

Minutes of the South Hinksey Parish Council

at South Hinksey Village Hall

Monday 7th March 2011

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

Arash Fatemian (Cllr, OxonCC)

Parishioners: Jo and Linda Slater, Adrian Porter, Kate Gresswell, Peter Rawcliffe, Chris Jaankiewicz, Jeffrey Bryant, Jo Harris, Robin and Marion Norris.

Guest: Dr. Ming Yun

1. Apologies

Councillors: Elizabeth Halcro.

Parishioners: Pat Jones, Vikki and Matthew Frohn.

2. Declarations of Interest

MR – Village Hall

3. Parishioners' Comments

The Council and parishioners discussed the response of the community to the reapplication by Vale Brewery for change of use of the General Elliot to residential.

Ming Yun presented his proposal to reopen it as a bar/coffee shop, with a cultural centre, focusing on supporting the work of visiting Chinese artists through his company, Sinolink. The proposal was well received in principle and the meeting was very receptive to the plans to develop the business. Ming stated that they had had great difficulty with the agents managing the sale and despite many efforts, and approaching the Vale Brewery personally, they had not managed to secure a viewing. Other parishioners stated that they were aware of other potential purchasers who had received a similar response. It was felt by some parishioners and that this may be deliberate on behalf of the brewery. Although the principle of reopening the pub was widely approved. Some parishioners had reservations regarding increased traffic were it to become a destination pub. There was also concern of leaving it derelict if new owners could not be found. One parishioner noted that the pub would be a very large undertaking and not easy to make profitable, particularly in the current climate, but it was also felt that despite this, it could still be a viable commercial venture.

It was noted that the main arguments put forward by the brewery were that it was not an important local facility and that it was not viable as a business. It was felt that the evidence they submitted for this was both very incomplete and

also contradictory, that many of the assumptions were not supported and that many of the arguments had already been settled by the previous planning application.

The meeting voted to object to the application and that a further meeting would be arranged to discuss the formal response by the Parish Council and a community action plan. **Action: MR to arrange meeting.**

4. Minutes of February 2011 Meeting

Item 5, 2nd para. – “ensure” should read “endeavour”.

Item 7, para 3 – The Council clarified that it raised no objections, subject to LLF reviewing the application

Read and agreed.

5. Matters Arising

Grit Bins. Action: SE still to order.

Ground Maintenance Contracts. Continental have carried out a site visit with MR. **Action: SE to arrange contract.**

Fence on Devil’s Backbone. Action: SE still to order repair.

6. Finance – Payments and Receipts

Payments

Sheridan Edward	Wages January to March	£470.92
Sheridan Edward	Expenses	£12.00
Maggie Rawcliffe	Expenses	£4.95
Village Hall	Hire for Probation Service	£110.00
Oxford Green Belt Network	2011/12 subscription	£15.00

7. Planning Applications

None, other than for the General Elliot, discussed under Parishioners’ Comments.

8. Correspondence

The Big Society Fund. Discussed under County Councillor’s Report.

Revised Household Waste Recycling Center Strategy. Discussed under County Councillor’s Report.

Freedom of Information Request. The Council had received a request for all information pertaining to the speed restriction request on Hinksey Hill from Jamal Spence. He had also sent a request through to OxonCC. SE had replied to his request.

Church Architects Report. An architect had surveyed the church, and at the same time had looked at the Burial Ground and noted that a) the gates needed realigning, b) some fencing needed replacing, and c) ivy needed removing from the wall. Dave Cullen had already been asked to quote for the first two jobs and once this had been obtained the Council would make a decision on the work.

9. County Councillor's Report

AF reported that the County Council had passed the budget and that most was as expected. He confirmed that council tax was to be frozen for the next year. He also reported that over the year senior management posts in OxonCC had reduced by c.40%.

