

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

Monday 5th December 2011

Present: Tom Barron, Sheridan Edward (Clerk), Liz LeFevre, Maggie Rawcliffe (Chair)
Cllr Arash Fatemian (Oxon CC)

Parishioners: Paul Simmons

MR reported that due to ill health Elizabeth Halcro has decided to step down as Parish Councillor. The Council wished to thank her for all her service to the Council and the community over many years.

1. Apologies

Sarah Balaam (Vice-Chair), Cllr Ron Mansfield (VoWHDC)

2. Declarations of Interest

MR – Village Hall.

3. Parishioners' Comments

Paul Simmons, a resident of Betty Lane updated the Council on several items regarding the area. He reported that the field for which an application had been made for membership of the Caravan Club was now up for sale, as was a larger field adjacent to the road. He stated that the owner of the larger field had excavated some of the verges along the road, but he didn't know why. Thames Water had laid water mains under the road and were yet to carry out remedial work. Paul stated that the road surface was in need of re-laying and the crash barrier at the top of the road needed replacing. **Action: SE to get details of Caravan Club application from Paul and follow up with Laura Hutchins regarding maintenance work. SE also to arrange installation of no-fly-tipping signs.**

4. Minutes of November 2011 Meeting

Read and agreed.

5. Matters Arising

Maintenance Contract. SE reported that he had prepared the tender brief. **Action: SE to forward to councillors for approval.**

General Elliot. The Council had sent the letter of support to the Vale Brewery and would await the outcome of the discussions between the brewery and the community group.

Draft Interim Housing Supply Policy. SB, MR and SE had been unable to meet, but MR had attended the forum at which the policy was discussed and had drafted a response to the questionnaire. It was felt that the policy would not have a direct detrimental effect on the parish but it was also felt that the Council should comment more broadly on the effects of the policy on the surrounding region. **Action: MR to forward draft response to councillors for approval.**

Devil's Backbone Fencing. AF had not received reference number from SB. **Action: SE to chase up with Laura Hutchins.**

6. Finance – Payments and Receipts

Payments

Sheridan Edward	Clerk wages – Oct to Dec	£458.05
Village Hall	Have Your Say meeting hire	£5.50
Maggie Rawcliffe	Expenses – travel and supplies	£32.62
Continental Landscapes	November maintenance	£340.00
Tom Barron	Expenses – Grit spreader	£167.99

Receipts

Reeves & Pain	Burial fee	£600.00
Forestry Commission	2011/12 Comm. Woodland Grant installment	£265.97

7. Planning Applications

Overshot, Badger Lane – formation of roof terrace and re-cladding – 11/02599/FUL

The Council raised no objections

21 and 23 Manor Road – Reinstatement of three dormer windows – 1102417/FUL and Woodside, Badger Lane – Erection of four new dwellings – 11/02007/FUL

Notice that permission had been granted

Fairfield, Badger Lane – Conversion of triple garage to disabled accommodation

Notice of refusal of application

8. Correspondence

Vale Brewery. The Brewery replied to the PC's letter of support. Because the planning application for B&B and restaurant application was refused, they are cautious, but if anyone has a genuine proposal and business plan they would be willing to listen.

Draft National Planning Policy Framework. Nicola Blackwood MP replied to the Council's response to the NPPF consultation to reassure the Council that the Green Belt will retain its current protections and that strategic flood risk assessments will still inform local plans and individual planning applications will still need to be supported by a site-specific flood risk assessment.

High Sheriff Awards. The High Sheriff wrote to the Council to request nominations for her awards in the following categories: care for the elderly; bravery; helpfulness in the neighbourhood; and long / meritorious service. **Action: Council to suggest any nominations by 27th January.**

VoWHDC Budget Consultation. The Council was encouraged to give its views on the consultation. **Action: SE to forward link to councillors and to be raised at the next Council meeting for a response by 11th January.**

Library Service. The Council has been informed that the OxonCC Cabinet would be discussing the proposals for the future of the library services on Monday 12th December. AF stated that the key change to the scheme was regarding the lower tier of community libraries, including Kennington, where the level of staff funding was raised from 33% OxonCC-funded and 67% community-funded, to a 50:50 split. **Action: SE to forward details to councillors should they wish to make a representation at the meeting.**

9. County Councillor's Report

AF reported that he met with Laura Hutchins and a Highways Officer in South Hinksey to discuss the possibility of implementing a 20mph speed restriction in all areas of the village. Highways did not object in principle and would install a monitor to record speeds in the village to ascertain whether the speed restriction was warranted. If it were it is possible that the speed limit could be implemented in the spring. AF also reported that the hours of operation of the concessionary bus travel had been extended to midnight every day.

