

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

Monday 14th December 2015

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

Geoffrey Ferres (Clerk), Cllr Debby Hallett (VoWHDC), Cllr Bob Johnston (OxonCC)

Other attendees: None

Time commenced: 7.05pm

1. Apologies

Cllr Emily Smith (VoWHDC)

2. Declarations of interest

MR – Village Hall.

3. Public questions, comments or representations

None.

4. Minutes of November 2015 meeting

The Council **resolved** to agree the minutes of the November 2015 meeting.

5. Matters arising

Bench by the General Elliott. The bench has been removed.

Post box in Manor Road. The Clerk reported that Peter Rawcliffe had contacted Royal Mail who had told him that the post box needed full refurbishment which should happen before the current financial year ends in March.

Defibrillator. The Clerk reported that Peter Rawcliffe is still making arrangements for the existing sign to be moved to the front of the building.

Village Emergency Telephone System. The Clerk regretted he had yet to seek a volunteer through Shinfo to run such a system. It was agreed it would not be advisable to try to do so before the next meeting.

Bagley Croft. The Clerk forwarded the VoWHDC Tree Officer's report to all councillors and wrote to him requesting he send us another report after his next visit.

6. Finance – payments and receipts

Payments

Payee	Reason	Amount	Power to act
Freeths LLP	Legal advice re Village Hall	£600.00	s226 LGA 1972

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Payee	Reason	Amount	Power to act
Geoffrey Ferres	Expenses	£20.66	S112 LGA 1972

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

Receipts

Payer	Reason	Amount
Allsworth	Grave reservation fee	£600.00

7. Planning applications

Grove House, Badger Lane: discharge of condition 5 (Arboricultural Method) of planning permission for construction of timber framed garage with storage above, addition of 1st floor above existing garage, conversion of garage into games room, and new detached building to enclose existing external swimming pool [P15/V2635/DIS] The Council noted this was for information only and was not in fact a planning application.

Hinksey House, Hinksey Hill: certificate of lawfulness for a proposed car port, garage and garden/games room [P15/V2758/LDP] The Council noted this was for information only and was not in fact a planning application.

The Bungalow, Hinksey Hill Farm: removal of conditions 5 (windows & structures) and 6 (garage) of planning permission for demolition of existing bungalow and erection of a two-bedroom bungalow with double car port [P15/V2760/FUL] [Deadline: 22 December] MR absented herself for this item and SB took the chair. The Council **resolved** to take no action.

48 Manor Road: proposed new timber entrance gates and posts, together with new vehicular access [P15/V2714/HH] [Deadline: 10 January] The Council **resolved** that the Clerk should write asking if OxonCC was satisfied the arrangements allowed for safe turning and egress in forward gear.

8. Correspondence

None.

9. County Councillor's report

BJ reported that there remained great uncertainty about OxonCC's 2016-17 budget. OxonCC still awaited the Government's final decisions regarding Non-Domestic Rates, its future share of the New Homes Bonus and a 2% Council Tax increase to fund adult social care.

With regard to recent traffic problems affecting Hinksey Hill, BJ stated that it appeared the cause was not the system but people changing their routes due to the disruption caused by work on the North Oxford roundabouts. BJ reported that Network Rail has scrapped the old designs for the footbridge over the railway lines and is looking for new ones. BJ gave latest dates for electrification and said he believed the new culvert that was to be built in an effort to prevent the lines flooding at Hinksey must link to the planned Western Conveyance.

10. District Councillors' report

DH emphasised a greater share of the New Homes Bonus for OxonCC would be bad news for VoWHDC. She updated the Council regarding the Westway development, the plans to replace the railway bridge over the Botley Road and the transformation of Frideswide Square.

11. Campaigns

Barleycott Lane. The Clerk reported that the lane was repaired on 5th November.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

South Hinksey to North Hinksey footpath. The Clerk reported he has not heard from the member of the Midcounties Co-operative Executive since the last meeting. It was agreed there was no need to take any further action before the next meeting.

12. General Elliott

The Clerk reported that he had received a telephone call from Cass Hazlewood on 5th November in response to his letter to Helen Hazlewood. He informed the council that Mr Hazlewood had told him the work would be done in the New Year and a proper written response would be sent giving details and firm dates. As yet he had received no further communication but MM reported she has spoken to Mrs Hazlewood. It was agreed there was no need to take any further action before the next meeting.