AF highlighted the proposed revised Waste Recycling Strategy. OxonCC planned to open a larger and more modern recycling centre towards Kidlington which would service the household waste for the city and the surrounding area. Once this was open, the Redbridge Recycling Centre would be refurbished and reopened for business waste only, with the possibility of concessions for household waste at weekends. The consultation would run from 7th March to 4th April. The Council had no objections in principle. **Action: SE to forward details to councillors for consideration.**

AF also reported that OxonCC had taken over the concessionary bus pass schemes from the district and city councils. This would mean that concessionary travel would start from 9am on all routes in the county.

AF highlighted the Big Society Fund - a pot of £600k to fund community projects across the county. The money was a one-off and was to be used to fund set-up costs rather than ongoing costs. No funds been earmarked and the funding would be released in waves. **Action: SE to forward details to councillors. TB to investigate with possible application for community land.**

10. Project Updates

Hinksey Hill Traffic Issues.

LLF reported that she had received an email from Mark Francis confirming that the consultation period would end on 18th March, but that they had received two objections and it would therefore be presented to the elected members for a decision in June. LLF and MR would be meeting with Laura Hutchins on Wednesday March 9th to discuss it and other possible measures. **Action: AF to discuss with Rodney Rose to see if a decision can be made in May. SE to email Mark Francis to ask what his officer's recommendation would be and what the objections were.**

Manor Road Ditch.

SB reported that there was no progress on this but would follow up with Tony Allsworth shortly. **Action: SB to chase.**

Community Land.

TB reported that there had been no progress on this. However, he requested that the grass be cut before work begins on it. **Action: SE to arrange with Continental.**

Village Hall.

SE reported that he had received no response from Philip Marsh at Darbys regarding the conveyancing. **Action: SE to chase.**

St Lawrence Road Parking Issues.

SB held a residents meeting attended by SB, MR, Laura Hutchins and six residents. The possibility of a car park was well received and the details were left with one of the Church Close residents to raise with other residents. When asked about no parking signs or road markings it was felt that these would probably not be heeded by local residents. SE also reported that St Lawrence Church PCC decided not to financially support a no parking sign but recommended seeking a sign from Highways. It was felt that only one car's width was required to give sufficient access however SB reported that Laura Hutchins had stated that the cost of a consultation on possible road markings could be c.£5k. It was also noted that a former bus stop on the corner of Barleycott Lane and St Lawrence Road was overgrown but could provide an additional parking space if cleared. **Action: SE to order no parking sign. MR to organize clearing of former bus stop by NPS.**

12. 2011 Parish Council Elections

SE briefed the Council on the upcoming Parish Council elections. All councillors were up for reelection and application packs and information on the procedures were handed out. MR would discuss with EH. It was noted that the deadline for submission of applications was noon 4th April and that applications needed to be submitted by hand. **Action: SE to arrange for notices of election to be circulated on SHInfo and placed on notice boards.**

13. Reviews

Risk Assessment. The Council reviewed the Risk Assessment and approved it with a minor amendment. It was noted that health and safety reviews were currently outstanding on the community woodland, community land and burial ground. SE also confirmed that the level of fidelity guarantee would be revised on the next renewal in June. **Action: SE to circulate risk assessment templates and councillors to complete by April meeting.**

Burial Ground charges. The Council approved the recommendation to keep charges at their current level for the coming year.

Internal Auditors. SE reported that he was happy with the level of service provided by the internal auditors, **Auditing Solutions.** They had provided a thorough and timely audit and were excellent in their communication. SE also noted that their fees had not risen substantially over the past three years. The Council approved the reappointment of Auditing Solutions for the next year.

14. Any Other Business

Snow Plan. TB reported that five volunteers and a coordinator had been found to manage the clearing of snow on future occasions.

Speed limit on A34. MR noted that the 50mph speed limit on the ring road had been extended to include a stretch to the north of the Botley Interchange. It was felt that the Council should monitor its progress with a view to exploring the possibility of extending it to between Hinksey Hill and Botley interchanges.

15. Parishioners' Feedback

None.

Date of next meeting: Monday 4th April 2011