

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

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2013**

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**Present:** Christine Chater, Sheridan Edward (Clerk), Matthew Frohn (absent for item 14), Liz LeFevre, Maggie Rawcliffe (Chair)

**Parishioners:** Pat Jones, Anna Lamb

Mark Jackson (on behalf of Goldace Developments)

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### **1. Apologies**

Sarah Balaam (Vice-Chair).

### **2. Declarations of interest**

None.

### **3. Parishioners' comments**

Anna Lamb and Pat Jones attended the meeting to discuss item 12, old pub car park, and item 14, cycling on Devil's Backbone, which were brought forward and discussed during parishioners' comments.

### **4. Minutes of February 2013 meeting**

Item 13, para.1, line 4 should read 'Adrian, MR, SE and MF offered to be part of the group'.

Read and agreed.

### **5. Matters arising**

**General Elliot.** SE reported that the Vale Brewery have said that they will improve the condition of the site. It was also noted that a lorry had hit the boundary wall causing a major crack. **Action: SE to inform brewery and also confirm whether parishioners can remove the redundant Paramount sign.**

**Thames Water.** Adrian Porter updated the meeting via MR that Thames Water had now installed several monitors to study flow through the sewage system in the area around South Hinksey and down to Littlemore. They had also started work that day to improve flow at Hinksey Drain / Munday's Bridge.

**Manor Road ditch.** MR reported that Peter Dela (Senior Engineer VoWH DC), has deemed the ditch fit-for-purpose. John Cotton, owner of Manor Farm, raised concerns that if upstream improvements are made, the risk of flooding on his property will be increased. SB has done a site visit with Mr.Cotton. He asked if any work is done on the out pipe from Manor Road ditch that the section under his land also be improved to prevent any increase of flooding on his property.

SB also noted a third pipe section at the bottom of Nos. 19 and 19a which could create problems.

**Stiles and condition of footpaths off Barleycott Lane and John Piers Lane.** MR reported that Mark Sumner, Footpaths Officer, was due to carry out a site visit with Nick Frearson on 10<sup>th</sup> April.

**Parking on St Lawrence Road.** BGG was due to carry out the work that week to cut back the verge on the corner of St Lawrence Road. MR reported that the vegetation / verge along the Parker Road footpath needs cutting back. **Action: MR to obtain quote from BGG.**

**Litter Pick.** MR confirmed that the litter pick was due to take place on Saturday at 10am, with a team from the hill being led by LLF and a team from the village being led by MR.

## 6. Finance – payments and receipts

### Payments

Maggie Rawcliffe	March expenses	£26.88
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### Receipts

Reeves and Pain	Burial fee	£150.00
VoWHDC	Grant towards precept	£107.65

## 7. Planning applications

None.

## 8. Correspondence

**Boundary Commission review.** The final recommendations were altered due to strong evidence that the whole of North Hinksey should be included within a single ward. Therefore, they have proposed that South Hinksey be included in a two-member ward with North Hinksey, Wytham and Sunningwell, that there be two-member wards for Botley & Sunningwell, Cumnor and Kennington & Radley, and a single-member ward for Wootton. **Action: SE to confirm in which ward Sunningwell would be included.**

## 9. County Councillor's Report

None.

## 10. District Councillor's Report

None.

## 11. Project updates

**A34 Issues.** Stephen Hammond, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport, with Nicola Blackwood, MP, had carried out a site visit to a large stretch of the A34. This included a stop at the Hinksey Hill interchange. Cllr. Ian Hudspeth (Leader, Oxon CC) and Mr Ian Wenman (Vice Chairman, Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership) were in attendance. Nicola raised issues regarding noise and congestion. A 50mph speed limit was not mentioned. MF made the point that traffic dynamics are complex. That it should not be assumed that simply by introducing a speed restriction, noise or slip road problems would vanish – it might have unintended consequences. MR noted that the 50mph limit extends northwards well beyond the Botley interchange. MR suggested writing another letter to the Minister and to Cllr. Hudspeth about a speed limit. CC and SE noted that the Vale Plan identified that major work to ease traffic flow along the A34 would be needed to alleviate the pressure created by any further major housing developments. It was noted that any major changes to the A34 would make matters worse past South Hinksey, and that any changes to the Hinksey Hill interchange should be monitored with regard to the impact on Hinksey Hill residents. **Action: SE to write to Mr Stephen Hammond and to Cllr. Hudspeth to reiterate the need to extend the 50mph limit as far as the Hinksey Hill roundabout.**

**Hinksey Hill traffic issues.** LLF and SE met with Lex MacFarlane and Laura Hutchins. It was noted that work had been carried out to cut back vegetation encroaching on the Hinksey Hill pavement, and to replace the anti-skid surface at the top of Hinksey Hill. The Council were very grateful for their work. However, it is not possible to raise or paint the kerbstones. LLF reported that there was no progress on the Community Speed Watch as PCSO Andy MacCormack had left that post. Arash Fatemian had offered to fund a Vehicle Activated Sign. The Council asked AF to confirm this offer with Highways so that a site visit could be arranged to confirm feasibility. The Council is extremely disappointed not to have had any replies from AF. The fund was only available till the end of March. **Action: LLF to write to thank Lex and Laura for their work and to chase the Community Speed Watch with Andy's replacement. SE to confirm with Arash Fatemian as to whether the fund was still available, or what other source of funding there may be.**

