

Minutes of the South Hinksey Parish Council

at South Hinksey Village Hall

Tuesday 6th September 2011

Present: Sarah Balaam (Vice-Chair), Sheridan Edward (Clerk), Liz LeFevre, Maggie Rawcliffe (Chair)
Cllrs Jerry Patterson and Ron Mansfield (VoWHDC)

1. Apologies

Tom Barron, Elizabeth Halcro

2. Declarations of Interest

MR – Village Hall

3. Presentation by Neil Homer

Neil Homer, a consultant with a new development company, with a background in social entrepreneurship, presented the council and the parishioners present with a proposal to redevelop the pub with a view to reopening the pub and building dwellings on the site, through a development partnership with the parish council or a local residents' trust, enabling the parish to own and run the pub as a community asset. He stated that it was an opportune time for the community and that the proposed route would open up funding from sources such as the Plunkett Foundation and National Lottery. The process would consist of three stages: 1. c.2/3 weeks - a concept note of c.4 pages outlining the plan including an initial assessment and rough figures; 2. c.4 weeks – an initial agreement with the community followed by a full feasibility study; 3. a conditional purchase agreement between developers and the community, and planning application. The ownership would then transfer to the Parish Council or local residents' trust following completion of the development.

Concerns were raised that given the history of other planning applications, permission for further dwellings on that area would be refused either because of green belt, flooding or highways issues. NH confirmed that he had spoken with Stuart Walker, Planning Officer VoWH, whose tone was also generally downbeat. However, NH was still positive about the potential for the site and asked the Council and community to consider the proposal with a view to exploring it further with him.

Their followed a discussion between the Council and parishioners. It was felt that it was worth exploring further at that stage and the Council should undertake a survey asap to gauge level of support for the pub and also organize a meeting where NH's proposals could be analyzed in more depth by a greater body of local residents.

Action: SE and MR to formulate and circulate survey along with a summary of NH's proposals to parishioners and arrange a community meeting to decide on further action.

4. Parishioners' Comments

Carol Sweetenham and Graham Howell asked the Council to assist with **to** issues regarding Betty Lane:

Recently Criminal Activity. It was stated that in the past few months there had been four reported incidents on the road – two of fly-tipping, one attempted burglary and a gang-related fight. Given the lack of crime prior to this it was felt that it may be that the road was gathering a reputation and CS and GH wanted assistance from the Council in investigating possible measures to prevent the incidents from **rising** further. Regarding the fly-tipping MR and SE reported that they had been in touch with Colin Marshall, VoWH Environment Warden, who had been successful in identifying the fly-tippers. With regard to the other crime, PCSO Andy MacCormack would be holding a Have Your Say meeting later that month on Hinksey Hill which CS and GH would be attending and SE offered to outline the incidents and concerns to Andy prior to the meeting so that he could discuss possible deterrents with CS and GH at the meeting. CS and GH were particularly interested in the possibility of CCTV cameras on the road. They were told that these couldn't be installed on the road by residents and that it was very unlikely that local councils would have the budget to install the cameras, but that there may be the possibility of the local community funding the cameras. **Action: SE to send details to Andy MacCormack. CS and GH to discuss with Andy at Have Your Say meeting.**

Campsite. GH reported that a field off the road had recently been purchased and was being used as an campsite. GH reported that a Planning Enforcement Officer was investigating the issue. JP and RM believed that the campsite was legal and that it was unlikely anything could be done. The Council recommended that the situation be monitored and that GH / CS inform the Council of any nuisances caused by the site. **Action: SE to obtain result of Planning Enforcements visit. GH to monitor site and report on nuisances to the Council.**

5. Minutes of July 2011 Meeting

Read and agreed.

6. Matters Arising

Risk Assessments. SE reported that Reeves Memorial had completed the **headstone maintenance**.

Devil's Backbone Fence. SB had been contacted by OxonCC who reported that it was being investigated.

Carbon Reduction. MR reported that a local representative, Helen Graham, would have a stall at the village fete to gauge the response of the community to possible carbon reduction measures.

20mph Speed Limit. No report as AF was not present. **Action: SE to chase AF.**

Burial Ground. MR reported that Dave Cullen had kindly removed concrete blocks from the burial ground at no charge.

