

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

Monday 7th January 2013

Present: Sarah Balaam (Vice-Chair), Christine Chater, Sheridan Edward (Clerk), Matthew Frohn, Liz LeFevre, Maggie Rawcliffe (Chair)

 Cllr Arash Fatemian (OxonCC), PCSO Andy McCormack

Parishioners: Matthew Davies, Peter Rawcliffe

1. Apologies

Cllr Ron Mansfield (VoWHDC).

2. Declarations of interest

None.

3. Parishioners' comments

Peter Rawcliffe attended the meeting to discuss items 13, 15 and 16 which were brought forward to the start of the meeting.

4. Minutes of December 2012 meeting

Item 13 – “c.36 signatures” should read “c.360 signatures”.

Read and agreed.

5. Matters arising

Stile on Devil's Backbone and muddiness of footpath near Barleycott Lane. MR had not yet heard back from Mark Sumner, Footpaths Officer, but confirmed that Nick Frearson was supportive of installing kissing gates. MR had also spoken to one of the horse owners who was also keen to look at ways of reducing the mud around the footpath.

Manor Road ditch. SB reported that Peter Dela had agreed regarding the width of the pipe under Manor Road and would investigate further. However, he stated that the pipe ran under both a public and private road so any changes would need the consent of both the landowner and Highways, and that there may also be a reason why the pipe is smaller.

Cyclists on Devil's Backbone. SE had prepared a notice for SHInfo which he circulated to Councillors. Councillors agreed with the notice and it was also suggested that it be circulated to New Hinksey residents.

Action: SE to forward notice on SHInfo and investigate sending it to residents in New Hinksey.

Rights of Way Improvement Plan consultation. Councillors read the consultation and agreed with the objectives of the plan, especially their application to the Devil's Backbone. The Council agreed to await the consultation on the new draft RoWIP.

District Council electoral review. SE reported that he still hadn't received any feedback from District Councillors regarding the recommendations, and as both the District Council and LGBCE proposals had pros and cons for the Council, the Parish Council felt that no response was required.

6. Finance – payments and receipts

Payments

Society of Local Council Clerks	Membership for 2013	£75.00
Maggie Rawcliffe	December expenses	£12.94

Receipts

None.

7. Planning applications

P12/V2481/FUL, Bagley Croft Lodge, Hinksey Hill – creation of new access and driveway

There were several concerns from both Councillors and parishioners. The Council had concerns regarding the integrity of the application and believed that there were several inaccuracies, as work had already begun on the driveway and trees had already been removed. The Council also believed that it would have a detrimental impact on the character of the local landscape. It was also noted that the visible splays did not meet the minimum requirements. The Council agreed to object to the application. **Action: SE to write objection and also contact the Arboriculture Officer at VoWHDC to investigate the process for tree preservation orders.**

8. Correspondence

Route 44 bus service review. Oxon CC were carrying out a review of the route 44 bus service and asked the Council for any comments or suggestions by 1st March. **Action: SE to request comments from parishioners via SHInfo.**

Parking on St Lawrence Road. A resident from St Lawrence Road had written to the Council to express their concern that cars parked on St Lawrence Road were restricting access for larger vehicles, i.e. lorries, and that there had been incidents of lorries driving over lawns to manoeuvre past the parked cars. SE stated that cars obstructing the road, should be reported to Highways or the police, and that cars driving over the garden could constitute trespassing and the owner could be entitled to seek damages. It was also suggested that a fence or marker stones round the perimeter of the garden could deter drivers. **Action: SE to reply to resident with information.**

9. County Councillor's Report

AF reported that the Council was currently deciding its budget for 2013/14 and stated that there would be a likely increase in Council Tax of 1.99%. See also Hinksey Hill traffic issues.

10. District Councillor's Report

None.

