

BRIGHTWELL CUM SOTWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting duly convened and held on 21st February 2012 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs D. Fox (Chair), J. Rodda, L. Dixon, T. Burton, A. Wood, H. Baines and C. Collett.

In attendance: Mrs L. Dalby (Clerk), County Cllr L. Atkins and four members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence Apologies were received from Cllr Gilgrass.	
2. Minutes of the meeting held on 17th January 2012 The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman.	
3. Declarations of personal and prejudicial interest As Trustees of the Charity responsible for the Recreation Ground all members of the Council who were present declared an interest under section 9 of the Code of Conduct in respect of all matters relating to the Recreation ground. The following personal interests were declared: All Councillors in matters relating to the Village Community Stores, Cllr Collett as a District Councillor in matters relating to SODC. Cllr Rodda in matters relating to St. Agatha's Church and the Village Hall. Cllr Wood in matters relating to correspondence regarding the name Slade End Farm.	
4. Public Participation Sue Robson gave a progress report for the Jubilee Celebrations on June 2 nd . A stage will be erected for the bands to perform on and the cricket square cordoned off, there will be various stalls and games along with a hog roast. The cost of staging the event will be £1500 with any profit made going to Save the Children Fund. Steve Mellor from Waites Homes joined a discussion about Site E and urged the Council to continue to make representations to the Inspector and SODC. A resident suggestion that the disused area of the allotments could be converted into a Community Orchard. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the Village Hall Trustees asking for their views of this suggestion. It was also agreed that broader views should be sought for other potential sites.	
5. Reports a) County Councillor's Report 1. Salt, and salt bins, were finally delivered to Brightwell-cum-Sotwell just before the snowfall last week. It would be interesting to hear if they were used! 2. Work continues on the new Youth and Children's Centre at Wigod Way in Wallingford, which will serve the area. The key OCC point at the moment is sorting out the transfer and timing of S106 funds which will support the refurbishment of the former Pentecostal Church. 3. OCC set its budget on 10 th February. The OCC council tax will remain at last year's levels. As part of the settlement, there is to be investment in high-speed broadband in the area. I am trying to find out exactly what this will include and the area to be covered and will report back on them in due course – once I find something out! 4. There is considerable concern in Wallingford around the Inspector's decision to make Site E rather than Site B the strategic site for housing. From the perspective of OCC on its	

areas of responsibility (schools, highways and transport) either of the 2 sites will meet key criteria for acceptability, and neither has flaws which would rule it out.

5. OCC Cabinet will be making a decision on the Minerals Strategy (and thus the proposal to put a gravel pit between Wallingford and Cholsey) on 13th March: the report and recommendations will be available from 6th March. I will attend the meeting and put forward the many reasons why, if this proposal has not been dropped, it should be.

6. The decision on any changes to bus services will be made on 22nd March. I plan to attend the relevant meeting to represent local views, if that is needed.

7. I have some concerns about the quality of social care locally, and will be following these up with relevant senior staff at County Hall.

b) District Councillor's Report

Core Strategy

Following examination hearings held last year, the Inspector has identified some further changes to the core strategy that he considers should be advertised for public representations to be made on their soundness or otherwise.

SODC are now inviting representations from members of the public or other interested stakeholders on the proposed 'main modifications' to the Submission Core Strategy set out in the 'main modification' schedule of changes dated February 2012. Some changes (shaded in grey in the schedule) were previously advertised in July 2011, and are not open for comment again as part of the current consultation.

The changes will be open for comment for a six week period starting on Friday 3 February. All representations must be received by Friday 23rd March 2012 at 4.30pm precisely. These will then be passed to the Inspector for his consideration. If the Inspector decides to hold additional examination hearing sessions, this could result in a slight delay to the adoption date of the core strategy, which is currently forecast to occur in May 2012.

Some of the key changes now being advertised are as follows:

- the exclusion of a Green Belt review at Wheatley;
- the deferral of the strategic allocation at Thame to the Neighbourhood Plan;
- the acceptance of a housing allocation cap at Henley of 400 new homes, but with a suggestion that this cap could be eased by up to 50 homes if detailed work shows that this can be identified;
- the changing of the site for the housing allocation in Wallingford from Site B (west of the town) to Site E (south of the town).

Not all of the Inspector's changes are consistent with the Council's position, so the Council will be submitting a response asking the Inspector to reconsider some of his proposed changes. This will follow on from the Council's Fact Check document (SODC/32) prepared in December, and available on

www.southoxon.gov.uk/corestrategyexamination

You can access all this information online by visiting

www.southoxon.gov.uk/corestrategy and clicking on the Mid Examination Publication

consultation link. SODC strongly encourage people to fill in the representation form electronically, either via e-mail or online, as this is the quickest way of responding and also helps ensure that comments are logged accurately.

Council Tax

Residents are being encouraged to sign up for e-billing for their Council Tax.

Summer Challenge 2012 for young people aged 16 +

This summer Oxfordshire County Council is offering over 100 young people across Oxfordshire the opportunity to experience a summer packed with exciting opportunities. The Summer Challenge will include trips, days out, chances to learn new skills and make new friends.