**Condition of the trees at Bagley Croft Lodge.** CC noted that George Reade, Arboricultural Officer, had left his post, and that she had not heard from his replacement Mark Gammie, as to what action was being taken regarding possible TPOs. **Action: CC to chase Mark Gammie.**

**Community Woodland.** SE reported that he had checked the woodland and there was no evidence of *Chalara* dieback. Although better than last year, a few of the trees needed restaking. **Action: SE to ask Riki Therivel if she had any students willing to restake the trees.**

## 12. Old Pub Car Park

Mark Jackson attended the meeting on behalf of Goldace Developments to present a proposal for two three-bedroom houses on the site of the old pub car park. Goldace had previously applied for two larger dwellings, which was turned down on the grounds of scale and design, parking provision, and an inadequate assessment of flood risk. He stated that the new design met parking standards, the dwellings were smaller, the design reflected more closely the style at that end of the village, and that they had addressed flooding concerns. They were also investigating ways to contribute toward any village-wide flood reduction schemes, such as a bund. Anna Lamb raised various concerns: that it would increase traffic, that it would overlook their property which was directly opposite leading to loss of light and privacy, and that the flooding assessment did not take into account flooding from the sewage system that could be worsened by more dwellings.

Mark Jackson stated he would take Anna Lamb's concerns on board when finalising the proposal and that they hoped to submit a proposal later this year.

## 13. Footbridge over Railway

MR reported that she and Diego Vargas had attended the West Area Planning meeting and Diego had spoken raising the concerns regarding lack of level access for the proposed replacement footbridge. Although the officer's recommendation to the committee was to grant prior approval, the Council voted unanimously to reject prior approval. Although Network Rail do not require approval, it could result in a judicial review if they proceed. Alternatively they could appeal the decision. MR also reported that both Nicola Blackwood MP and Andrew Smith MP had written letters to Network Rail requesting that level-access be provided.

## 14. Cycling on the Devil's Backbone

Pat Jones attended the meeting to inform the Council of her experience as a pedestrian on the Devil's Backbone, stating that she had encountered inconsiderate cyclists several times, and highlighting the danger from cyclists on the narrow footpath travelling at speed past any pedestrians, but especially young children and elderly. She asked that any signs made clear that pedestrians had priority. SE reported that the Council were waiting to know the results of a site visit by Lee Turner (Highways) to confirm what signage may be possible. MR also reported that Mark Sumner, Footpaths Officer, had stated that it was very unlikely that barriers would be reinstated. SE confirmed that cycling on the footpath was not illegal, although could be deemed to be trespassing. The Council confirmed that they wanted to achieve a balance between users of the footpath, ensure the rights of pedestrians, and make it safer for pedestrians. It was believed that a mountain biking club

might be using the path. Possibility of involving PCSO discussed. To be reviewed when new PCSO in post.

**Action: SE to chase Lee Turner and request a site visit. SE to clarify law with Council. SE to investigate existence of a mountain biking club.**

### **15. Parish Emergency Plan**

MR reported that she, MF and Adrian Porter had met to discuss the draft plan. Matthew Carlos and Martin Lester, members of the group were unable to attend. The group approved the draft plan and agreed to formulate plans for flooding, snow and power cuts. No volunteers had come forward yet from Hinksey Hill. SE reported that Nick Frearson had agreed that a corner of the hard standing opposite the village hall could be used for a sand / salt store. The next meeting was to be held in April. **Action: SE to investigate grant through VoWHDC.**

### **16. Vale Local Plan**

CC attended a briefing and reported back to the Council on the details of the plan. SE had also circulated a summary of the plan outlining the most salient points for South Hinksey. CC reported that until the local plan was adopted VoWHDC would have to make planning decisions based on national guidelines, therefore they were keen to adopt the plan as soon as possible. It was noted that South Hinksey continued to be protected from widespread development under the Local Plan, because much of it lies in the floodplain and the green belt, or is part of a target conservation area. In addition, as it had not been identified in one of the categories of settlement, it was classed as open countryside where 'development will not be appropriate'. The Council agreed to raise no concerns regarding the plan.

### **17. Grounds Maintenance Contract**

The Council formally appointed BGG Garden and Tree Care as contractors for the grounds maintenance of the parish at the same price as the previous year.

### **18. A34 Noise Reduction Proposals**

Tom Barron had submitted proposals to the Council for measures to reduce noise in the village from the A34. The Council confirmed that road noise continued to be a major problem. However, it was felt that there was a lack of evidence to ensure that the proposals would have a noticeable effect given the cost. However, the Council restated that it was still pursuing a lower speed limit, which could well reduce the amount of noise from the road. **Action: SE to reply to Tom.**

### **19. Any Other Business**

**Oxford Preservation Trust.** MR asked the Council to consider membership of the Trust. The Council acknowledged the valuable work of the trust but decided not to become members.

### **20. Parishioners' feedback**

None.

### **Date of next meeting:**

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2013 at 7:30pm in South Hinksey Village Hall  
Preceded at 7pm by the Annual Parish Meeting