

## **Minutes of the South Hinksey Annual Parish Meeting**

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2011**

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**Present:** Sarah Balaam (Vice-Chair, Parish Council); Tom Barron (Parish Councillor); Sheridan Edward (Parish Clerk); Arash Fatemian (Councillor, OxonCC); Richard King; Liz LeFevre (Parish Councillor); Ann Markham; Mark Parker; Adrian Porter; Maggie Rawcliffe (Chair, Parish Council); Peter Rawcliffe (Chair, Village Hall Management Committee); Jo Slater; Linda Slater

### **1. Apologies**

Elizabeth Halcro

### **2. Minutes of the 2010 APM**

Read and agreed.

### **3. Report of the Parochial Church Council**

MR on behalf of the PCC reported that they were still gathering estimates for work on external lighting and paths and also looking at internal lighting.

### **4. Report of the Village Hall Management Committee**

PR reported that the hall was in good health following the recent problems with the drain. Despite the outlay on the work and in anticipation of a grant from the Parish Council, the finances remained healthy with budget for future repair work following the recommendations made in the recent survey. David Minns had stepped down as Chair and the VHMC thanked him for his hard work over the years. PR thanked MR for her work as Bookings Secretary and reported very healthy income from bookings, with 80% of booking coming from outside the local community, noting the effectiveness of Google Local Business Centre. PR also thanked Kevin for his work during the year as caretaker. PR also noted that three other people had offered support since the recent AGM: Matthew Balaam for architectural advice; Ann Markham would do the flowers and plants outside the hall until EH is well enough to do them again; and Philip Saugman with managing upcoming repairs and maintenance. PR hoped that there would be another entertainment evening the coming February and invited suggestions. PR also noted the important contribution that Elizabeth Halcro had made over many years and the VHMC thanked her for her hard work.

## **5. Report of the Parish Council**

MR reported on the following items:

### **Chairman**

At the beginning of the year, Clive Briffett stepped down as Chair of the Council after many years of service. The Council wishes to thank him for the valuable contribution he has made to the Council and the local community. Following his resignation, Tom Barron joined the Council and Maggie Rawcliffe was appointed Chairman.

### **Grants**

This year the Council has made grants to the following causes: St Laurence Church (£1000 for renovation and improvements); South Hinksey Village Hall (£500 towards general running costs)

### **Hinksey Hill**

The Council, and esp. Cllr Liz LeFevre, have been addressing traffic and pedestrian safety issues along Hinksey Hill. A speed restriction order at the top of Hinksey Hill is pending and will be decided upon by Oxfordshire County Council in June. With the County Council, the Parish Council is also investigating other traffic-calming measures as well as replacement of the non-slip road surface. The Parish Council has also cleared the pavements along Hinksey Hill to increase pedestrian safety.

### **Village Hall**

The Council is in the final stages of taking over ownership of the Village Hall. This is to ensure it remains in the control of the local community, but will not affect the day-to-day running, which will remain with the Village Hall Management Committee.

### **Community Land**

The Council, and esp. Cllr Tom Barron, have been working to develop the area of community land on Manor Road. The Council facilitated the formation of a committee and is pleased to report that progress is going well. The Council wishes to thank Mark Parker and the committee for their work.

### **Verge and Footpath Maintenance**

The Council has formulated a more comprehensive system for the maintenance of footpaths and verges throughout the parish, which began this April. The Council has also utilized the free services of the National Probation Service scheme to clear many previously neglected areas. The Council wishes to thank the NPS and the probationers for their work. A bridge along the Devil's Backbone has also been replaced and a grit bin provided by the railway bridge to help with clearing and gritting in future.

### **Parking on St Lawrence Road**

The Council is working to relieve parking congestion along St Lawrence Road and has met with local residents. After looking into the possibility of the creation of a car park to relieve on-road parking, unfortunately it wasn't financially viable for the Parish Council. However, details have been passed on to local residents, should they wish to pursue privately. The Council is also discussing possible solutions with Oxfordshire County Council.

### **Flooding Report**

PR reported that the planned culverts under the track to the electric substation were still due to be carried out and Peter Dela had stated that the work would probably be sent out for tender the following month. A symposium arranged by Oxford Flood Alliance had been held in South Hinksey recently and another was planned for the next year. SB reported that a local resident had claimed ownership of the Manor Road Ditch and the Parish Council was therefore unable to carry out the work to clear it. However, Highways had cleared the roadside of the ditch and the Parish Council would be meeting with the owner to discuss future work on the site.

### **Wildflower Meadow**

PR reported that the meadow was in its third year and continued to improve. There was still coarse grass but this would gradually be replaced and more planting was due soon. PR also suggested that the wildflowers could be used on roadsides and verges throughout the parish, that it would attract wildlife and also save money on maintenance. It was agreed that this be raised at a future Council meeting. PR suggested picnics / activities in the meadow for children.

The Council wished to thank Peter Rawcliffe, Linda Slater, Sheridan Edward and Oxfordshire Council Councillor, Arash Fatemian, for their support throughout the year.

## **6. Questions from Parishioners**

**Low Carbon Initiative.** AM reported that she had attended a Low Carbon Initiative meeting at New Hinksey recently and suggested that it be considered by the parish. Action: MR to obtain details from AM to discuss at future Council meeting.

**Community Land.** MP reported that work was planned and should be undertaken soon on the community land. He outlined the plans for the area and would submit plans to LS to be included in the upcoming edition of the Echo.

**Date of 2012 APM: To be confirmed**