

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

Monday 9th May 2016

Present: Sarah Balaam (Vice-Chair), Christine Chater, Matthew Frohn, Liz LeFevre, Maggie Rawcliffe (Chair)
Geoffrey Ferres (Clerk), Cllr Bob Johnston (OxonCC), Cllr Emily Smith (VoWHDC)

Other attendees: Linda Bloch, Hilary Briffett, Terry Claridge, Valerie Claridge, Patricia Curtis, Father Benjamin Drury, Shirley Franklin

Time commenced: 7.30pm

1. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2016-17

There were no nominations.

MR was elected as chairman for this meeting.

The Clerk informed the Council he had sought advice from VoWHDC's Monitoring Officer and he was now awaiting advice from the Society of Local Council Clerks about the legal position when a continuing Councillor does not wish to continue as Chairman but no other Councillor is willing to stand.

Action: MF to draft an item for Shinfo seeking someone willing to join the Council with a view to becoming Chairman.

2. Apologies

Cllr Debby Hallett (VoWHDC).

3. Declarations of interest

None.

4. Public questions, comments or representations

HB attended the meeting in connection with item 17; Father Benjamin Drury attended the meeting in connection with item 18; and four members of the public attended the meeting in connection with item 20.

5. Minutes of April 2016 meeting

The Council **resolved** to agree the minutes of the April 2016 meeting subject to the following corrections: in item 11 the words "SB and MF both said" were replaced with the words "SB, MF and LLF all said"; in item 19 the initials MF were replaced with the initials MC.

In response to concerns expressed by CC about draft minutes being published on the website, the Clerk assured the Council that in future only the final, signed minutes would be published there.

6. Matters arising

Residents' parking schemes and weight restrictions. The Clerk suggested it would be most productive to put an item on the agenda of the next meeting covering parking restrictions and weight restrictions where the Council could consider the most effective response to the issues raised at the last meeting. **Action: Clerk to include item on the agenda of the next meeting.**

Signed: 

Date: 6 June 16

Hinksey House, Hinksey Hill. A parishioner had contacted the Council about woven hazel panels erected and bushes recently planted along the boundary. LLF said she had checked and informed the parishioner that there were no relevant planning conditions.

Hinksey Hill noticeboard. The Clerk reported that the noticeboard had been repaired under Financial Regulation 3.4 as a matter of extreme urgency due to its dangerous condition.

7. Finance – payments and receipts

Payments

Payee	Reason	Amount	Power to act
BGG Garden and Tree Care	October and April grass cutting	£883.04	s96 HA 1980
South Hinksey Village Hall	Hire of hall for special briefing session	£18.00	s133 LGA 1972
D J Cullen	Removal of damaged seat in village	£72.00	s3 PCA 1957
Came & Company	Insurance from 1 st June 2016	£338.48	s140 LGA 1972

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

Receipts

Payer	Reason	Amount
VoWHDC	Transitional grant + half precept	£4,003.00
Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment	Grant for removal of Leylandii	£2,400.00
Midcounties Co-op Ltd - Funerals	Plot and interment fees re Howkins	£600.00

8. County Councillor's report

BJ's report covered several matters: he spoke about Local Transport Plan 4 "Connecting Oxfordshire 2015-2031" and said he believed the lorry park proposed for Lodge Hill might be dropped; he reported a concern raised about Network Rail's Hinksey Flood Alleviation Scheme and said he did not see how the scheme could significantly threaten properties in the village; he said there had now been two studies commissioned about the options for unitary authorities in Oxfordshire.

9. Planning applications

None.

10. Correspondence

General Elliott. The Clerk brought to the Council's attention a message from Vale Brewery saying that the General Elliott is currently being marketed by Davis Coffey Lyons and it hopes a buyer will be found. The brewery said this is much more likely if it could avoid boarding up the property again once it becomes vacant. It therefore asked if the Council and local residents could organise a neighbourhood watch/security scheme. MR said she had spoken to the local Neighbourhood Watch. MR said villagers should be informed of the situation. Members were concerned the Council should not accept any responsibility for the security of the General Elliott but felt the brewery could be sure residents would report suspicious activity. **Action: MR to look for telephone number.**

VoWHDC Summer Town and Parish Forum. The Clerk reported that VoWHDC has given early notification that the Summer Town and Parish Forum will be held on Thursday 7th July between 6pm and 9pm. The Council would be invited to send two representatives. SB said she would not be available to attend on that date.

Signed:



Date:

6 June 16

11. District Councillors' report

DH and ES had circulated a written report which ES introduced. ES said DH has been a member of a cross-party group that has produced the recommendations for changes to VoWHDC's planning processes mentioned in the written report.

ES said she understands the Rugby Club in North Hinksey intends to relinquish the licence it was granted under which the event had been planned for 30th April. She remained concerned about the process followed in relation to the issuing of the licence: whilst she accepted VoWHDC had not been under any legal duty to consult any parish council, it had only consulted North Hinksey Parish Council although access to the event was to be exclusively through South Hinksey.

12. Annual Governance Statement 2015-16

The Council went through the Annual Governance Statement and **agreed** the answer to each question. MR as Chairman of the meeting and the Clerk then signed it.

13. Heavy Goods Vehicles in South Hinksey village

MR reported that OxonCC's Lee Turner has finally replied, confirming the work that OxonCC will undertake and the work the Council will be expected to undertake. He has given her to understand that the work OxonCC has agreed to carry out will be done in May. **Action: Clerk to contact BGG for an estimate in relation to the work required.**

BJ offered to contact OxonCC's Mark Kemp. **Action: BJ to contact OxonCC's Mark Kemp.**

14. Campaigns

South Hinksey to North Hinksey footpath. The Clerk has received a communication from Andy Coburn, Property Manager South for the Midcounties Co-op saying: "We are currently in the process of seeking a trespass notice so that we can remove the rough sleepers from the land following a number of complaints ... from members of the public."

