

Minutes of the South Hinksey Annual Parish Meeting

Monday 13th May 2013

Present: Ann Allsworth, Sarah Balaam, Christine Chater, Sheridan Edward (Parish Clerk), Richard King, Liz LeFevre, Maggie Rawcliffe, Peter Rawcliffe.

1. Apologies

None.

2. Minutes of the 2012 APM

Read and agreed.

3. Report of the Parish Council

MR delivered the following report on behalf of the Parish Council:

Councillors

Sandra Bingham resigned earlier in the year. The Council thank her for her work. Christine Chater and Matthew Frohn joined the Council. They've been active and valued members of the Council and thank you to them for their contribution so far. Bob Johnston was elected as County Councillor for the Kennington & Radley ward.

A34 noise and safety issues

The Council has been continuing to campaign for a reduced speed limit along the A34 past South Hinksey. Nicola Blackwood MP had carried out a visit with the Council and had also met with the Minister for Transport about the A34, but progress had been slow. Resurfacing work had been carried out on part of the A34 carriageway outside South Hinksey, and it was hoped that this would reduce traffic noise, but unfortunately not all the road had been resurfaced. The Council remains hopeful that a lower speed limit, if introduced, would reduce noise.

Flooding

Work on the last serious pinch point in Kennington, Munday's Bridge, is well underway. It is anticipated that this will be finishes by the end of the summer.

Replacement railway footbridge

The Council has been supporting the campaign by the community, and particularly Peter Rawcliffe and Diego Vargas, for ramps to be included to the replacement footbridge at the end of the Devil's Backbone, and had been impressed by the support the campaign has received from members of the City Council, the VoWHDC, and local MPs. Network Rail are currently in the process of appealing the decision by the City Council to refuse prior approval.

Community Woodland

The Council has worked with Prof. Riki Therivel from Oxford Brookes University on the long-term maintenance and development of the community woodland. Paths are now being created through the woodland and a bench has been installed in memory of Clive Briffett. The woodland continues to be funded entirely from grants from the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment and the Forestry Commission.

Hinksey Hill traffic

The Council, and particularly Cllr Liz LeFevre, are continuing to work with Oxfordshire Highways and Thames Valley Police to improve the road conditions and safety along Hinksey Hill. Work has been carried out to replace the anti-skid surface at the top of Hinksey Hill and to cut back vegetation along the footway. The Council are still working on possible speed awareness tools including community speedwatch and vehicle activated signs.

Foot paths and stiles

Maggie Rawcliffe has been working with Mark Sumner, footpaths officer for Oxon County Council. He has met with the tenant Nick Frearson, and Frankie who keeps horses on the fields, to discuss the very muddy areas around the stiles on John Piers and Barleycott Lanes. Frankie has reported that it is proposed that the stiles be replaced with kissing gates, and work is to be done to reduce the mud. This is yet to be confirmed by Mark Sumner.

Devil's Backbone.

The Council wish to ensure the rights of pedestrians, to make it safer for pedestrians, and to achieve a balance between users of the footpath. The Council are awaiting the results of a site visit by Lee Turner (Highways) to confirm what signs are possible. Mark Sumner, Footpaths Officer, had stated that it was very unlikely that barriers would be reinstated. Recent reports of anglers riding motorcycles on the footpath have been reported to PC Carl Bryant. He returns to duty 17/05/13, when he is going to visit and advise. He has asked to be kept informed of any activities of a mountain biking club.

Manor Road Ditch

Peta Dela Drainage engineer VoWHDC has stated that the ditch at the open section at the top of Manor Road is fit for purpose. If any changes to the pipes under Manor Road are proposed, the PC will make sure that possible effects on land and properties further down is taken into consideration.

Finance

The Council has received a clean bill-of-health from both the internal and external auditors at the last audit. Due to a build up of reserves, Council had been able to reduce the precept by over 50% to £4020 for 2012/13, and with reduced overheads and greater than expected income, was able to end the year £2,600 ahead of projections. The precept for the 2013/14 has been set at £7045.

Community Emergency Plan

The Council was supporting the community in formulating a community plan for mitigating the effect of any emergencies, particularly flooding and heavy snow. The Council is in the process of installing a central community store of sand for sandbags, and salt for road gritting.

Thanks

The Council wishes to thank the following people:

- Peter Rawcliffe for campaigning and work on flooding and railway bridge.
- Diego Vargas and all those involved in the railway bridge campaign.
- David Rawcliffe and Linda Slater for their work maintaining the website and SHInfo respectively.
- Riki Therivel for her help with the Community Woodland.
- Adrian Porter for community emergency plan and Thames Water / sewage.

I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for their hard work and enthusiasm. I know they would join me in thanking our Clerk, Sheridan Edward, for all his excellent work.

4. Report of the Village Hall Management Committee

This item was dealt with in the Village Hall Annual Meeting, held immediately before this meeting. Peter Rawcliffe delivered a report and there was discussion. It was attended by all who attended this meeting. See separate record.

5. Report of the Parochial Church Council

Maggie Rawcliffe read out a report from Pearl Livett, church warden. The church had been struggling through another year with a small congregation, but were pleased with the support from villagers when they opened for afternoon tea. The services were to be reduced to a Eucharist on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month, and during the summer an evensong at 5pm with afternoon tea at 4pm beforehand. The new schedule would start from May. A flyer would be delivered to every household giving the dates and times of the services until the end of October and they extend a warm welcome to all and serve tea and coffee after each service which gives time to socialise with any newcomers.

6. Questions from Parishioners

None.

Date of 2014 APM: to be confirmed