

Minutes of a meeting of **South Hinksey Parish Council** held on **Monday 2nd July 2007** in the Village Hall, South Hinksey.

Present: Councillor Dr Clive Briffett – Chairman
Councillor Mrs Maggie Rawcliffe
Councillor Mrs Sarah Gray

In attendance: Councillor Bob Johnson – County Councillor
Anne Wilson – Town Clerk

The Parish Clerk explained the current situation with regard to the co-option of Councillor and encouraged members to speak to people in the parish and encourage them to stand as a Councillor. All those interested should write to the Clerk and a secret ballot would be held at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

35/07 Apologies for Absence

RESOLVED to note that there were no apologies for absence.

36/07 Declarations of Interest

RESOLVED to note that there were no declarations of any personal or prejudicial interest

37/07 Minutes

RESOLVED to confirm the minutes **SHPC/02/07**

Min no.: **27/07** The Parish Clerk stated that she did not have an update on the situation at the General Elliott. The Vale of White Horse is still looking for consultants to carry out the necessary work.

Councillor Briffett stated the under minute no: **23/07** the grant had been applied for to Breathing Spaces not Awards for All. Also the word “Culsworth” should read “Chiswell”

Min. no.: **25/07** Members noted that a copy of the letter was sent to Oxfordshire County Council.

38/07 Woodland Project Proposal

Cllr. Briffett updated members on the Woodland proposal by stating that Naomi from the North Moore Trust was holding a meeting on site to finalise how to forward the woodland proposal and plant the 200 trees. Notice had been given to the farmer who should vacate the site in October.

David Rees of the Oxfordshire Woodland Project management was concerned about the site being abandoned by the farmer meaning that the grass was getting very long as it was not of benefit to him anymore that the grass was mowed. Cllr. Briffett stated that into the specification for the works was the preparation of the site but he did agree that it may be beneficial if the top of the grass was taken off now.

Cllr. Mrs Rawcliffe concerned about the long term proposals for the site namely the financial implications to the Parish Council and the future management of the site. She stated that the Parish Council ought to have something in writing with regard to the finance and management of the site in perpetuity. Cllr. Briffett said that any funding that is applied for would include the cost of maintenance. The car park was not included but it was estimated to cost in the region of £270 per annum initially for maintenance.

Cllr. Briffett stated that in years 1-3 it would only be necessary to cut the rides and bark the ground under the canopies. Cllr. Mrs Rawcliffe was concerned about the long term costs if the trees needing major maintenance e.g. thinning out, cutting down.

Cllr. Johnson made a couple of observations namely that the grass needs, as a matter of urgency, cutting close to the ground to be ready and suitable for planting and that he felt that the maintenance for the first 5-10 years of such a scheme is minimal.

Cllr. Briffett stated that both TOE and WREN were to be approached for possible funding. Cllr. Mrs Rawcliffe stated that she was concerned that the FOSH or volunteers were not the right body to look after the woodland long term. It was agreed that long term a community group of SHPC may manage the site.

Cllr. Johnson stated that at the Kennington Woodland there was now a Friends of the Woodland. Cllr. Mrs Rawcliffe that Kennington was a much larger parish and South Hinksey may struggle to get enough or any volunteers. Cllr. Briffett felt that it was a good think to happen in the parish as it had worked successfully elsewhere.

Cllr. Mrs Gray stated that she felt that Cllr. Briffett should look into forming a Friends Group here in the parish and that the woodland could be managed by them with others.

RESOLVED that Cllr. Briffett would circulate a letter to all residents in the parish with a letter about the woodland. He stated he already had some people interested in the scheme.

Cllr. Johnson stated that when the woodland in Kennington opened Radio Oxford did some publicity and those volunteers came from Oxford to help. There is a Trees for Oxford group and he felt sure they would be interested in helping initially.

The Parish Clerk was concerned about the implications of the project on the parish precept when the funding ran out in 13 years time. Cllr. Rawcliffe felt it would have to be well promoted as a public amenity. Cllr. Briffett stated that deer proof fencing was not included in the quote.

39/07 Community Land Proposal

There was no update for the meeting. The Parish Clerk felt she should meet with key players to understand the project more fully before reporting to the Parish Council.

40/07 Chairman of the Vale of White Horse

Members considered the letter from Councillor Mrs Mayhew-Archer, Chairman of the Vale of White Horse District Council and agreed that members would like to invite her to attend a future meeting perhaps in October or November. The Parish Clerk would invite her to speak for 5-10 minute on her role.

41/07 The Devils Backbone Footpath

Members noted that this path has been partially cut back but the broken trees are still overhanging the path. The Parish Clerk reported that she e mailed Judith Osborne at Oxfordshire County Council a couple of weeks before the meeting but would follow it up.

Cllr. Mrs Gray asked about the patch of land by Church Close. A member of the public present stated that that County Council that the church has an agreement with the County Council to keep it cut and that the developers had agreed to reinstate the ruts on the verge.

