

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

Monday 1st February 2010

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

Arash Fatemian (Cllr, OxonCC), Gareth Jennings (Cllr, VOWHDC)

Parishioners: Marietta Pringle, Peter Rawcliffe

1. Apologies

Clive Briffett (Chair)

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Parishioners' Comments

PR reported on the following issues:

Flooding. The final pinchpoint had been cleared so there was now a clear channel from North Hinksey to Kennington, and the effects had already been noticed. The culverts on the Devil's Backbone were yet to be cleared. SE reported that Nick Frearson had confirmed that he would be carrying out the work on these and the willows in February.

Cycle ramps over railway bridge. Peter Challis reported that this was in the pipeline. However, there was the possibility that the railway line would be electrified in the future and if so the bridge may have to be completely revised, so until this was decided, the question of ramps was on hold. Peter Challis would monitor this and report back in six months.

Lleylandii in Burial Ground. PR had obtained a quote for their removal and replacement for c.£3k. The Council felt that as any work would need to take place before the end of February or after September, and as the problem was not critical, that it be reviewed in May.

4. Minutes of January 2010 meeting

Item 5 (g) PR clarified that the Oxford Flood Risk Management Strategy had not been abandoned but put on hold.

Item 9 AK clarified that Strategy Partnership committee should be "Strategy and Partnership Committee" and the budget was reduced from £39m to £14m not £4m.

Read and agreed.

5. Matters Arising

Church Close barrier. EH reported that VOWH Engineers Dept had still not ascertained ownership of the barrier, and therefore no work could be carried out. Action: EH to continue to chase and inform GJ if there is still no progress.

Church Close car park. SE reported that Martin Lyons had assigned this case to Ed Green who would be contacting the Council shortly to arrange a site visit.

Air pollution monitoring. EH reported that Tim Williams had stated a monitor would be put in place the following week.

Community land. SE reported that the agreement for the former car park had been completed and was now available for the community. Action: A PUBLIC meeting to be discussed at the next Council meeting. SE also reported that a draft agreement for the use of the field had been sent to Nick Frearson for his comments.
Action: SE to chase.

Communication Strategy. There was now a link to the Parish Council website from southhinksey.org. It was also reported that more contact details had been gained by Clive and Linda Slater for residents on Hinksey Hill.
Action: SE to pursue strategy further.

6. Finance – Payments and Receipts

Payments

Meadows & Moran	Legal expenses for car park community land licence	£287.50
Goldace Development	Licence fee for car park community land	£110.00

Receipts

Reeves & Pain	2 x burial fees	£300.00
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7. Planning Applications

R3.0151/09 Redbridge Hollow Gypsy Site

This was a revised proposal for the development of the site to remove fly-tip and erect 8 amenity blocks and car parking spaces. SE had circulated a summary of the revisions to Council. Council raised no objections.

Notices

SHI/11845/5-X	General Elliot – development	Refused
SHI/8322/2	Pin Farm – new dormers and barn conversion	Permitted
SHI/2543/10-X	Woodside – erection of four detached houses	Permitted

8. Correspondence

Community Led Planning Event. ORCC were holding an event on Saturday 6th March aimed at local councillors and workers focused on parish planning and development. Information given to MR to review.

Fly-tipping Campaign. Oxfordshire Waste Partnership were undertaking a campaign to reduce fly-tipping. Posters were given to councillors to place on noticeboards.

9. County Councillor's Report

AF reported on OxonCC's response to the snow. They had good grit stocks before December but this had led to the county being made a low priority, and as such, did not receive some supplies they had ordered. They had concentrated on clearing priority 1 roads (roads necessary for giving emergency vehicles access to within two miles of all homes) and central government guidance had prevented further gritting. AF reported that OxonCC can provide grit bins for £150, subject to planning, and would ensure they were filled. Action: LLF to ascertain whether grit bins were required on Hinksey Hill. AF also reported that Adult Services had responded well in the crisis with emergency teams available with a fleet of 4x4 vehicles. The Transport Committee meeting at which AF was to investigate speed restrictions between Hinksey Hill and Abingdon had been cancelled due to the weather and would now take place in February. AF had to cancel his surgery due to the poor weather but had visited parishioners door-to-door. Three issues had been raised:

Manor Road sewers. These were reported to back up due to problems at the Littlemore pumping station. SB advised that when this happens the best course of action was to inform the EA who then pursue it.

