

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

Monday 6th January 2014

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

Cllr Bob Johnston (OxonCC), Sheridan Edward (Clerk)

Other attendees: James Mallinson, Adrian Porter

Time commenced: 7:30pm

1. Apologies

PCSO Claire Smallcombe, Cllr Debbie Hallett (VoWHDC), Cllr Ron Mansfield (VoWHDC)

2. Declarations of interest

None.

3. Public questions, comments or representations

James Mallinson requested Council help in improving the state of Barleycott Lane. JM stated that the lane was a byway open to all traffic, and that OxonCC were responsible for its maintenance, but BJ stated that OxonCC would not have the resource to undertake any work, but parishioners could ask permission from OxonCC to undertake the work themselves. The Council could consider an application for funding towards the cost, based on the grant awarding policy. It was agreed that the residents would formulate a proposal to present to OxonCC for agreement and to the Council for a funding request. **Action: SE to investigate sources of grants, including WREN.**

Adrian Porter updated the Council on the situation with potential sewage flooding in the parish. Thames Water had deployed a lorry to pump out the sewage system, and it had been in the village 24/7 since 23rd December. It was estimated that it had removed at least 2 million litres of water. Thames Water had monitors installed upstream and downstream of South Hinksey, and had undertaken CCTV investigations, but they had not yet provided any findings to the Council. It was felt a meeting was needed with Kennington Parish Council, Oxford Flood Alliance and Nicola Blackwood MP to put pressure on Thames Water. **Action: Peter Rawcliffe to arrange meeting at Nicola Blackwood MP's surgery.**

4. Minutes of December 2013 meeting

The Council **resolved** to agree the minutes of the December 2013 meeting.

5. Matters arising

Grounds maintenance. SE had managed to obtain a quote from Slade Garden Services for £550+VAT. This is based on the need for three men and a full day of work. The BGG quote was for £425+VAT. SE had received no response from two other contractors. The Council **resolved** to appoint BGG to carry out the work. **Action: SE to confirm with BGG.**

Bagley Croft TPO. Tim Stringer had confirmed with CC that the meeting to discuss the TPO was on 15th January. **Action: CC to attend meeting.**

Cycling on the Devil's Backbone. SE reported that the signs had not been installed yet. He spoke with Dave Cullen who confirmed that they would do it after the floodwater had subsided. SE hadn't been able to contact the new area steward but had reported the fencing on the OxonCC website. **Action: BJ to forward contact details of area steward to SE.**

Redbridge Hollow fly-tipping. SE had drafted and circulated a letter that the Council had approved. The letter was sent to Matthew Barber who confirmed receipt. Steve Bishop from VoWHDC had also produced an implementation plan. BJ confirmed that the various councils had agreed to their portions of the work to be carried out and a follow-up meeting had been arranged for late February.

Redbridge to South Hinksey footpath. Mark Sumner had received positive feedback from TOE regarding his application and was hoping for a decision very soon.

Parish Charter consultation. CC had formulated a response, which had been circulated to the Council and then submitted.

6. Finance – payments and receipts

Payments

Payee	Reason	Amount	Power to act
BGG Garden and Tree Care	November grounds maintenance	£480.00	s.96 Highways Act 1980
Oxfordshire County Council	Hinksey Hill vehicle-activated sign	£4410.07	s.274a Highways Act 1980
Society of Local Council Clerks	2014 subscription	£76.00	s.173 LGA 1972

The Council **resolved** to agree the payments.

Receipts

None.

7. Planning applications

None.

8. Correspondence

New PCSO. Claire Smallcombe, the new PCSO for South Hinksey had sent a message round on SHInfo introducing herself and giving her contact details.

12 Manor Road. OxonCC had written to the owner of 12 Manor Road to confirm and thank him for removing the encroaching wall. It was felt that due to OxonCC's request to remove the wall, the bank may be unstable and the wall potentially unsafe. **Action: MR to speak to landowner.**

9. County Councillor's Report

BJ reported on the reopening of the A4183. He also reported that the County Council was still finalizing its budget, but that no decisions had yet been taken. **Action: BJ to email SE with any updates.** BJ also reported that he had some funds left in his Councillor Community Budget. It was felt that it could be useful to contribute towards the replacement of the Village Hall window. **Action: SE to download and send to MR.**

10. District Councillor's Report

None.

11. Project updates

Community Woodland. Andy Gunn had confirmed that their funding for improvements to Chilswell Valley and other nature reserves had been approved and a steering group meeting was planned for 14th January. MR, SE and hopefully Riki Therival would attend and investigate ways to link in with the community woodland.

Hinksey Hill traffic issues. The A4183 reopened just before Christmas with a 40mph speed limit and two VAS. SE had chased the Community Safety Partnership regarding the appeal for funding towards the VAS and was still waiting for a response. LLF reported that the mobile speeding camera had been deployed regularly on Hinksey Hill, and therefore felt that the Community Speed Watch wasn't needed at present.

12. Footbridge over railway

No update.

13. Parish Emergency Plan

With the current flooding it was felt a debrief following the event would be needed to assess the efficiency of the plan and its implementation.

14. Verge maintenance contract

It was noted that BGG had completed two seasons, and had not raised their prices for the second season. The Council were happy with the standard of the work, and felt it was good value for money. SE recommended reappointing BGG for a third season and carrying out a full tendering process for the following year. Peter Rawcliffe had also recommended separating the wildflower meadow portion of the contract, as he felt it could be carried out to a higher standard by a more specialist contractor. The Council **resolved** to reappoint BGG for the 2014 grounds maintenance, subject to approving their quote, and to tender separately for the wildflower meadow maintenance based on Peter Rawcliffe's specifications. **Action: SE to obtain quote from BGG and tender for wildflower meadow maintenance.**

15. 2014/15 budget

The 2014/15 draft budget had been formulated by SE, MR and SB and was circulated to the Council. The following amended figures for 2013/14 projected were noted: expenditure subtotal £13,398, total £7,638, and from reserves £593.

The Council **resolved** to agree the budgets with the amendments detailed above, requesting a precept for 2014/15 of £7250.

SE circulated proposals to increase the interest on the Council reserves by switching to a higher-rate deposit account. The Council **resolved** to postpone discussion until the February meeting. **Action: SE to add to February agenda.**

16. Broadband coverage

Tom Barron had experienced problems with the speed and connection of his broadband and canvassed the views of other parishioners who had reported similar problems. SE had confirmed that OxonCC was in the process of rolling-out faster broadband around the County, and that South Hinksey was included in that. SE had contacted Bob Johnston. He was in touch with the officer responsible, Martyn Ward, and would inform the Council of any progress. SE had informed Tom Barron.

17. Sewage overflow

Discussed under item 3.

18. Any other business

Permitted Development. The Council was aware that some parishioners were unclear about the planning situation regarding two pieces of permitted development in the parish. The Council felt that it would be helpful to clarify the situation with the Planning department. **Action: SE and MR to inform landowners of both developments and SE to contact Planning.**

19. Feedback from members of the public

None.

Time concluded: 9:10pm

MINUTES SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Signed: _____
Maggie Rawcliffe – Chair

Date: _____

Date of next meetings:

3rd February 2014, 7:30pm, South Hinksey Village Hall

3rd March 2014, 7:30pm, South Hinksey Village Hall

Abbreviations: OxonCC – Oxfordshire County Council; VoWHDC – Vale of White Horse District Council; OCC – Oxford City Council; MR/MF/SB/LLF/CC/SE/BJ – initials of meeting attendees