

Before the meeting members discussed the post of Parish Clerk with an interested applicant, who had applied for the post previously and at the recommendation of the Chairman was invited to attend to meet with the Council following the resignation of the Parish Clerk.

SHPC/09/07

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SOUTH HINKSEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 2008 IN THE VILLAGE HALL, SOUTH HINKSEY.

Present: Councillor C. Briffett – Chairman
Councillor C. Davies
Councillor Mrs E. LeFevre
Councillor Mrs M. Rawcliffe
Councillor Ms S. Strawbridge

In attendance: Anne Wilson - Parish Clerk

Councillor Briffett welcomed Liz LeFevre onto the Parish Council. The Parish Clerk confirmed that she had received Cllr. Mrs LeFevre's Declaration of Acceptance of Office and Declaration of Interests, which had been forward to the VOWHDC, in between meetings.

149/07 Apologies for Absence

RESOLVED that no apologies for absence had been received.

150/07 Declarations of Interest

RESOLVED to note that there were no declarations of any personal or prejudicial interest under consideration on this agenda in accordance with the Parish Councils (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2001.

However the Parish Clerk declared an interest as she would be advising the Council on her successor.

151/07 Minutes

RESOLVED to confirm the minutes **SHPC/08/07**

Min no. **135/07** should read "the Friends of South Hinksey" instead of "eh friends of South Hinksey".

P2 para3 should read "tree" not "three".

152/07 Woodland Project Proposal

Councillor Briffett reported to members that permission had been given by the Woodland Trust to go ahead with the woodland even though they have not approved the grant. A decision was to be made whether the grant should be paid annually or in one lump sum.

Councillor Briffett reported that he had received the official offer and forms with the terms and conditions in from the Trust for Oxfordshire Environment (TOE) following the written confirmation of offer by the Parish Clerk. The Clerk signed the relevant pages on behalf of the Council and members noted that Cllr. Briffett was to be the TOE contact.

The project had begun with school children and adults planting trees and native shrubs round the edge of the site. A local resident had kindly offered to cut the grass on the site free of charge. It was taken on board that more local residents would like to get involved but to date everything had happened during the working week and consideration should be given to events at the weekend.

RESOLVED that a date should be set when all Councillors and the Parish Clerk meet on site to look around the proposed woodland area.

153/07 Sale of Land off Chilswell Path to Mrs M. Pringle

Franklins Solicitors are chasing Henmans solicitors for a response once again. The Parish Clerk confirmed that nothing had been heard as at the date of the meeting but she would following the matter up with Franklins.

154/07 Community Land Proposal

Cllr. Briffett reported that he will chase up the matter with regard to land usage amendments as opposed to a land exchange.

He asked members for their thoughts on using the large unused area of the burial ground as a recreation ground for the next "x" number of years as he felt that this land would not be needed for many years to come. The area could be separated off and a licence for change of use for "x" number of years could be obtained.

There were mixed reactions from members however the Parish Clerk stated that even if a high hedge or fence was put round the site balls etc could go over into the burial ground and damage graves. This was a health and safety hazard as well as an opener to claims against the Council for the damage.

The possibility of putting play equipment on the site was also discussed however it was felt that this could be a magnet for hanging out by young people too old to use the equipment, parents may feel intimidated if this was the case and that the maintenance and insurance costs of such a provision was prohibitive. It would also change the atmosphere of the area. About two years ago a group of young mothers had tried to put in a play area but it had apparently failed.

155/07 Planning Applications

1. For consideration:

Application no. : SHI/19261/1

Land between 34 and The General Elliott PH Manor Road South Hinksey
Erection of 2 x 4 bedroom houses

RESOLVED that members made the following comments:

