

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

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2012**

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Present: Sarah Balaam (Vice-Chair), Sandra Bingham, Sheridan Edward (Clerk), Liz LeFevre, Maggie Rawcliffe (Chair)

Cllr Arash Fatemian (OxonCC)

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### **1. Apologies**

Tom Barron, Cllr Ron Mansfield (VoWHDC).

### **2. Declarations of interest**

MR – Village Hall.

### **3. Parishioners' comments**

Vicki Nash attended the meeting to request a grant of £400 for a new dishwasher for the Stepping Stones Pre-School. It is a parent-run pre-school for children from 2 ½ years and also includes an after-school service, and is used by several children in the parish. LLF offered a spare secondhand dishwasher that was in good condition and the Council agreed a donation of £100.

### **4. Minutes of January 2012 meeting**

Read and agreed.

### **5. Matters arising**

**Community Woodland.** No management plan had been found and Riki Therivel suggested that another could be drawn up. MR, TB, SE, Riki and Hilary Briffett arranged to meet on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> to discuss further.

**Devil's Backbone Fencing.** SE and MR met with Tracy Morton, Highways Representative, who investigated the issue and Sarah B reported that the fence had been fixed.

**Lighting on Betty Lane.** Alan Cockbill from Highways reported that the cost to the Parish Council to install a street lamp would be c.£5k. The Council felt that this was too expensive.

**Hinksey Hill bus layby.** SE reported this to St John's College and LLF reported that the fence had been fixed.

**Ditch at start of Devil's Backbone.** MR and SE raised the issue of cleaning the ditch under the bridge in their meeting with Tracy Morton, who was investigating. Action: SE to chase.

## 6. Finance – payments and receipts

### Payments

Maggie Rawcliffe	January expenses	£13.46
Peter Rawcliffe	Reissue of expired cheque	£26.20
Peter Rawcliffe	Wildflower expenses	£31.65
JAG Timber	Restaking of trees	£870.00
SLCC	2012 Membership	£97.00

### Receipts

Highworth Memorials	Memorial fee	£60.00
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The Council queried the total of the JAG Timber invoice, as the estimate was for c.£500. **Action: SE to clarify with JAG.**

## 7. Planning applications

### Bagley Croft Lodge, 12/00034/FUL, erection of a double garage

The Council raised no objections.

## 8. Correspondence

**District Councillor Review Briefing.** VoWHDC were holding two briefings on 29<sup>th</sup> February at the Cornerstone Arts Centre in Didcot to make parish councils aware of the process for their review of the number of District Councillors, and the Council was invited to send two representatives **Action: MR and LLF to attend. SE to RSVP.**

**Woodland Trust Jubilee Woods.** Nicola Blackwood MP wrote to inform the Council of the project to plant 6 million trees in 2012 in celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The project was aimed at individuals as well as community groups. **Action: SE to forward details on SHInfo and investigate use of the fund for the community woodland. MR to look at possible sites in the burial ground.**

**Bridge maintenance.** Enterprise Mouchel, who carry out maintenance wrote for the Highways Agency, wrote to inform the Council that the work on the bridge over the A34 to South Hinksey village would now be taking place from 20<sup>th</sup> February for eight weekdays, and one lane on the A34 would also be closed for four of those weeknights.

**Localism Act.** The Council had received two items of correspondence, from Nicola Blackwood MP and Steven Corrigan at VoWHDC regarding the implementation of the Localism Act, which comes into force in April 2012. SE reported that the Act brings widespread reforms to local government, in particular to areas of local governance and planning. In particular, Nicola Blackwood raised the importance of formulating a neighbourhood development plan, which would formulate the basis for determining local planning applications. **Action: SE to forward a summary of the act to councilors.**

## 9. County Councillor's Report

AF reported that although it was possible to proceed with speed monitoring with a view to requesting a 20mph zone through the village, any application would probably be refused if just one objection was received, which would be likely. However, AF reported that he was in the process of putting together an application for the Area Stewardship Fund for a speed indicator device to be rotated between the parishes in his ward. The Council

confirmed that they were keen to be part of the application and LLF volunteered to install the SID on a regular basis.

AF also reported that council tax would be frozen for the coming year.

AF reported the sad news of the death of Roger Belson, County Councillor for Watlington, and that Peter Jones, County Councillor for Abingdon East, was currently on six months leave due to illness.

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

None.

## **11. Project updates**

**A34 Issues.** Sarah B reported that she believed the distance between the South Hinksey slip road and the Hinksey Hill Interchange was the shortest on the A34 and that there had been over 40 accidents in the past ten years, with the three quarters on the northbound side. MR and Sarah B would be meeting with Nicola Blackwood MP and the members of the Botley Traffic Advisory Committee to discuss further.

**Manor Road ditch.** Edward Green at Oxford City Council had reported to SE that an engineer had visited and an order had been placed to cut back the vegetation, and that they would also monitor the bank and carry out work if it deteriorated.

**Hinksey Hill traffic issues.** MR, LLF and SE met with Tracy Morton who confirmed that the anti-skid surface would be replaced during the 2012/13 year and that she would investigate raising the kerbs at the top of Hinksey Hill. Tracy restated that 'Concealed Entrances' was not a permitted sign and was unable to suggest any suitable alternatives.

**Village Hall ownership.** SE reported that Philip Marsh at Darbys were still waiting on the paperwork to be returned by Land Registry. **Action: SE to continue to chase.**

## **12. Stepping Stones grant request**

Discussed under Parishioners comments.

## **13. Clive Briffett memorial bench**

This item was postponed until the next Council meeting. **Action: SE to add to next agenda.**

## **14. Queen's Jubilee celebrations**

MR reported that there were plans for a street party on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The Council agreed to underwrite the event up to the value of the cost of the insurance.

## 15. Litter pick

MR stated that she had spoken to Biffa, the contractor responsible for this year's litter picks in the region and proposed the weekend of 17/18 March. Other councillors reported that they were unable to make that weekend and LLF suggested Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March. **Action: MR to speak to Biffa and arrange date.**

## 16. Ground maintenance contract

SE reported that he had received five tenders for the 2012 ground maintenance contract and circulated details to the Council. It was noted that the tenders varied widely in specifications and price. The Council was able to shortlist the tenders down to three but felt that revised tenders based on the same frequency of work was needed for a sufficient like-for-like comparison. **Action: SE to contact shortlisted contractors to obtain revised quotes.**

## 17. Any other business

**General Elliot.** MR reported that Dr and Mrs Yun had contacted her to report that they had had a viewing of the General Elliot and would like to meet with members of the Council to discuss their proposals for the site. They also reported that there had been a burglary at the pub with wiring having been stolen. This has been reported by MR to the Police. **Action: Councillors Sarah B and MR to meet with Mrs Yun.**

## 18. Parishioners' feedback

None.

**Date of next meeting: Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2012**

**NB: Council meetings will now take place on the first Tuesday of each month**