contribution towards Church Close barrier	£284.94

## 7. Planning Applications

**Manor Farm.** The planning application had been approved. SE reported that VoWH had not received the Parish Council's response to the application, which stated that although the Council did not object to the planning application, it had received several concerns from parishioners, and that Planning should take these into consideration. MR stated that she had spoken to Stuart Walker at Planning who confirmed that the Council's response would not have affected the outcome, and that the concerns raised had all been considered.

## 8. Correspondence

**Broadband for All.** David Robertson, Deputy Leader of OxonCC and Oxfordshire Broadband Champion, wrote to all town and parish councils to inform them of the central government targets to roll out fast broadband to everyone in the country by 2015, and OxonCC's strategy for achieving this. It was noted that the need for the service in South Hinksey was particular acute, given the more rural location and proportion of people working from home. **Action: SE to forward letter to councillors.**

**Oxfordshire County Council Countryside website.** The Council had received an email advertising the Countryside Service website, giving information on public rights of way, countryside walks, and ways of reporting a problem on a public right of way. **Action: SE to forward email to councillors. Posters to be displayed on noticeboards and email forwarded for SHInfo.**

## 9. County Councillor's Report

AF reported that the speed cameras in Oxfordshire were due to be switched back on. He confirmed that the decision to turn them off had been financial as OxonCC had withdrawn their funding and the Community Safety Partnership had felt unable to continue. However, the money had now been found. AF also reported that OxonCC and the Boundary Commission were reviewing the number of county councillors to bring the councillor / constituent ratio in line with the national average. This was likely to be put in place in time for the next election. AF also reported that OxonCC were looking to save £2m from the libraries budget. As a result it would be closing eight libraries and ceasing funding for a further 14. These represented only 18% of library usage over the county. However, the County

Council would be providing start-up support and a fund to help libraries make the transition to self-sufficiency. In addition, there would be increased use of mobile libraries to ensure that services to vulnerable groups were unaffected.

#### **10. District Councillor's Report**

None.

#### **11. Project Updates**

**Manor Road Ditch.** SB stated that she had received another quote for the work. However, the contractor had recommended a greater amount of work. SB also stated that the tenants of the adjacent property had begun to clear the area for their own use. **Action: SB to confirm with the tenants whether they wish to take on the maintenance of the area. SB to obtain a revised quote from the first contractors for the increased work required.**

**Church Close Barrier.** MR reported in EH's absence that David Cullen would be doing the work in the new year. SE stated that the Council had already received the VoWH's contribution towards the repair costs.

**Church Close Car Park.** SE reported that he had spoken to Jane Winfield at Oxford City Council who stated that they would be looking into the sale of the paddock after the sale of the adjacent barn had been completed, which would be imminent. They would be interested in selling it off in lots and estimated that the market value for the car park plot would be c.£10k. Jane also stated that they would be obliged to offer the plots on the open market. **Action: SE to followup with Jane Winfield once the sale of the barn had been completed.**

**Community Land.** No report.

**Village Hall.** SE reported that the survey had been ordered and that it was carried out w/c 22<sup>nd</sup> November. Once he has received the report SE would be in touch with the solicitor to start the conveyancing work. **Action: SE to follow up once report had been received.**

#### **12. Maintenance Tenders**

The brief for maintenance tenders had been circulated to councillors, feedback received and amendments made. Other amendments were made to the brief during the meeting. **Action: SE to send the document to contractors for tenders.**

#### **13. Finance Report – October to December**

SE reported that the Parish Council remained in a strong financial position. Overheads remained below budget, as did spending on projects. In addition, receipts were more than predicted, especially for burials and memorials. This meant that the Council had healthy reserves in the general fund and also a large reserve in the Community Woodland fund, which was created through ring-fenced grants from the Forestry Commission. However, it was predicted that there would be large amounts of expenditure on projects in the near future. **Action: SE and MR to meet to draft the 2011/12 budget and precept.**

#### **14. External Audit Report**

SE reported that the external audit had raised three items. 1. That the internal audit had raised several points that required addressing – SE stated that these had been addressed at previous Council meetings and actioned. 2. That the Annual Return was out by £1 – this did not require action as it was a rounding error. 3. That the Council's agreement of Annual Governance Statement had not been specifically minuted – SE confirmed that this would be done in future years.

## 15. Speeding on Hinksey Hill

Following the news that the speed restriction on Hinksey Hill was now likely to go ahead very soon, LLF circulated suggestions for methods of ensuring that the limit was adhered to. These were discussed and it was felt that they were best employed once the restriction had been put in place. AF also felt that some of the more costly measures would be unlikely due to OxonCC's current financial situation. It was felt that a Vehicle Activated Sign should be used to make drivers aware of the new speed restriction, along with vehicle speed monitoring to assess if there are any ongoing problems. If problems still persist, then the Council can investigate more permanent measures.

## 16. AOB

**Pot holes.** SB reported that a pot hole at the bottom of Manor Road was still to be filled. **Action: Laura Hutchins, Area Steward, to be informed.**

**Betty Lane woodland.** LLF reported that Riki Therival, who owned the woodland, would be carrying out school workshops in the woodland and that there was also a tree pruning workshop. **Action: LLF to publicize workshop on SHInfo.**

## 17. Parishioners' Feedback

None.

**PLEASE NOTE:  
Date of next meeting: Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2011**