11. Community Speed Watch

PCSO Andy McCormack outlined the scheme to the Council, whereby a speed indicator device would be set up and two volunteers would monitor drivers' speeds over a period of a few hours. Drivers with speeds >10% in

excess of the speed limit would be logged on the speed watch database and an letter would be automatically generated. Should they be caught speeding three times, their details would be passed to the Roads Policing department. LLF and CC agreed to be volunteers. Andy McCormack suggested regular monitoring to catch repeat offenders. **Action: Andy McCormack to obtain SID and a date to be arranged.**

12. Project updates

A34 Issues. It was noted that the resurfacing along the A34 by South Hinksey had not been completed. **Action: SE to chase with Highways Agency.**

Hinksey Hill traffic issues. See also under community speed watch. Lex MacFarlane had confirmed that the anti-skid surface was on the list to be done but was still awaiting a date. Lex had also reported that she would shortly be carrying out a site visit with an engineer regarding the hedgerows and also the improvement of the kerb. AF confirmed that he had been asked again to agree the hedgerow trimming. AF reported that trials of the speed indicator devices shared between parishes had not been successful. However, he had suggested that a fixed SID could be possible, and would be prepared to fund it dependent on cost. Council felt that this would be very beneficial. **Action: LLF to await results of speed watch and suggest site for SID.**

Community Woodland. SE reported that he had chased Dave Cullen regarding the fingerposts signs but was still awaiting a quote. However, the Council had been contacted by Andy Gunn, Community Wildlife Officer, who was working jointly with Oxford City Council and the Oxford Preservation Trust on improving the Chilswell Vallery Nature Reserve, including new signage and maps. SE suggested that it could be a good opportunity to help integrate the community woodland into local walking routes. **Action: SE to arrange meeting with Andy Gunn, Riki Therivel and Councillors.**

13. Footbridge over railway

Peter Rawcliffe updated the Council on the progress of the campaign for the replacement footbridge. He stated that there had been lots of interest in both South Hinksey and New Hinksey and that Bob Price, City Councillor for New Hinksey had been very supportive. Network Rail were attending a public meeting in Oxford Town Hall that week to discuss developments plans to the route through Oxford, and Peter and MR would be attending. The footbridge would be on the agenda to be discussed. The petition was up to c.400 signatures. Peter had spoken with the regional manager of Network Rail who had stated that there was a very strong case for the ramps, but that it was a question of financial feasibility, and that funding came from the Department for Transport. It was also suggested that instead of steps and ramps on the South Hinksey side, just the ramps could be installed to keep costs down. The regional manager stated he would ascertain a date by which a final decision would have to be made. Peter suggested that the petition be sent to both MPs, Nicola Blackwood and Andrew Smith.

14. 2013/14 Budget

SE had circulated the draft budget papers and stated that they had been discussed in a budget meeting with MR and SB. SE confirmed that the Council's reserves had now been reduced to an acceptable level and recommended a precept for 2013/14 of £7045, which would be c.£200 under the mean average for the past 9 years and mean a £39 contribution for Band D properties. This was a third lower than the average contribution across the region of £60 for Band D properties. **The Council agreed the precept for 2013/14 of £7045.**

15. Grant for Oxford Flood Alliance

Peter Rawcliffe, member of the OFA steering group wrote to the Council to request a grant of £20 to cover running costs of OFA. The Council agreed to cover the cost for the village hall hire (£20) for an OFA meeting. **Action: Village Hall to invoice Council.**

16. Power substation flood defences

Following two recent incidents of flooding in South Hinksey and the surrounding area, a parishioner, Maria Banks, asked whether the power substation covering the South Hinksey area was flood protected. She had ascertained that the substation in question was based at North Hinksey / Osney Mead, which had been flooded in 2007. SE stated that this substation, according to news reports, also provided power to Oxford city centre and hospitals. **Action: SE to enquire from Paul Kirkley, Engineer at Oxford City Council, about what emergency plan was in place and whether the substation was flood-proofed to 1-in-200 year standard.**

17. Any other business

None.

18. Parishioners' Feedback

None.

Date of next meetings:

Monday 4th February 2013 at South Hinksey Village Hall

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