7. Payments and Receipts

Payments

Sheridan Edward	Wages, July to September	£458.05
BDO LLP	External Audit	£162.00
Reeves Memorial Co.	Headstone maintenance	£132.00
Maggie Rawcliffe	August expenses	£2.24

Receipts

VoWHDC	2 nd half 2010/11 Precept	£4,900.00
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8. Planning Applications

General Elliot PH – Notice of Appeal

As discussed under parishioners' comments.

19A Manor Road – Notice of Permission

Erection of single storey front extension – Council had raised no concerns.

Chilswell Lodge, Chilswell Path – application for extension and alterations

SE had previously circulated the details to the Council. The Council raised no objections.

9. Correspondence

Local Government Boundary Commission Report. The LGBC wrote to announce the publication of the Commission's report setting out its draft recommendations for electoral arrangements for Oxfordshire County Council. A full copy was available on their website and the deadline for comments was 10th October 2011. **Action: SE to circulate the link to councillors and Council to discuss at October Council meeting.**

Chairman's Community Awards Lunch. The VoWH would be holding their annual awards lunch on 15th October 2011 and invited nominations on the theme of: "Volunteering for the Vale". **Action: Councillors to send any nominations to SE by 12th September.**

Emergency Response & Winter Preparedness workshops. VoWH invited attendees to workshops on community emergency plans. **Action: SE to circulate dates to councillors.**

Octabus Dial-a-Ride service review. OxonCC reported that it proposed that instead of the current system where the service varied greatly between regions of the county, depending on the district council, it would instead fund a baseline service of approx. one bus per district operating 4 days a week, which the district council could then top-up with additional service should they choose. They were inviting comments on the proposals, with a deadline for comments of 30th September 2011. JP felt that the proposals would probably not affect VoWH that greatly. **Action: SE to circulate information on SHInfo to publicize the service and gain feedback from users.**

10. County Councillor's Report

None.

11. District Councillor's Report

JP outlined the proposed plans to redevelop the Abbey Shopping Centre in Abingdon. The full details were available on the website and the consultation was to last until 23rd September. **Action: SE to circulate details of the consultation to councillors for any feedback.** JP also confirmed that VoWH were reinstating free short-stay parking in Abingdon, Wantage and Faringdon at a cost of approx. £250k per year. The Council was also reviewing the housing allocation recommendations for 1500 new homes near Wantage. JP also reported that an electoral review was under way regarding several problems with the April 2011 elections in VoWH and South Oxfordshire including delayed or missing postal votes and ballot cards, and also the fact that three elections took place at the same time when the recommendations are for a maximum of two.

12. Project Updates

Hinksey Hill Traffic Issues. LLF reported that the speed restriction at the top of Hinksey Hill had finally been installed! She also reported that the work on the pavement and the anti-skid surface was still on Highways list of works. SE had received no answer to his request re the parish paying for a 'Please Drive Carefully' sign. **Action: SE to chase sign and timeframes for other work with Laura Hutchins.**

Manor Road Ditch. SB had sent the details of the conversation with the landowner to SE to follow up in a letter. SB also noted that no work had been undertaken since the last meeting and that the bank had slumped again. **Action: SE to draft letter.**

Community Land. TB was not present to update the Council but it was noted that Continental had carried out strimming on the site and quoted to clear and re-turf the site. **Action: TB to report at the next meeting.**

Village Hall. Philip Marsh of Darbys Solicitors reported that the delay in the conveyancing had been due to seeking clarification from the Charity Commission with regard to the wording of the agreements. **Action: SE to chase.**

Bypass Crash Barriers. SB reported that she had submitted a FOI request to Thames Valley Police regarding the number of accidents on the stretch of A34 in question, with particular reference to their location. The answer should be available in the next 20 days. **Action: SB to chase for next Council meeting.**

13. Finance Report – April to September

SE circulated the management accounts for April to September and reported that expenditure was currently underbudget due to savings made on insurance, maintenance, office costs and training, and unspent budgets on projects. Income was also broadly on target.

SE also reported that he had received the external audit report. The internal audit had made no recommendations but the external auditors had noted that the fixed assets were being revalued year on year in line with the valuations given in the insurance schedule, as advised by the internal auditors. They stated that fixed assets should not be adjusted for revaluations or depreciation, but only for movements on assets, additions and disposals. SE stated that this would be rectified for the current year and raised this with the internal auditors who admitted that they had not flagged this in their audit.

12. Any Other Business

Substation road culvert. SB reported that work was currently ongoing by VoWH to install a flood culvert under the road leading to the substation.

13. Parishioners' Feedback

None.

Date of next meeting: Monday 3rd October 2011 at 7pm