Industrial pollution. It was reported that a smell was occasionally emanating from the farm buildings, possibly as a result of car stripping. The Council was not aware of this happening, however when it had in the past, they were informed that the chemicals used, although unpleasant, were not harmful. Action: Council to monitor.

Potholes. AF reported that he had traveled round the area and recorded all potholes and would be submitting a report shortly. He also reported that the work already reported had been pushed back due to the adverse weather.

10. District Councillor's Report

GJ reported that the Executive had launched the budget proposals in December and that these were published, and noted that income was projected to be much lower than previous years due to lower investment income and central government grants. He also reported that the District Council was also still consulting on the Your Vale, Your Future strategy. It was felt that this did not affect the parish greatly, but the main concern was around the positioning of the new housing developments. GJ also offered to look into the concerns regarding the Church Close barrier if they remained unresolved.

11. General Elliot planning application

The Council discussed the Planning Dept's decision to refuse the planning application. The reasons given were several and included concerns about traffic, flooding and business viability. Although the Council had also objected to the application on the basis of parishioners' comments, the Council was still fully supportive of the efforts to reopen the pub and were committed to working with the Vale Brewery to find a viable plan. **Action: SE to write to the Brewery to offer the Council's support and ascertain the Brewery's future plans.**

12. Manor Road ditch

SB reported that she had spoken to the EA, who had advised her that they were able to send out an engineer to advise on what work needed to be carried out and possible contractors, and that they would be able to waive their £50 fee for this, following the submission of an application. SB also reported that following some remedial work by residents downstream, the immediate problems had been alleviated. **Action: SB to submit application to EA.**

13. Upcoming councillor vacancy

Following Clive Briffett's resignation, SE advised the Council on the procedure for filling the vacancy. The Council must advertise the vacancy and an election is held if ten or more parishioners request it from the returning officer. Otherwise the position must be filled by cooption.

The Council agreed that it was important that the parishioners should be given the opportunity for an election, and that candidates should be sought for a contested election, particularly those from underrepresented areas or groups. The Council also agreed that it should be publicized as widely as possible. **Action: SE to confirm costs and dates with VOWH and draft publicity. Councillors to seek and encourage nominations from interested parties.**

14. Devil's Backbone / Jacob's Ladder in snow

Following a fall on the bridge by a parishioner, PR contacted Matt Ball and then Jenny Beardmore at OxonCC who advised that although they do not usually grit paths, given the significance to the village, they were willing to contact Network Rail and investigate the possibility of taking it on and suggested that a letter from the Council would strengthen the case. **Action: SE to write letter to Jenny Beardmore, OxonCC.**

15. AOB

Grit bin for Church Close. EH reported that a bin had been obtained from VOWH and it would be placed behind the wall at the far end of Church Close.

Burial ground path. The church was planning on renewing the path through the churchyard and the Council agreed to look into the possibility of extending it through the burial ground. EH had obtained two quotes for the work, both in the region of £3,000. The Council agreed to consider further once the church had agreed how it was going to proceed. **Action: EH to obtain at least one more quote.**

Lighting on Church Close. The Council had reviewed the lighting on Church Close before the meeting and agreed that lighting was needed to assist residents. **Action: SE and councillors to investigate possibilities and add to the agenda of the next meeting.**

A34 State of verges on Parker Rd. and Rd to garden centre. The work carried out by Thames Water before Christmas to repair a burst water main under the A34 has left part of the bank and verge along Parker Rd (nr. The junction with Manor Rd) stripped of vegetation, rutted and muddy. MR phoned Thames Water about this, but there was no result so far. MP reported that the bank opposite, on the road to the garden centre, was in a similar state, and there was a large puddle of water. **Action: MR to phone Thames Water again.**

Date of next meeting: Monday 1st March 2010