

Minutes of the South Hinksey Parish Council

at South Hinksey Village Hall

Monday 4th July 2011

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

Cllr Arash Fatemian (OxonCC) from item 9

Before the meeting PCSO Andy McCormack introduced himself to the Council. He is the PCSO for South Hinksey, Botley, Wytham and Cumnor. He had taken over from PCSO Adi Wright. He planned to hold regular have your say meetings in the Village Hall, the next on 14th July at 7pm. The Council discussed with him current issues in the parish.

1. Apologies

Elizabeth Halcro

2. Declarations of Interest

MR – Village Hall

LLF – Planning Application

3. Parishioners' Comments

None.

4. Minutes of June 2011 Meeting

Read and agreed,

5. Matters Arising

Risk Assessments. Reeves Memorials have investigated loose headstone and reported that it needs refixing. The cost would be £110. The Council agreed to proceed with the work. **Action: SE to arrange with Reeves Memorials.**

Chilswell Path. SB had investigated the state of the area around Chilswell Path and reported that although there were some items of rubbish, it was not in a bad state and no further action was required at that time.

Devil's Backbone Fence. SE reported that Laura Hutchins had replied saying that she would pass it on to Tom Cockhill for action. **Action: SE to chase.**

Carbon Reduction. MR reported that she had tried to obtain information from ORCC regarding current schemes but had not yet received a reply. Anne Markham was also away but MR would be meeting with her on her return. **Action: MR to meet with Anne Markham and report back at September Council meeting.**

6. Payments and Receipts

Payments

Liz LeFevre	June expenses	£7.20
Came & Company	2011/12 Insurance	£467.50

Receipts

None.

7. Planning Applications

Craigellachie, Hinksey Hill – proposed alteration to utility room roof and oriel bays to rear elevation

The Council raised no objections.

8. Correspondence

VoWHDC. Advertising planning training sessions for Councillors. All two hour evening sessions. SB and TB expressed an interest in attending. **Action: SB / TB to attend training on 19th October in Abingdon. SE to book.**

Thames Valley Police. Advertising their Open Day on Saturday 3rd September. **Action: SE to forward information on SHInfo.**

9. County Councillor's Report

AF reported that he had attended the meeting deciding the proposed speed restriction on Hinksey Hill and had spoken in its favour. He also reported that OxonCC were consulting on the planned changes to the library service. Libraries were to be divided into three groups: core; community; and community plus. The core would receive current funding levels whilst the other two categories would receive 2/3 and 1/3 funding towards staffing costs respectively, in addition to running costs. AF noted that his July surgery would not be taking place but he would be holding a surgery in August.

10. Project Updates

Hinksey Hill Traffic Issues. SE and LLF reported that Laura Hutchins had replied saying that the repair of the anti-skid surface, reinstatement of footpath and speed restriction were definitely going ahead, but didn't give a timescale. **Action: AF and SE to obtain a timescale from Laura.**

Laura reported that Highways was unable to fund the "Hinksey Hill, Please Drive Carefully" sign as Hinksey Hill was not a settlement. **Action: SE to ask whether it would be possible for the Parish Council to fund it and if so, what the cost would be.**

Manor Road Ditch. TB reported that in a recent conversation with the ditch owner, the owner did not seem under the impression that any work was required or that he had agreed to undertake any work. SB and MR stated that in their meeting with him it had been agreed that he would undertake clearance work. The Council felt that an agreement was needed in writing. **Action: SB and SE to draft a letter to the owner.**

Community Land. TB reported that Mark had been unable to carry out the work as several contractors had pulled out. However, TB had obtained another quote for the complete clearing and turfing, and erection of fencing to the rear of the site, which came to £3880. The Council felt that the costs had reached a level where they couldn't be justified given the insecurity of tenure on the land. It was felt that cheaper options for the land should be explored in the meantime the land should be strimmed. **Action: TB to speak to Miles about strimming the weeds.**

Village Hall. SE reported that he had received no update from Philip Marsh. **Action: SE to chase.**

Bypass Crash Barriers. SB confirmed that the bypass was a Euro route, but that it met the current EU design standards. SB also reported that the Highways Agency undertake a complex assessment when ascertaining the need for a central reservation barrier, and that often such an assessment would be carried out at the time of other work. SB was unable to obtain statistics on road accidents. **Action: SB to ask HA whether an assessment of that stretch had been carried out. SB also to ask Thames Valley Police for statistics on road accident.**

11. Ground maintenance contract

Several councillors had reported that areas of the village had not been maintained as per the agreed maintenance contract. SE contacted James O'Leary at Continental Landscapes. A few days before the meeting the outstanding work had been carried out and James had contacted SE to inform him that it had been due to changes in staffing, a sudden increase in work, and not sufficiently managing the schedule. He assured SE that the work would be completed as per the schedule in future. **Action: SE to monitor level of work over coming months.**

12. Any Other Business

20mph speed limit. TB asked whether a 20mph would be beneficial to the village. SE stated that attempts in 2009 with Highways had not been successful as: a) it was not felt that cars were able to exceed 20mph on most of the roads; and b) that the City Council was trialling 20mph in the city and were awaiting the results of the trial before considering elsewhere. As it had been sometime since the trial began, the Council felt that it might now be a possibility. **Action: AF to ascertain the results of the trial**

Burial Ground. MR had noticed that there were some concrete blocks in the burial ground that could damage mowers. **Action: MR to obtain quote from Dave Cullen for their removal.**

Have Your Say Meetings. LLF would like a meeting to be held on The Hill, and offered her house as a possible venue for the Sept. meeting. **Action: MR to liaise with Andy McCormack.** MR asked if the Council would pay for the hire of the Village Hall for these meetings (1hr @ £11/hr). Council agreed to do so, but would review in December.

13. Parishioners' Feedback

None.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 6th September 2011 at 7pm