

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

Tuesday 3rd April 2012

Present: Sarah Balaam (Vice-Chair), Sheridan Edward (Clerk), Liz LeFevre, Maggie Rawcliffe (Chair)
Cllr Arash Fatemian (OxonCC) from item 6.

1. Apologies

Sandra Bingham, Cllr Ron Mansfield (VoWHDC).

2. Declarations of interest

MR – Village Hall.

3. Parishioners' comments

None.

4. Minutes of March 2012 meeting

Read and agreed.

5. Matters arising

Footbridge over railway. MR reported that Peter Rawcliffe had received a call from Nicola Blackwood MP's office stating that they had received a reply from Network Rail requesting a map to show the location of the bridge. PR has forwarded appropriate maps to Nicola Blackwood's office.

Highways repairs. SE reported that he had asked Tracy Morton to confirm whether any clearance work was needed for the vegetation and rubble by the bridge at the foot of the Devil's Backbone, but was yet to receive a reply. SB also noted that fencing had come down further along the path, and that the kerb stones on corner of St Lawrence Road and Manor Road also still needed replacing. Action: SE to follow up with Tracy Morton.

Litter Pick. MR and LLF reported that the litter pick had been very successful and that Biffa had been very quick to remove the collected rubbish. MR has reported fly tipping over the barrier on the road into the village.

Muddy footpaths. MR reported that the condition of the paths had improved and she had also met with Mark Sumner who would contact the owners, Oxford City Council, who will chase up with the tenants.

6. Finance – payments and receipts

Payments

South Hinksey Village Hall	Hall hire April 2011 to March 2012	£240
Stepping Stones Pre-school	Grant as agreed at February 2012 meeting	£100
Maggie Rawcliffe	March expenses	£31.50

Receipts

Reeves Memorials	Memorial fee	£60
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7. Planning applications

Bagley Croft Lodge. A parishioner had reported that the hedgerow had been removed between the new building and Hinksey Hill and had asked whether this was permitted under the planning application. **Action: SE to query with Stuart Walker at VoWHDC Planning Department.**

8. Correspondence

District Council review. The Council had received notice from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England that the consultation on the number of district councillors would be open until 8th May. **Action: SE to circulate details to councillors.**

IHSP site screenings. The Council had received confirmation from VoWHDC that no sites had been identified in the parish for screening with a view to development under the new interim housing supply policy.

Parish website. SE had been in contact with David Rawcliffe who was redesigning the parish website. SE reported that he was very impressed with the new design and layout. He stated that the information currently on the parish council website would be included in the new site, and that the parish council would have an @southhinksey.org email address.

9. County Councillor's Report

AF reported on the County Council budget for the coming year, including a reduction of £700k in the proposed library savings; an additional £1m for the Area Stewardship Fund, increasing his pot to £28k for the coming year; an extra £1m for rural road maintenance; a £100k central government grant for improvement in broadband services; and an additional £400k for the Big Society Fund.

10. District Councillor's Report

None.

11. Project updates

A34 Issues. MR reported that Nicola Blackwood had added the PC's amendments to the letter to the transport minister, and that the Parish Council would receive a copy of any reply.

Manor Road ditch. SB reported that Peter Dela had stated that the ditch is now in a satisfactory state. Thames Water had carried out remedial work on the ditch. However, the issue still remained regarding riparian ownership of the ditch. The Council agreed that the ditch be removed from the agenda as a regular item, but would continue to review the state of the ditch. All future issues be referred directly to Peter Dela at VoWHDC for enforcement.

Hinksey Hill traffic issues. LLF reported that new barriers had been installed on Betty Lane and that Andy McCormack, PCSO, had arranged for a police van to be placed at two different locations on Hinksey Hill. MR reported that a date was also being arranged for the van to be stationed in South Hinksey. The Council were still waiting on progress of the Area Stewardship Fund application for the pruning of the hedgerows along Hinksey Hill, but AF reported that all parish councils had backed his proposal for a SID to be shared between parishes.

Village Hall ownership. SE reported that he had checked with Land Registry who stated that they had no record of the application. SE followed this up with Philip Marsh who said that it had been sent back because he hadn't passed the papers to be signed by the Parish Council before submitting. MR and SE had signed the application and Philip stated that this has now been resubmitted to the Land Registry. **Action: SE to confirm with Land Registry that the application has been received and is being processed.**

Community Woodland. MR reported that the working party managed by Riki Therivel completed most of the re-staking work required. SE stated that he would be arranging to meet with Riki following the Easter holidays and that MR would also attend. The Council also felt that they should proceed soon with the memorial bench and also sign for the entrance. **Action: SE and MR to meet with Riki Therivel. LLF and SE to obtain quotes and designs for a sign and bench respectively.**

12. Annual Parish Meeting

The meeting for the APM was set for 7pm on 1st May to be followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council at 7:30pm.

It was noted that Ron Mansfield, District Councillor, was unable to attend meetings on the first Tuesday of each month. It was suggested that this be taken into account when scheduling future meetings. LLF also invited the Council to hold the June or July meeting on Hinksey Hill. **Action: June and July meeting dates and venues to be confirmed at next Council meeting.**

13. Community Land

MR reported that several parishioners had taken action to improve the old pub car park area of community land, clearing rubbish, removing vegetation, and strimming; and that the area had been used on a couple of occasions. Parishioners would like to use this area for the Jubilee street party to be held 03/06/12. MR also stated that quotes had been obtained to renew the fencing at the front. SE reminded the Council that the lease on the land needed to be renewed and a risk assessment undertaken before any activities would be covered by the Council's insurance policy. **Action: MR to compile quote for next Council meeting; SE to renew lease and carry out risk assessment.**

14. Any other business

Footpath to North Hinksey. Thames Water had created a new temporary path to North Hinksey. SB felt a permanent path to North Hinksey or Osney, using either the Thames Water path or the electric road would be of great benefit to the parish. AF stated that both he and the county councillor for North Hinksey supported the plans for the path and that it could be a scheme suitable for the Area Stewardship Fund. It was felt that the electric road would be the better option to pursue as it is already an established unofficial route. However, although Nick Frearson granted access to his part of the route, the north end is blocked by two locked gates on private land. **Action: AF to investigate with Laura Hutchins, Area Steward, who the landowner was of the northern end of the route.**

Bonfire by electric road. SE reported that he had spoken to Nick Frearson regarding the woodpile suggesting that were it to be set alight it would risk damaging the power cables. SB stated that she had received advice from an electrical engineer that it was a very real risk. Nick had queried whether it did present a risk. **Action: SE to contact Scottish and Southern Energy to seek advice.**

15. Parishioners' feedback

None.

**Date of next meeting: Tuesday 1st May 2012 at 7:30pm
(following the Annual Parish Meeting at 7pm)**