

Minutes of the South Hinksey Parish Council

at South Hinksey Village Hall

Thursday 10th June 2010

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

Arash Fatemian (Cllr, OxonCC), Adrian Wright (Community Support Officer)

Parishioners: David Minns

1. Apologies

None

2. Declarations of Interest

MR and EH – Village Hall

3. Parishioners' Comments

Village Hall. Following David Wilkins report at the APM, the Council discussed the possibility of the transfer of ownership from the current trustees to the Council. This had come to a head as one of the trustees had moved away and as a change of trustees would be a costly process; doing this once, to the Council, would prevent further costs should a trustee retire. It was also stated that as the trustees were the legal owners of the Hall, they could dispose of it should they wish, and that it therefore only seemed right that the ownership be transferred to the Parish, as the primary purpose of the Village Hall was for the use of the local community. It was clarified that the running of the Hall would still remain with the Management Committee, but that the Parish Council would bear the burden of meeting any shortfall in funding. EH and MR reported that hall hire revenue was rising. The Council agreed in principle to the transfer of ownership subject to ascertaining the costs for the transfer, a building survey and a full set of accounts.

Action: SE to investigate costs for transfer and speak to the Management Committee to receive a full set of accounts.

4. Minutes of May 2010 Meeting

Read and agreed.

5. Matters Arising

a) **Stile on Betty Lane.** The County Council has been contacted. **Action: SE to chase.**

b) **Church Close barrier.** EH waiting on contacts from Dave Cullen. **Action: EH to chase.**

c) **Grit Bines.** No progress. **Action: SE to order.**

d) **Devils' Backbone fence.** SE has contacted OCC but no reply. It was also reported that the footpath was becoming overgrown. **Action: SE to follow-up.**

6. Finance – Payments and Receipts

Payments

| | | |
|-----------------|---|---------|
| Sheridan Edward | Wages April to June, NI refund and additional hours | £806.85 |
| Peter Rawcliffe | Expenses for wildflower meadow | £30.90 |
| Simon Ringrose | Fee for pruning of Millennium Yew | £23.50 |

Receipts

| | | |
|---------------|--------------------|---------|
| Reeves & Pain | Burial fee | £300 |
| HMRC VAT | Refund for 2009/10 | £765.60 |

7. Planning Applications

None.

8. Correspondence

VoWHDC – Posters advertising changes to waste collection services. These were circulated for notice boards.

Auditing Solutions – Internal Audit Report. The Council had received back the report on the 2009-10 internal audit. SE would report fully on this at the next meeting.

VOWHDC – Posters advertising Tax and Housing Benefits Advice Service. These were emailed for display on notice boards if appropriate.

OALC – notice of AGM on 28th June in Kidlington. Information circulated to councilors.

9. County Councillor's Report

AF reported on a very successful recent Dementia Awareness Day. AF also stated that there was no area representative for the roads and that pot holes still remained a problem. He also stated that the County Council was preparing to make in-year cuts on the outcome of the emergency budget, although he didn't know what these would be yet. AF also made the Council aware that the County Council was planning on closing the Devil's Backbone footpath for a period of six weeks during the summer for bridge maintenance work. The Parish Council hadn't been informed of the work and it was felt that the closure of the footpath was a crucial issue given its importance as a link for the parish with Oxford City. AF passed the details of the work to the Council. **Action: SE to contact OxonCC for clarification of the work, stress the importance of the footpath to the parish, ask for disruption to be kept to a minimum and inform the parish via SHInfo.**

10. District Councillor's Report

None.

11. Community Support Officer's Report

AW outlined his role as Community Support Officer for the area and stated that the parish was deemed a very low crime area. He reported that he now had a bike so was more mobile and able to visit the parish more often. He also stated that he would be interested in attending community events to introduce himself to parishioners. It was suggested that he be added to SHInfo to receive regular updates and keep in touch with events in the parish. EH mentioned the parking problems in the village and LLF reported the use of layby at the top of Hinksey Hill for sexual activities, which AW agreed to investigate. AW also suggested that a member of the Parish Council join the Neighbourhood Action Group.

12. General Elliot Planning Application

It was reported that the application for change of status to a residential property had been refused on the grounds that the Brewery had not shown that the building was no longer a valuable community resource and viable public house. SE noted that there seemed to be strong support for the reopening of the pub and asked the Council what action if any they now wished to take. The Council was fully supportive of the principle of developing and reopening the pub and expressed their desire to work with the brewery to investigate viable solutions. **Action: SE to write to the brewery to offer the Council's support in re-opening the pub.**

13. Field to rear of Church Close

Several councilors met with Jane Winfield from OCC to discuss the OCC-owned field to the rear of Church Close. The Parish Council had been investigating the possibility of using part of the land to provide a car park for residents of Church Close to relieve congestion in the village. Jane had reported that OCC was looking into the possibilities for disposing of the land as a paddock (i.e. not for residential development) and would be interested in offers from the Parish Council. SE stated that VOWH were able to give pre-planning advice on the viability of the car park on submission of plans. TB stated that this would be a good opportunity to utilize the rest of the land to meet community needs and suggestions had included allotments, a recreation area, and/or a natural sound barrier from the A34. The Council felt that this could be investigated further once they had an idea of the cost of the land. **Action: SE to gain rough prices and conditions from Jane Winfield. Action: SB / TB to put together rough plans for the car park to be submitted to VOWH.**

14. Management of Village Hall

This was dealt with under Parishioner's Comments.

15. AOB

a) LLF and EH attended the Botley Traffic Advisory Meeting and reported that a possible continuation of the 50mph speed limit to Hinksey Interchange was being considered.

b) LLF reported that the traffic islands along Hinksey Hill were becoming overgrown, obscuring the view of oncoming traffic. **Action: LLF to chase up with OxonCC.**

c) MR reported that as newly-elected Chair she felt it was a good opportunity to review the organization of the Council and the Council meetings and that she and SE would be meeting during the next month to review current procedures and suggest proposals at the next meeting. It was also felt that the time of the Council meetings be brought forward to 7pm to allow for an earlier finish. The Council agreed.

Date of next meeting: Monday 5th July 2010 at 7pm
(Please note change of time)