

SOUTH HINKSEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall, South Hinksey on Monday 8th January 2007 at 7.30p.m.

PRESENT: - Councillors – P. J. Saugman (Chairman), Mrs. M. Rawcliffe (Deputy Chairman)
B. M. Halcro, C. Briffett and Miss S. L. Gray.

Clerk - D. E. Wilkins.

No parishioners were present.

The Chairman opened the Meeting and welcomed everyone with New Year's greeting and apologised that the December Meeting was cancelled because a quorum was not available due to sickness and other appointments.

No Members, present, declared an interest in any matters to be heard at this Meeting.

06/107 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 6th November 2006, were now taken as read, and were signed as being correct.

06/108 MATTERS ARISING

Following a question from Councillor C. Briffett the Clerk confirmed that notice had been given to Mr. N. Frearson, tenant of proposed woodland. This had been done on the 13th November 2006 after the Clerk had spoken to Mr. Frearson personally to explain position.

No official plans have yet been received regarding proposed new car park for General Elliot Public house. Although this Council gave support for the proposal, this was within reason. No details have been given for a new entrance to car park, and concern was shown if this is to be off Manor Road lower part. The position to be watched carefully. It is now understood the publican will not now allow non-customers to use this car park (i.e. village hall users). This Council gave support partly on the car park being used by other bodies.

The Clerk reported that he had written to Oxford City Council about Community Land proposals coupled with a proposal for off street parking for Church Close. No response has yet been received; Clerk was asked to follow up on this matter.

The Clerk reported that the land sale, of two parcels off Chilswell Path, to Mrs. M. Pringle is now in the hands of solicitors. Councillor C. Briffett queries these two sales as he was not aware of same. The Clerk stated that this has been approved by the Council as he would not have proceeded with out same [*See – June Minutes No. 06/60 last paragraph*]. Other Councillors agreed approval had been given.

Councillor Mrs. M. Rawcliffe reported work to commence soon on the Towles Mill sluice gate.

06/109 WOODLAND PROJECT PROPOSAL

Councillor C. Briffett reported that proposed car park for ten vehicles would not receive any support from the Vale as it is within the Green Belt, and does not conform to policies. He confirmed that this adverse position would not affect the project or any grant applications. Originally it was thought a car park was a necessity for the proposal. The Meeting wondered if Wyevale could be brought onboard. Councillor Briffett said the manager has not been very helpful. It was suggested that an approach be made further up the "ladder" to advise of the missed promotional prospects.

06/110 COMMUNITY LAND PROPOSAL

Already reported

06/111 CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported that the height of the new "Oxford Mail Building" was considered necessary for the new web newspaper printing machine. Oxford City only advise us of matters that are on the boundary with this Parish.

Oxford Green Belt Network have written to seek support regarding submission to the Examination in Public regarding the need to retain present green belt. The Clerk reported he has already provided a letter.

The Clerk advised the Meeting that there will be Parish Council Elections in 2007.

Abingdon & District Citizens Advice Bureau have written for financial support. The Meeting agreed that as we are currently providing funds for local needs no support be given this year.

The Chairman and Deputy Chairman will attend Oxon CC evening reception to be held on 28th February 2007.

Reported that the Friends of South Hinksey have advised Vale Planning Department that they support the Vale Brewery's intention to submit planning application for larger car park.

The Chairman advised the Council that Councillor C. Briffetts letter dated 6th November 2006 (in his role as Chairman of the Friends of South Hinksey) had not yet been dealt with.

The Parish Council has always stated that it did not wish to be involved financially with the new woodland, particularly with future unknown costs and commitments. It was considered that after three years, and perhaps before, management and funding will fall upon this Council. The precept would then require to be raised for the funding. Did parishioners realise that the proposal may cost them money? This Council is responsible for other persons monies and must not treat the matter lightly. Councillor C. Briffett said there will be no costs to fall upon the Parish, as maintenance will be carried out by volunteers with any costs being covered by grants.

No further correspondence was now necessary with FOSH as the Council had given permission for the woodland project to go ahead and have given notice to the tenant. FOSH are aware of this position. Originally the reply was a holding one depending on further action not yet formulated.

The Council minutes may not originally have shown that a letter had been received from FOSH, but it had been read to the Council (now recorded).

This Council still fully in support of the project.

A point was raised in that Councillor C. Briffett should have declared for the minutes that he had an interest in the woodland project because of his involvement with FOSH.

06/112 CHEQUE PAYMENTS

The Clerk explained to the Meeting the reasons for the following three cheques.

It was proposed by Councillor B. M. Halcro and Seconded by Councillor P. J. Saugman that the following payments be made:-

a) Oxford Times – advertising (Via the Clerk)	£ 752.00
b) Oxford Times – additional costs	£ 132.19
c) PK Landscapes – Aug to Nov 06 Costs	£ 1,019.28

06/113 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None this month.

06/114 FLOODING MATTERS

Reports attached to these minutes.

06/115 PRECEPT 2007/2008

The Clerk presented to the Meeting his proposed budget for next year (copies previously distributed).

After some discussion, a proposal by Councillor M. Rawcliffe and seconded by Councillor B. Halcro that the precept budget be approved, was agreed by all Members, in the sum of £8,200.

06/116 NEW CLERK

The Clerk said he had a good response to the advert in the Oxford Times etc for the forthcoming vacancy.

He had narrowed the response down to five persons who had sent in a C.V. of which all had some particular interest to this Council.

It was agreed that the Clerk should send to all Councillors copies of these five applications, then the Clerk would be advised by the following Monday of their individual thoughts. It was agreed the applicants would be narrowed down to two who would be invited to attend an interview in front of Council Members one evening.

The Council agreed that they would continue to hold eleven meetings each year plus the Annual Parish Meeting.

The Clerk advised the Meeting of the possible annual basic salary bands for the new clerk, which depends on population and average weekly hours; this rate increases every year. Obviously the rate may need to be reviewed depending on applicants experience and qualifications.

06/117 RISK ASSESSMENT

The Clerk advised the Meeting that they should consider the Council's risk assessment now that he is leaving in April 2007. Previously the Council had been covered very carefully by the Clerk. A sample risk assessment had been supplied to the Councillors. The matter will be discussed again next month.

06/118 PARISHIONERS MATTERS

None received.

06/119 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A question was asked about Council Minutes not being on Parish Website. The Clerk had supplied the Chairman with a floppy disc of the minutes, who in turn had sent the information to the person responsible, in a format suitable to be entered on the website. Could not understand why the minutes were not available to the parishioners.

The Meeting discussed generally the A34 and possible dangers surrounding the village exits and entrances.

It was noted that persons come from North Hinksey Southwards, go around the round about, and then proceed northwards. This traffic cannot enter the A34 from North Hinksey village.

It is hoped the Department of Transport will show in the future some "compassion" to the unusual situation at South Hinksey. There is not another similar junction along the A34.

The Next Meeting of the Council will be held on 5th February 2007.

There being no further business to transact the Chairman declared the Meeting closed at 9.38pm.

CHAIRMAN

Parishioners Comments

Nil as no parishioners were present.