13. Track beside A34 between South Hinksey and Botley

The Clerk has contacted the Parish Clerk of North Hinksey seeking the support of North Hinksey Parish Council for lobbying OxonCC regarding the narrowness of the track, its condition, the branches obstructing it and the lack of a safety barrier and understands North Hinksey Parish Council has a meeting on Thursday 17th December. DH believed there might be an opportunity to link improvement of the track to the Westway redevelopment. LLF suggested contacting Sustrans. **Action: Clerk to seek action regarding the overgrown vegetation.**

14. Burial ground

MM reported she did not yet know the outcome of her approach for further funding from the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment but she had established no funding was available in the current financial year from OxonCC or VoWHDC.

In the light of a Financial Report presented by the Clerk, the Council **resolved** to approve expenditure of up to £7,000 in the current financial year on the removal of the leylandii and the planting of a new hedge. **Action: Clerk to approach Ringrose Trees and Carol Colclough regarding possible dates for the work.**

15. Traffic issues

Speed limits on Hinksey Hill and in the village. SB has created and circulated the test version of an online survey. The Council discussed the value of the original question about the possible cost of the work and it was eventually agreed it was better omitted on the basis there was a two-step process: the Council first needed to establish the level of concern and then consider what action, if any, to take. It was also agreed it would not be advisable to circulate the survey before the next meeting.

The Clerk had contacted Colin Weyer of Sunningwell Parish Council for an update regarding its efforts to obtain a 30mph limit in Boars Hill and had circulated his reply. **Action: LLF to draft a response to Colin Weyer.**

Letter from Peter Collins regarding trench on Hinksey Hill. LLF had gone to meet Mr Collins and to see the trench for herself. She suggested the way forward would be to arrange a site visit with OxonCC. **Action: LLF to contact OxonCC.**

16. Maintenance issues

A34 flyover. It was agreed to contact Mark Kemp, a Deputy Director at OxonCC, who was understood to be responsible for liaison between OxonCC and Highways England. **Action: Clerk to contact Mark Kemp.**

Autumn leaves. The Clerk reported that the specification for the maintenance contractors included in relation to weed control: "twice a year treating weeds and removing the debris along pavements, curbs and roadsides on Manor Road, St Lawrence Road and Parker Road in South Hinksey village, and along Hinksey Hill".

The condition of the Hinksey Hill pavements was a matter of particular concern to residents, not only the pavements that lie within this parish but those that lie within the parish of Kennington.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

BJ said it was usual to weed in spring and again in October but it appeared the Parish Council's contractors had not weeded in October.

It was suggested the Westwood Hotel be encouraged to join in complaints about the condition of the pavements and that the Clerk should contact Kennington Parish Council about the pavements for which it is responsible. It might be appropriate to investigate whether the Council could take over responsibility for the pavements in question from its neighbour.

Action: LLF to report the condition of the pavement on both sides to OxonCC using FixMyStreet; Clerk to contact Kennington Parish Council.

St John's College fence. LLF was concerned about the state of this fence and said she would write to the College. **Action: LLF to write to St John's College.**

17. Village Hall

The Clerk reported that he had eventually obtained further advice from Lesley Pollock of Henmans Freeth at no extra cost to the Parish Council. He had sent her redraft of the vesting declaration to the Village Hall Management Committee. Peter Rawcliffe had today sent a new version of the vesting declaration back to the Parish Council. CC said it was essential to follow proper procedure. The correct step now was for the Parish Council to ask Lesley Pollock whether to sign the new version. **Action: Clerk to contact Lesley Pollock for further advice.**

18. 2016-17 Budget

The Clerk had circulated a report regarding the Council's current financial position and placed a report on the table showing that because the Council Tax base for South Hinksey for 2016-17 is almost 3.5% up on 2015-16 the Parish Council's Precept for 2016-17 could be increased by this amount without any increase in the amount included in residents' Council Tax.

19. Network Rail's Hinksey Flood Alleviation Scheme

The Clerk reported that he had been contacted by Matthew Thompson from Network Rail about forthcoming work to reduce the risk of the railway lines flooding in the Hinksey area. Work would take place on Sundays from 21st February to 17th July, and the line would be closed for 16 days between 23rd July and 7th August. He had put Mr Thompson in contact with the Village Hall Management Committee as he wanted to hire it for a drop-in event.

20. Any other business

None.

21. Feedback from members of the public

None.

Time concluded: 9.25pm

MINUTES SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Date of the next Parish Council meeting: 4th January 2016 at 7.30pm
in South Hinksey Village Hall

Signed: _____

Date: _____