10. District Councillor's Report

RM was unable to attend the meeting but sent a report to the Council with the following points: the Interim Housing Supply Policy had been out to consultation and RM was waiting for the amended version to be proposed; the free 2 hour parking was going ahead in Vale-owned car parks; the Abingdon centre redevelopment plan would go before the planning committee on 7th December; and the Boundary Commission review finished that day, and the Commission was expected to publish representation and counter proposals early in the new year.

11. Project Updates

Hinksey Hill Traffic Issues. LLF reported that the speed awareness stickers had been distributed to all the houses along Hinksey Hill, and also raised various schemes to be included in the Area Stewardship Fund application.

Manor Road Ditch. TB had identified that it may well have been the City Council who were the riparian landowner and had forwarded plans to SE. SE contacted Jane Winfield who was overseeing the sale of the field adjacent to the ditch who passed it to Ed Green to investigate. **Action: SE to chase up with Ed Green.**

Village Hall. SE reported that the paperwork had been signed by all the trustees and returned to Philip Marsh who would then register and transfer ownership with the Land Registry and the new ownership documents should be with the Parish Council in the next month or so.

Bypass Crash Barriers. As SB was away, this was left until the next meeting.

12. Finance Report and 2012/13 Budget

SE had previously circulated the management accounts for the year up to December. He reported that the Council's financial situation remained very healthy with every item either on budget or underbudget, with many budgets significantly less. Income had already reached its full year target. For 2011/12 the Council had budgeted a deficit of c.£5.5k but was now projecting a surplus of c.£2.5k.

VoWHDC had requested the proposed precept figure by 6th January. SE had circulated proposed budget documents for 2012/13, with each line broadly in line with the current year's projected spend. SE stated that the projected end of year balance in the Council's funds would be £15.5k, and stated that this should be reduced over the coming year, in line with statutory guidelines. SE recommended that the Council fund the budget with £4k, of their current reserves, with the remaining £4k raised through the precept. The Council agreed a precept for 2012/13 of £4020.

13. Community Woodland Management

Clive Briffett had done an excellent job at establishing the woodland and long-term funding for the project and the Council wished to ensure that there was a continuing high level of stewardship of the area. It was felt that although the Council could maintain it, the woodland could benefit from the input of an independent project manager with experience of woodland stewardship. It was suggested that Riki Therivel, TOE and Stephen West be contacted for their advice.

The Council also felt that there should be a memorial to Clive at the woodland. Several options were discussed and would be raised at the next Council meeting. **Action: Council to discuss at next Council meeting.**

14. Area Stewardship Fund

The Council proposed three possible schemes for AF's consideration:

Hinksey Hill footpath. It was noted that the footpath along Hinksey Hill had become very narrow due to the encroachment of hedgerows, and that the hedges should be cut back and the pavement reinstated.

Hinksey Hill Signage. LLF had previously discussed the possibility of signage with Laura Hutchins who stated that Highways would not be able to fund this at the moment. Laura Hutchins was also concerned that as Hinksey Hill is not a recognised settlement signs bearing this name would not be appropriate. However it was felt that 'Concealed Entrances' or similar signs would be highly beneficial.

Speed Indicator Device. It was mentioned that Kennington were possibly looking to have a SID to help raise speed awareness, and the Council felt there could be the possibility for a joint bid with Hinksey Hill.

Action: SE to draft forms and circulate to Councillors. SE to contact Kennington Parish Council clerk.

15. Any Other Business

Councillor Vacancy. With the resignation of Elizabeth Halcro, Council is to recruit to fill the vacancy. **Action: SE to discuss with Elections team and begin election process.**

16. Parishioners' Feedback

None.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 3rd January 2012