

Minutes of the South Hinksey Parish Council

at South Hinksey Village Hall

Monday 4th October 2010

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

Arash Fatemian (Cllr, OxonCC) from item 9

Parishioners: None

1. Apologies

Gareth Jennings (Cllr, VOWHDC)

2. Declarations of Interest

EH and MR – Village Hall

3. Parishioners' Comments

None.

4. Minutes of September 2010 Meeting

Page 2 Item 8 3rd para should read "...that the bridge would be closed between..."

Read and agreed.

5. Matters Arising

Speed limit on A34. Richard Fairbrass believed that there were plans to limit speed along the A34 by the village but would reply to SE the next day.

Devil's Backbone. MR confirmed that a grit bi still needed to be installed and undergrowth clearing. TB also noted that a verge along Manor Road also needed clearing. **Action: SE to arrange clearing with Matthew Ellett.**

6. Finance – Payments and Receipts

Payments

Auditing Solution – 2009/10 Internal Audit £217.38

Receipts

Tony James Memorials – memorial fee £60.00
Scottish and Southern Energy – wayleaves £17.45
Reeves and Pain – Burial Fee £300.00

7. Planning Applications

SHI/69/2-LB 21/23 Manor Road Reversion back to single dwelling with rear extension

SE had emailed the Council with the details of the application, and the hard copy was given to SB to investigate. It was not felt that there would be any objections. **Action: SB to read application and report to Council any possible areas of concern.**

8. Correspondence

Bus stop at bottom of Hinksey Hill. Barbara Jeffery contacted the Council to ask if the Parish Council would support her in applying to Heyfordian Buses for the no44 bus to stop at the foot of Hinksey Hill by the A34 roundabout. The Council was fully supportive of the request. **Action: SE to contact Barbara to offer the Council's support and offer to contact Heyfordian on her behalf.**

OFA Annual Public Meeting. This was scheduled for 25th November at Osney Island. Peter Rawcliffe had asked if a sizeable delegation could attend from the village. **Action: Councillors to attend if possible.**

9. County Councillor's Report

AF reported that the Big Debate events had generally been constructive and good-natured. MT attended the Big Debate event in Oxford Town Hall and reported that it had been a positive meeting. AF reiterated that the Council had an open agenda and no decisions had yet been made on where the cuts would be made. They would now wait on the report.

AF also stated that an Area Steward had now been appointed – Laura Hutchins – and she would be starting in October. AF also confirmed that the cost of repairing a pothole was £55 sq.m.

10. District Councillor's Report

None.

11. A34 Noise Pollution

EH had investigated the possibility of the Highways Agency installing a noise barrier along A34 by South Hinksey but had been told that it would not meet their eligibility criteria due to insufficient density of housing. VOWH also

provided advice on the type of barrier needed and possible suppliers. There followed a discussion on the viability of the scheme given the limited funds of the Council, and other options, including a thick screen of trees. It was felt that all the options and viability would need to be investigated and presented to the Council for them to make an informed decision. **Action: TB to investigate the options and report back to the Council once figures had been obtained.**

12. Grit Bins on Hinksey Hill

John Beaumont had confirmed to SE that the grit bins were being ordered. He also noted that Spring Copse was a private road and the grit bin would therefore not be maintained by the County Council. **Action: SE to ask John Beaumont if it would be possible for the County Council to maintain the bin for a fee.**

13. Project Updates

Manor Road Ditch. SB had been trying to contact Peter Dela but with no success. Peter had informed her that as the ditch was next to City Council land, it may well still be their responsibility. Peter also said that he had a list of contractors. **Action: SB to continue to chase Peter Dela and obtain quotes from contractors.**

Community Land. TB reported that Matthew Carlos was organizing a clean-up of the site and TB hoped that from the turnout he would be able to organize a committee to look into the future plans for the site. TB had also gained expressions of interest about being on the committee from three residents. It was also felt that a member of the Gardening Club would be a very helpful member of the committee. Notice of the clean up should have been published in the Echo, but it didn't appear to be the case. **Action: TB to inform Matthew Carlos that the clean-up hadn't been published and would need to be circulated on SHInfo.**

Church Close Barrier. EH had obtained permission from Ian Matten at VOWH to install the new barrier on the proviso that no objections were raised by Church Close residents. Ian Matten had also confirmed that they would be willing to contribute 50% towards the costs. **Action: EH to inform residents and if no objections received, Council to formally approve work at next meeting.**

Church Close Car Park. SB presented the Council with two proposals for the car park. **Action: EH to meet with Stuart Walker from the Planning Department to obtain feedback on its feasibility.**

Village Hall. SE reported that Darbys had been appointed to carry out the conveyancing and that it was being handled by Philip Marsh. He had located the deeds and was contacting the trustees and Land Registry.

14. Leylandii in the Burial Ground

It had been agreed earlier in the year to review the leylandii in the autumn, as work couldn't be carried out over the summer for conservation reasons. EH had spoken to several families that tended to graves in the burial ground, and the general feeling was that the leylandii were a welcome backdrop, and they would like them to remain and the height of the trees did not appear to detrimentally affect any local residents. It was also queried how high the leylandii would grow if left unchecked. The cost to remove and replace the trees would be c.£3k and the cost to reduce their height would be c.£900. It was felt that the best option may well be to prune overhanging branches but to retain the height. **Action: MR to seek the advice of Simon Ringrose and obtain a quote for maintenance of the trees. SE to contact Matthew Ellett to clear the debris around the bottom of the trees.**

15. AOB

Preparing for Emergencies Booklets. These were being delivered to EH and councillors offered to help distribute them throughout the parish.

NAG Update. LLF updated the Council on crime issues in the local area. However, there weren't any reports of crime in the parish or areas of concern.

Speed Limit on Hinksey Hill. There was still no progress on the speed limit work at the top of Hinksey Hill despite several reminders from LLF. Action: SE to write a letter to Mark Francis and copy in AF to discuss with the cabinet member for transport.

Ragwort at the Community Woodland. MR had received information that ragwort was growing in the woodland, close to where horses were grazing. MR has informed them that it was not a problem at present and the Council will review in the spring and tackle the issue then if necessary. SE confirmed that the Council still had significant restricted funds for the Community Woodland.

Firewood. Nick Frearson had kindly offered the parish a large pile of firewood for a bonfire in his field just off the Devil's Backbone. However there were not any plans for a bonfire or fireworks party in the parish and there had previously been objections to it because of small children and thatched roofs.

Verge and footpath maintenance. The Council examined the OxonCC map showing the Parish Council's responsibilities and it was felt that the map was difficult to decipher. It was agreed that the Council would take responsibility for the maintenance of the entirety of the Devil's Backbone. SE and MR would also prepare a comprehensive maintenance schedule to put out to tender for next year. **Action: SE to produce a clearer verge and footpath maintenance map.**

16. Parishioners' Feedback

None.

Date of next meeting: Monday 1st November 2010