

Minutes of a meeting of **South Hinksey Parish Council** held on **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2007** in the Village Hall, South Hinksey.

**Present:** Councillor C. Briffett - Chairman  
Councillor Mrs M. Rawcliffe  
Councillor Mrs S. Gray

**In Attendance:** Anne Wilson – Parish Clerk

The Parish Clerk reported to members that for personal reasons it had been necessary for Philip Saugman to stand down from the Parish Council. Councillor Mrs Rawcliffe expressed her personal regret that he had stood down and asked that it be put on record how grateful the parish are to him for his work for the Parish Council and his role as Chairman and thanked him on behalf of South Hinksey.

The Parish Clerk explained that, although not through lack of trying, she had not received the relevant vacancy paperwork to enable the vacancies to be filled on the Parish Council.

#### **19/07 Election of Chairman**

Following the resignation of Philip Saugman it was necessary to elect a new Chairman of the Parish Council. It was therefore **RESOLVED** that Councillor Clive Briffett be elected Chairman of South Hinksey Parish Council for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

#### **20/07 Apologies for Absence**

**RESOLVED** to note that there were no apologies for absence.

#### **21/07 Declarations of Interest**

**RESOLVED** to note that there were no declarations of any personal or prejudicial interest.

Councillor Briffett explained to the new Parish Clerk that he had made a blanket declaration with regard to the Woodland Proposal to the Council at a previous meeting and would not be stating his declaration at every meeting.

#### **22/07 Minutes**

**RESOLVED** to confirm the minutes **SHPC/01/07**

Councillor Mrs Rawcliffe explained minute no.: **13/07** was not quite correct. She had stated at the meeting that the Old Abingdon Road Bridge was the next potential bottleneck and that the Towles Mill site was now sorted out. The

builders had damaged the side of the John Piers Lane side of the ditch and Peter Dela had been invited to come and look at the damage.

### **23/07 Woodland Project Proposal**

Councillor Briffett reported to members that the Awards For All application had been unsuccessful and they would now be applying to the Trust for Oxfordshire Environment. 597 groups had got money and this was the second unsuccessful application for this site.

David Rees would be putting in an application for the Culsworth Path that leads to the Wyelvale Garden centre.

### **24/07 Community Land Proposal**

There was no update available at this meeting.

### **25/07 Oxfordshire CC – Minerals and Waste Local Development Framework, Minerals Site Proposals and Policies Development Plan Document Issues and Options Consultation April 2007 (Regulation 25).**

Councillor Briffett will circulate a report on the above document at the meeting.

The comments of the Parish Council are as follows:

Our concerns are for the site selected on page A 38 for use of existing meadow land in South and North Hinksey.

The current use of this land is a low lying meadow flooded every winter and as grassland cut at the end of summer. The longer length of land parallel to the railway comprises fishing ponds and a nature reserve established by Network Rail. Given that the village of South Hinksey has been flooded twice in the last five years the proposals to conduct such extensive excavation and extraction work in the area would seem to be most inopportune. The site water flows are currently being subjected to remedial work by the Environment Agency and recent clearance and diversion of culverts have been completed at Towles Mill. Further proposals to protect the village houses with earth bunding are also still under consideration.

Other environmental impacts that would arise in the area are transport access which is particularly awkward since existing roads in North Hinksey and at Redbridge, South Hinksey are narrow and accessed by weak bridges. The A34 is unlikely to offer access facilities due to the high cost of constructing slip roads and the already overloaded nature of the road. It has already been determined by the planning authority that alternative access to the site from the Osney Mead industrial would not be permitted.

The proposed removal of the existing public access for walkers and cyclists from New Hinksey along the Devils Backbone appears to have been completely ignored in the scheme and future removal of such access would be disastrous for the villagers and visiting public.

The entire proposed site is located in the Oxford Green Belt and has been subjected to several other development proposals in the past all of which have been rejected on adverse landscape impact grounds. Views of the famous Oxford Spires enjoyed by all observers from the hill and those within the city limits have both historic and aesthetic attraction and are highly valued by the Oxford community.

The ecological value of the site for water birds and summer breeding warblers is confirmed by the presence of a nature reserve. Rarer species such as Bullfinch, Kingfisher and Otter are known to use the area and Lapwing nest in the adjoining meadow. In the last seven years 83 bird species have been recorded in the South Hinksey Parish and 50 of these are known to breed. Many of these could be adversely affected by such mineral extraction proposals.

#### **26/07 Code of Conduct Review**

**RESOLVED** that members noted the full report on the changes which was attached to the agenda.

**FURTHER RESOLVED** to adopt the following:

a) The mandatory provisions in the Model Code of Conduct set out in the Statutory Instrument 2007/1159 be adopted as the South Hinksey Parish Council Code of Conduct. To be effective from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2007, subject to;

(i) the inclusion of the 'general principles' as an Annex of the Code, with a footnote to explain that it is not part of the Code but is included as an Annex because of the requirement in paragraph 1(2) of the Code for members to have regard to the principles: and

(ii) The addition of paragraph 12(2) of the Model Code, but excluding the words in brackets

each as recommended by the Standards Board for England: and

(b) The Clerk is requested to notify the Monitoring Officer of the Vale of White Horse District Council of the passing of the above resolution.