- The designs are inappropriate for the area
- The houses are too high taking into consideration that are to be built above flood level and out of keeping with the area
- The proposed materials and finishes are out of keeping with the village and street scene in that area of South Hinksey
- The proposed concrete flooring is inappropriate for flood areas
- The proposed less abled access is negated if there was a flood as the lifts proposed would be in water
- Light will be taken out of the neighbouring house due to the height of the proposed properties
- Three of the windows over look the neighbouring property causing loss of amenity and privacy due to the fence only being 6 ft high and the property being built off the ground
- It is inappropriate that gable ends face the road - there are no other houses facing the road in this way
- The buildings are in front the building line of neighbouring properties
- The houses and their frontages are right onto the road
- There will be no where for the vehicles of the owners of the properties across the road to park due to the narrowness of the road (as they currently park on the land adjacent to the roadway at the front of the proposed properties)
- There are huge highway safety issues caused by these properties being so close to the road
- There is no where for the delivery vehicles to turn around for delivery to the pub
- There are safety issues with regard to access for emergency vehicles as Manor Road is very narrow

2. Applications passed:

Application no. : SH1/11845/3

The General Elliott 37 Manor Road South Hinksey
Alterations to existing access and formulation of car park

Members expressed concern about the passing of this application and noted that the details of the determination were not yet available. The Parish Clerk would obtain for circulation at the next Parish Council meeting.

2. Other matters:

Members noted the information with regard to the changes to the Vale of White Horse Planning Forms.

156/07 Flooding matters.

Members noted the confidential information circulated to them at the meeting and Cllr. Mrs Rawcliffe agreed to ask her husband Peter Rawcliffe to make a presentation to the Parish Council in March.

Members felt that the Parish Council should write to the relevant authority who own the houses where flooding repair works from last summers floods had not been completed. Details of those people would be given to the Parish Clerk.

156/07 Cheques for Payment

RESOLVED that Members confirmed the schedule of cheques for payment as listed below:

- A. Wilson – Annual working from home allowance £120

157/07 Accounts and Audit (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2006

RESOLVED that Members noted that the Internal Audit for the Parish Council will take place on the 6th March 2008 for the 2006/2007 financial year. The auditors have been informed. The Parish Clerk hopes that after this that the 2006/2007 accounts will be signed off.

The Parish Clerk will arrange a date for the 2007/2008 Internal Audit to be carried out so as to ensure that the same problem does not happen with that years accounts.

158/07 A34

Members expressed concern about the lack of litter picking on the roadsides adjacent to the parish and the A34. Cllr. Briiffett reported that he had collected several bags of rubbish himself.

There was a proposal in the Parish Plan to connect the village to Betty Lane. Sunny at Southcombe Lodge had right of access diagonally across land owned by Kingerlee that was currently used for grazing. Concern was expressed that it would become a rat run and members discussed various options. Further discussion would be held at the next meeting following a meeting that Cllr. Briiffett would try to arrange with Oxfordshire County Council in between meetings. The roadway could be a local access road for local residents or a walkway/cycleway.

159/07 Correspondence

RESOLVED that Members considered or noted the following correspondence:

- That there was a Flood Protect Products Fair at the Guildhall in Abingdon on the 7th February 2008
- Vale of White Horse Health Improvement Plan – Members are asked to look at the website addresses and come to the meeting with any comments for inclusion in a response
- Home2School Newsletter: Spring 2008 – available at the meeting
- BDO Stoy Hayward have been re-appointed as the Parish Council Auditors

160/07 Updates

RESOLVED that members noted that:

- A response had been received to the letter sent by Cllr. Briffett to the Government Office for the South East regarding Green Belt Reviews
- The Clerk would write to the Village Hall Trustees confirming the offer of £500 for the 2007/2008 financial year and £1000 for the 2008/2009 financial year. They had received the £500 for the 2007/2008 financial year.

161/07 Date of next meeting: Monday 3rd March 2008 at 7.30 p.m.

162/07 Committee in Private Session

RESOLVED

In terms of Schedule 12, Local Government Act 1972, the following items will be likely to disclose exempt information relating to personnel matters and it is therefore resolved that pursuant to the provisions of Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded.

COMMITTEE IN PRIVATE SESSION

SOUTH HINKSEY PARISH COUNCIL

MONDAY 11th FEBRUARY 2008

162/07 Appointment of Parish Clerk

RESOLVED that in light of the discussion before the meeting Members agreed to appoint Rosemary Aldgate as the new Parish Clerk subject to a six month probation period and willingness to attend and receive training. The present Clerk offered to monitor the new Clerk and assist with the financial aspects of the post should it be required.

The current Clerk would look into the relevant salary scale for the post and liaise with the Chairman.