He went on to say: "Given the problems we have been experiencing with rough sleepers and the measures we are about to implement, it would not be advisable at this point in time to open up our boundary further to create easier access."

SB and CC both said the Co-op's position was entirely understandable.

Action: Clerk to thank Mr Coburn for his reply.

Footbridge over the railway. Nothing to report.

Flood barrier. Nothing to report.

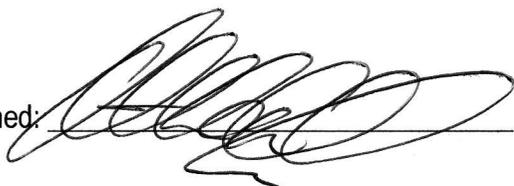
15. Her Majesty the Queen's 90th birthday

LLF reported that about 60-70 people were expected to attend the Hinksey Hill barbecue on Saturday 11th June. The Clerk apologised for confusion regarding the application for closure of Manor Road for the street party on Sunday 12th June: his notes of the last meeting had not recorded who was to submit the application and he had failed to notice the Chairman's addition to his draft minutes inserting a statement that he was to do it. He had therefore been unaware before tonight that he had been expected to do this.

MF offered to deal with the road closure and to contact Adrian Porter. **Action: MF to contact VoWHDC regarding the closure of Manor Road.**

The Clerk said he understood the Council's insurers would expect the Council to have a risk assessment and, so far as he was aware, he has not inherited one from his predecessor. **Action: Clerk to draft a risk assessment for approval at the next meeting, applicable to both events.**

Signed:



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16. Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership's Strategic Economic Plan refresh

MR said she was concerned about the plan from what had been said about it. ES said whatever one's view of the proposed growth, there were undoubtedly issues about infrastructure and local benefit. She said there were draft responses that could be viewed on the website.

MF was concerned how the Council could take a position on the plan when none of the members has found the time to read it. He therefore proposed that all the Council could properly agree was to call for full, public consultation on the plan. **Action: Clerk to write requesting full, public consultation.**

17. Beehives

HB had asked the Council to permit her to move her beehives into the Community Woodland so that she would be able to attend to them more easily.

CC advised that the Council should issue a licence at a peppercorn rent. Concerns were raised about insurance. HB said she had £5m public liability insurance as a member of the Oxfordshire Beekeepers Association. ES believed it might be worth contacting North Hinksey Parish Council as she believed it may have considered issues around beehives. **Action: Clerk to contact the Council's insurers and North Hinksey Parish Council.**

18. Grant application

Father James Wilkinson has written to the Parish Council following up discussions last year about creating a path across the churchyard and the burial ground. Father Benjamin Drury explained that two very different quotes had been received.

Following a lengthy discussion, it was **agreed** to return to the application at the next meeting when the Clerk would table the 2015-16 draft accounts and the Council would consider a revised 2016-17 budget. Father Drury was recommended to obtain a third quotation. ES mentioned VoWHDC's Capital Community Grants Scheme as a possible source of funding that could be investigated.

19. Track beside A34 between South Hinksey and Botley

CC
LLF reported that she had been ^{told} ~~led to believe~~ the track would ^{is} ~~be~~ the responsibility of Highways England because it is responsible for the A34 but Highways England informed her the track was nothing to do with them and must therefore be the responsibility of OxonCC.

20. Burial ground

Several members of the public addressed the Council in connection with a request that the Council approve an application to purchase a plot in the burial ground for the interment of Patricia Curtis and her late husband Peter who had died on 4th May.

It was explained that Mrs Curtis has three aunts buried in the burial ground and an uncle and one set of grandparents buried in St Laurence's churchyard.

The Council **resolved** to approve the application. **Action: MR to give the decision by telephone.**

21. Commemorating Elizabeth Halcro

MR reported that the commemorative tree would be planted in St Laurence's churchyard, not the burial ground.

22. Traffic issues

Speed limits on Hinksey Hill and in the village. The Clerk suggested the survey be launched on Wednesday 11th May but LLF and CC recommended it be left until after the next meeting.

Signed: 

Date: 6 Jan 16

Trench on Hinksey Hill. LLF reported that Mr Collins has written to his MP, Nicola Blackwood. MF said he cycled down the hill and had not noticed the trench but would look out for it before the next meeting. **Action: LLF to contact BJ for advice and assistance in dealing with OxonCC.**

23. Maintenance issues

Noticeboard. The Council **resolved** to accept an estimate of £290 (plus VAT) from a builder for replacing the noticeboard that had formerly stood in Manor Road.

Betty Lane stile. LLF had contacted OxonCC and been advised that the stile was nothing to do with any public right of way and OxonCC had no responsibility to repair or replace it.

BJ suggested the Council could use its general powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 to pay for the work.

As a first step it was agreed the Council could obtain an estimate for the work and ^{financial support} seek advice from OxonCC ^{for part} as ^{funds} ~~an appropriate~~ ^{approach} to the best replacement for the wooden stile.

24. Any other business

None.

25. Feedback from members of the public

None.

Time concluded: 9.35pm

MINUTES SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Date of the next Parish Council meeting: 6th June 2016 at 7.30pm
in South Hinksey Village Hall

Signed: _____



Date: _____

6 June 16