## **27/07 Planning Applications**

**RESOLVED** that members made the following comments and noted the following:

### **SH1/20081 – 07/00679/FUL**

40 Manor Road, South Hinksey

Proposed sun lounge/conservatory, loft conversion with dormer to rear and velux to front

*Comment:* Members had no objections to this application

*Withdrawal of application:*

### **SH1/2543/9 – 07/00513/COU**

Woodside, Hinksey Hill, Oxford – for Info Trust Ltd

Change of Use from offices to residential

*Permission Granted*

**SH1/15419/2** – renewal of permission for the erection of a three storey extension

The Copse, Hinksey Hill

**SH1/1753/11** – Addition of 1 window to north elevation. Omission of roof light to east elevation (Unit 4) (Retrospective)

Isis Works, St Lawrence Road, South Hinksey

*Other Planning Matters*

**General Elliott** – The Clerk explained to members that this application was on hold at SODC to enable a viability survey to be carried out for the planning application for a car park. They were struggling to find a surveyor to carry out the work.

## **28/07 A34**

Following the meeting held in May the Parish Clerk had written to the Highways Agency asking for the pot holes in the middle lanes to be filled and will report to this meeting of any response received.

Members asked what was in the 2009/2010 road schemes as outlined in the Highways Agency letter of the 5<sup>th</sup> April 2007.

**RESOLVED** that the Parish Clerk should write to the Highways Agency thanking them for the extra surfacing they had carried and following up the Councils letter.

### **29/07 Flooding Matters.**

There was nothing to report following letters sent with regard to the Old Abingdon Road Bridge and John Piers Lane at the May meeting. The Parish Clerk would follow these matters up.

Councillor Briffett asked to see a plan of the areas that may flood in future in the Parish which Councillor Mrs Rawcliffe would obtain.

### **30/07 Oxford City Council – Telecommunications Supplementary Planning Document – Draft for Consultation.**

Councillor Briffett reported that there was nothing specific that affected the parish of South Hinksey. It is more of a Good Practice Guide.

### **31/07 Church Close – South Hinksey Parish**

Members acknowledged the letter from Oxford City Council and were not happy with its content. The land that Oxford City Council had suggested for residents parking was a well used piece of amenity land and the Council agreed that this proposal was totally unacceptable. The suggested area was approximately 1.5m higher than the road which would prove expensive to excavate and making it into a car park would detract from the street scene and general ambience of the area.

It was suggested that the area at the rear of the houses was more suitable with access from the road that runs adjacent to the A34. **RESOLVED** that the Parish Clerk write to Oxford City Council to this effect.

### **32/07 Cheques for Payment**

**RESOLVED** that the schedule of cheques for payment be agreed.

David Wilkins – Salary and Expenses for April 2007	£450.55
Mrs A. Wilson - Stamps	£ 9.84
Oxford City Council – for 1 street lamp	£ .13
Bicester Town Council – photocopy paper, postage and photocopying	£ 34.87
Outerspace Garden Company	£219.44

### **33/07 Correspondence**

**RESOLVED** that members noted the correspondence listed below:

- Thames Valley Police Stakeholder Forum – invitation to members. Paperwork sent to Cllr. Saugman to see if any member would be able to attend on the 5<sup>th</sup> June at 9.15 a.m. No member was able to attend
- Oxford Green Belt Network correspondence
- Copy of the Vale House News
- Botley Traffic Advisory Committee minutes of 16<sup>th</sup> November 2006.

Members noted that there was no representation at the meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> May due to the agenda only reaching the Clerk just before the date of the meeting. It is hoped that in future a representative of this parish may attend the meetings and it was **RESOLVED** that she would contact the minute taker with regard to future meetings. Councillor Briffett expressed an interest in attending these meetings.

- Copy of Oxfordshire County Council May 2007 newsletter – circulated to all members.
- Vale of White Horse – Details of small grants for Parish and Town Councils, Voluntary and Community Organisations.
- Vale of White Horse – Details of the new Community Funding Advice Service
- Home2School newsletter: Summer 2007
- OALC Courses:
  - Local Government and Local Councils – An Introduction – 6<sup>th</sup> June 10 a.m.
  - How Local Councils fit into the planning system – effective responses to planning applications – 10<sup>th</sup> October 9.30 a.m.
  - Getting to grips with finance – an introduction to Procedures and Responsibilities
  - Members would let the Clerk know whether they would like to attend.

**34/07 Date of next meeting:** Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2007 at 7.30 p.m.