

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

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2009

---

**Present:** Sarah Balaam, Clive Briffett (Chair), Sheridan Edward (Clerk), Elizabeth Halcro, Liz LeFevre  
Arash Fatemian (Cllr, OxonCC), Gareth Jennings (Cllr, VOWHDC)

**Parishioners:** Pat Strong, Joan Humphreys

## 1. Parishioners' Comments

**Church Close barrier.** PS and JH stated that they did not wish the barrier at Church Close to be removed as it was being used by residents to assist them with walking along the pavement. They also requested that a grit box be installed. SB asked whether the barrier was necessary or whether a purpose built handrail would be possible. EH reported that the engineer's report stated that the barrier should stay for health and safety reasons but that VOWH were carrying out a site visit on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November at 9am. **Action: EH to attend site visit and report to residents and Council on outcome.**

**Railway Bridge.** It was reported that the railway bridge became dangerous and slippery when icy and requested that it be gritted. Action: SE / Peter Rawcliffe to contact Network Rail.

## 2. Apologies

Maggie Rawcliffe (Vice-Chair)

## 3. Declarations of Interest

None.

## 4. Minutes of October 2009 meeting

5 (i) should read "information on lichen *in* which".

Read and agreed.

## 5. Matters Arising

- (a) **Communications Strategy.** SE had spoken with Matthew Carlos and was hoping to arrange a meeting between himself, Linda Slater, Dave Markham and Matthew in December. **Action: SE to arrange meeting.**
- (b) **Concrete containers.** These have not yet been removed. **Action: SE to chase.**
- (c) **Parker Road verge.** The work to clear the verge was underway and would be completed soon.

- (d) **South Oxfordshire Leader.** EH confirmed that South Hinksey was not within the boundaries to meet the criteria.
- (e) **Car Park for Church Close.** SE would discuss with Martin Lyons when they met re: community land.  
**Action: SE to chase.**
- (f) **Weed removal.** It was now felt that weed killing wasn't needed as the plants were dying off. However, removal was still required. **Action: SE to obtain quote from Matthew Ellett.**
- (g) **Noticeboards.** MR had obtained quote for £245 for sign at burial ground. Council agreed on black lettering, and agreed to proceed with sign. **Action: MR to contact sign-maker.**
- (h) **Flu Pandemic Leaflet.** Council agreed that as cases were rising, the leaflet should be circulated.  
**Action: LLF to print and distribute leaflet.**
- (i) **Free Trees.** CB reported that free trees were only available on orders over a thousand, but that the each tree, stake and shelter would only cost c.£5 each. Council agreed to purchase 6-10 trees to be planted by volunteers. CB suggested we did this on Sat 5<sup>th</sup> Dec to connect up with a national scheme for Tree O'clock organized by BBC Breathing Spaces. **Action: CB to obtain trees, advertise for volunteers and organize planting.**
- (j) **Manor Road ditch.** No news. **Action: SE to chase.**
- (k) **Potholes.** CB reported that holes on Hinksey Hill had been filled. However, holes had not yet been surveyed in the village. **Action: AF to chase.**

## 6. Finance – Payments and Receipts

### Payments

Matthew Ellett	September / October grass cutting	£736.00
Clive Briffett	October expenses	£43.59

### Receipts

VOWHDC	2 <sup>nd</sup> installment of 2009/10 precept	£4,100.00
--------	--	-----------

## 7. Planning Applications

No planning applications had been received. However, SE reported that the Vale Brewery were submitting an application for the General Elliot, which the Council should receive in due course.

SE circulated a letter from VOWHDC regarding a consultation on proposed changes to the planning application process. The broad proposal was to delegate more decisions to the Head of Planning, and in particular, domestic extensions would not be sent out to the Parish Council for consultation. The consultation also suggested that a large proportion of comments received from parish councils was irrelevant to the planning process. AF reported that Sunningwell Parish Council had raised objections to the scheme and SE noted that the potential saving was only very minimal (approx. 1% of the total planning budget). The Council also felt that any comments the Council submitted were of importance and relevance to the process and should be considered. **Action: Councillors to review document and submit comments to SE by 13<sup>th</sup> November. SE to forward comments to VOWHDC by 16<sup>th</sup> November.**

## 8. Correspondence

- (a) **Parish Council Planning Evening** was to be held by VOWHDC on 18th November. **Action: CB and possibly MR to attend.**
- (b) **Oxford Green Belt Network AGM** was to be held on 11<sup>th</sup> November. CB would be giving a talk on protecting the ecological assets of the green belt.