42/07 Planning Applications

- **SH1/1753/12 – 07/00884/F**
Isis Works, St. Lawrence Road, South Hinksey
Retention and refurbishment of existing lean to structure to form garden room to plot 7. (Amendment to SH1/1753/10)

RESOLVED to note that this application was in fact retrospective as the lean too was already in situ before the application reached the Parish Council.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk would write and express their concern about the lean too already being in situ before the application was determined.

- **General Elliott** –This item had already been covered under min. no.: **37/07**.

43/07 A34

Following the meeting held in June the Parish Clerk wrote to the Highways Agency and had as at this meeting got nothing to report to this meeting.

Cllr. Johnson reported that as Shadow Spokesman for Strategic Transport he could report that there was a £90m fund for access to Oxford. He would provide a briefing at the September meeting of this Parish Council.

44/07 Flooding matters.

Cllr. Rawcliffe reported that the work at Towles Mill had made quite a difference to the area.

45/07 Church Close – South Hinksey Parish

The Parish Clerk read the response to the letter from the Parish Council suggesting the area at the rear of the houses was more suitable with access from the road that runs adjacent to the A34. The County Council stated that this was land that could not be considered for such a proposal.

Members agreed that there was some space for parking at the top of Barley Cottage Land but it was felt that there would be a more noticeable problem when the new development was occupied.

RESOLVED that the Parish Clerk would write asking that a lay by be put in on the corner of Barleycott Lane and St. Lawrence Road. It was acknowledged that funding for such a scheme is very tight but it was unanimously agreed that the road needs resurfacing so this could be some small additional works that could be carried out. The parish Clerk would write to Richard Dudding.

46/07 Oxford's West End Area Action Plan

RESOLVED that proposals within the Oxford West End Area Action Plan do not really affect South Hinksey Parish Council.

47/07 Street Names

RESOLVED that the street name for the development of 9 properties in St. Lawrence Road, South Hinksey should be suggested as Wilkins Close, in recognition of the previous Parish Clerk's 45 years service to the community or Phillipson Close in recognition of a local person who had contributed a lot to the village.

Members preferred Wilkins Close.

48/07 Cheques for Payment

RESOLVED to confirm the schedule of cheques for payment as listed below:

Mrs A. Wilson - Stamps and stationery	£ 19.94
Bicester Town Council – photocopy paper, postage and photocopying	£ 30.67

49/07 Correspondence

RESOLVED to note the attached correspondence:

- Oxfordshire County Council – Review of External Transport Posts
- Abingdon and District CAB – Invite to the AGM on the 28th June 2007. (The Chairman will have circulated the invite prior to the meeting). No member was able to attend.
- Oxfordshire Rural Community Council – Spring/Summer Review
- www.climateX.org leaflet
- Glasdon - Seating and litter and dog bin information
- The Code of Conduct – Guide for members and Pocket Guide – enclosed with agenda
- Oxfordshire Community Foundation – Working at the heart of our Community – Literature

- Oxfordshire Waste and Waste Local Development Framework – acknowledgement of the response sent by South Hinksey Parish Council

50/07 Date of next meeting:

RESOLVED that the Parish Clerk circulate some dates for the end of July and beginning of August for a meeting of the Parish Council to co-opt new members to the Council. The meeting as it stands in September would not be quorate without the co-options due to apologies already received.

51/07 Additional Items for Consideration

- **Use of the Burial Ground for Community Activities.**

Cllr. Briffett had been approached by the Church and the Friends of South Hinksey to use the burial ground for community activities.

RESOLVED that members agreed in principle to this proposal as there is non-consecrated ground as well as consecrated land not used. The recreational use of some of the land if physically separated until needed for use should not cause a problem. David Wilkins had received complaints from relatives about the use of the land near to their relative's burial plots.

Cllr. Mrs Rawcliffe could see what was being said but also could understand why relatives would be upset. If the land was specifically dedicated then it may be possible although she expressed concern about kids congregating in the area.

Cllr. Briffett said the use would have to be for organised events and also perhaps it could be a meadow instead of cutting it regularly.

A member of the public asked to use the space for a fete with a Folk Club Band on the 8th September 2007. The Parish Clerk state that a licence would be required for event and music, insurance and first aid required and a risk assessment should be carried out. **RESOLVED** that this was agreed by those present.

- **Areas of Responsibilities for Councillors.**

Members are asked to consider the areas of responsibilities that they would like to have as a Councillor in South Hinksey and the Parish Clerk would put this on the next agenda.

- **Friends of the Community Woodland.**

Members considered sending representatives to the meeting of the friends of the Community Woodland to their meeting on the 25th July at 7.30 p.m. in Kennington Village Hall. Various members showed interesting in attending the meeting.

- **South Hinksey Website**

Following lengthy discussion about the current website Members agreed that the Parish Clerk would look into other hosting options for the parish website namely CMR, Vision ICT, ORCC and also speak to Kennington Parish Council.

- **Upgrading of the path in the burial ground**

The Parish Clerk would; look at costs for upgrading the path in the burial ground.

- ORCC Courses

Cllr. Mrs Rawcliffe would like to attend the ORCC Planning Course in October 2007.