## 9. County Councillor's Report

AF reported that he had no attendees for his first surgery but circulated posters advertising future surgeries. It was reported that OxonCC had chosen the Viridor tender to create an energy-from-waste plant near Bicester. However, planning permission had been refused on the grounds that it did not conform to the district's waste strategy. Viridor were appealing the decision. AF and MR attended the Oxfordshire Flood Partnership meeting, but no South Hinksey issues were raised. AF also reported that the work at the Redbridge traveller site was being completed in two stages and would be finished by spring 2010, although there was a query whether this included both phases.

## 10. District Councillor's Report

GJ reported that a clerical error had led to a £20k hole in the VOWHDC accounts. He also reported that £6k had been stolen from petty cash. EH reported that Tim Williams had visited to investigate the possibility of installing noise pollution monitors on 1 Manor Road and 6 Church Close. It was also reported that VOWHDC felt that air pollution monitoring was harder to carry out. **Action: GJ to formally write to request air pollution monitoring and chase Tim Williams with regard to noise pollution monitoring.**

## 11. Community Land

SE reported that good progress was being made to secure the contracts for both the field site and the former car park, and expected that agreements would be ready to present to the Council at the December meeting.

- (a) **Field site.** SE had contacted Martin Lyons and stated that the parish did not wish to erect fencing, but would ideally like a larger area of the field available for up to five/six events per year. Martin Lyons stated that this should be possible and would discuss it with the legal department and Nick Frearson. **Action: SE to chase and meet with Martin and Nick.**
- (b) **Car park site.** SE had contacted Goldace and requested that a minimum term of one year be put in place or a guarantee that costs could be recouped if the agreement was terminated within the year. Goldace agreed with this. Goldace also agreed that the legal expenses be capped at £250 and that there would be no obligation on the Council to erect fencing. **Action: SE to chase.**

## 12. A34 Litter

SE had contacted Ros Weatherall, Chair of OxClean, who reported that they had had a meeting with OxonCC and Oxfordshire Waste Partnership. It was confirmed that responsibility for clearing litter around the A34 lay with the district / City councils. However, councils were only able to clean to within two metres of the highway for health and safety reasons and more thorough cleaning required road closure. OxClean also felt that although it was OWP's responsibility to coordinate the litter clearing, they had limited resources and powers. OxClean's steering group met on 6<sup>th</sup> November to discuss ways forward. **Action: SE to chase progress with OxClean. Councillors to compile evidence of littering to submit to OxClean.**

### 13. Church Close Barrier

This was dealt with during parishioners' comments.

### 14. Flooding

Peter Rawcliffe submitted a report outlining his meeting with SB and Peter Dela, Vale Engineer. There were several areas of concern: blockages beneath the bridge onto the Devil's Backbone, clearance of the culverts under the path, clearance either side of the culverts under the path, replacement of the culverts under the farm track, clearance of obstacles from the ditch and maintenance of the culverts under the causeway to the substation. **Action: SE to contact OCC and OxonCC.**

### 15. Tree Maintenance

- (a) **Willows on Devil's Backbone.** Peter Rawcliffe submitted a report and SB stated that the willows on the Devil's Backbone needed urgent attention as (a) the roots were contributing to the blocking of the culverts and (b) the branches were at risk of coming down and blocking the footpath. Peter Rawcliffe and Peter Dela believed that the responsibility lay with OCC or Nick Frearson. **Action: SE to contact OCC and Nick Frearson.**
- (b) **Leylandii in the Burial Ground.** It was suggested that the leylandii were growing too high and the roots were disturbing the graves. Simon Ringrose surveyed the site and could see no sign of disturbance. It was felt that there was no immediate cause for concern, but that a longer-term solution was needed. It was felt that eventually the trees would either have to be removed completely and another barrier put in their place, or reduced in height and maintained long-term. **Action: SE to discuss options with Peter Rawcliffe and put together proposal.**

### 16. AOB

- (a) **Slip Road closure.** SB reported that the Highways Agency were planning to close the slip road between the northbound A34 and village in January for eight weeks to carry out maintenance. Council had received no notification of this. Concern about this was expressed by all councillors mainly due to the village only having a single access off the A34. It was suggested at least one lane be kept open for continued access. **Action: SE to contact Tom Gradon at Highways Agency.**
- (b) **Botley Traffic Advisory Group.** Council agreed for Linda Goodhead to represent the Council at the next meeting. Council also noted a typo on agenda. Agenda item 9 should read: "Matters to be raised by *North Hinksey Parish Council*".

**Date of next meeting: Monday 7th December 2009 at 7:30pm**