Summer Challenge is a government initiative run by National Citizen Service programme aiming to bring young people from different backgrounds together to make a difference in their communities. It is a voluntary programme for 16-year-olds which focuses on their personal and social development which includes challenging activities, residential experiences and participating in a social action project.

The Summer Challenge is free and open to all 16 year olds in the summer after Year 11.

If you are planning to do any community projects in your parish this Summer that you think 16 year olds could link in to and do voluntary work let us know so we can tell young people involved with the Summer Challenge. This programme is being run through each of the Oxfordshire Youth Hubs.

If any young people are interested they can register at:

[Register an interest in Summer Challenge 2012](#)

Warm Home Health People Project Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire District Councils are part of the Warm Homes Healthy People project which has recently been awarded £160,000 from the Department of Health to help vulnerable people who are struggling to pay their fuel bills. The project, led by NHS Oxfordshire, brings together a wide range of organisations including all of the Oxfordshire local authorities as well as the Citizens Advice Bureaux, Age UK and the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council.

The funding, which has to be spend by the end of March, is being used to provide the following assistance:

- small energy saving home improvements (e.g. draft-proofing) for over 60s;
- benefit entitlement checks for anyone;
- free membership to the ORCC oil bulk-buying scheme for those struggling to afford the cost of heating their home with oil;
- fuel vouchers for benefit recipients and those in fuel poverty;
- food boxes for those struggling to afford or unable to get food.

Residents who are interested in finding out more about the Warm Homes Healthy People project and the help that is available can call the Warm Homes Healthy People Helpline on 0844 887 0005.

Beacon 4th June Wittenham Clumps

A beacon will be lit on Wittenham Clumps at 10pm on 4th June.

c) Clerk's Report

The slide has been repaired.

The FOBS Circus has been cancelled.

Two places have been booked for the Supporting Community Planning Event on 12th March. Cllr Wood agreed to attend.

I am waiting to hear back about speed monitoring at Slade End and Shillingford Hill.

Views are being sought on the Consultation on the Draft Rail Strategy for Oxfordshire.

Cllrs Collett and Rodda have volunteered to attend the OALC Liaison meeting with other member parishes from SODC on 21st March. Does anyone have any specific issues raised at the meeting?

The Village Hall committee have expressed concern that a salt bin has been placed on their land without any consultation. I have explained that Highways chose the position for the salt bin and that the Parish Council had in fact requested a different site.

There is to be a review of District Councillor Numbers briefing session on 29th February at 3pm and 6.30pm at the Cornerstone Arts Centre, Didcot. 2 members of the Council are invited to attend.

d) Planning Report

Planning Application P11/W2103

Single storey timber outbuilding. 2 Copse Cottages, Shillingford Rd, Wallingford.

Approve

e) February Payments

Payee and Reason	£ detail	VAT	£ total
SODC – emptying dog bins	40.66	8.13	48.79
Pipaway Engineering Ltd – slide steps	229.00	45.80	274.80
K. Allen – repairs to slide	345.00		345.00
Post Office Ltd – PAYE August	96.20		96.20
L. Dalby – Clerk's Salary and Expenses February	390.47		390.47
Post Office Ltd – PAYE February	96.20		96.20

The balance of the current account on 25th January stood at £25,137.90.

6. Matters for Discussion/Decision

a) Core Strategy Spending

The commissioning of West Waddy for help with the current consultation at a cost of £2,200 + VAT was confirmed

The Working Party met on 31 January, discussing amongst others, responding to SODC during the presentation period, securing help from West Waddy and letters to Ed Vaisey and the Secretary of State. News came that Berkeley Homes are buying 69 Brookmead Drive to allow access to their site by a bridge across Mill Brook. The Core Strategy needed to be amended because of this and also because 2, Reading Road had not been included. These amendments required a further week to be added to the period when representations are to be made to SODC on changes to the Core Strategy. A February Update was circulated to parishioners on the Council's email list early in the month.

It was agreed to ask the Community Association to refund the current overspend on the Core Strategy and to cover the cost of the newly commissioned work.

b) Planning – P11/W2097 – New roof and bay window to existing rear extension. Dormer windows in roof. Side extension to ground floor only. 2, Copse Cottages, Shillingford Hill. No strong views though concerns of the neighbour of the proximity of the extension to his fence should be noted.

c) APM Agenda

There was a wide ranging discussion about the Annual Parish Meeting and it was agreed that the theme of the evening would be 'involving the community'. The leader of every Parish group and club will be invited to the meeting. The event will also be publicised in the Villager and posters put up around the parish. It was agreed to review the Parish Plan and invite Anton Nath from ORCC to speak at the meeting. The Councillors will hold an informal get together to discuss ideas for the meeting.

d) Play Area Ownership Signs

Playdale have quoted £518 for a polycarbonate ownership sign including timber posts. Delivery and installation would be £495 or just delivery only be £65.

Wickstead have quoted £534 + 5% carriage for a 3mm steel sheet with frame of 10mm diameter steel bar and 5mm thick polycarbonate cover.

It was felt that neither of these options were cost effective. The Council agreed it was important that residents knew who was responsible for the play areas and who to contact in case of a problem. The added benefit of a sign would be to raise the profile of the Parish Council. The Clerk will look into other options such as a Parish Map.

Venturplay Designs (now known as Advent Solutions) have provided a complete quote for repairs to the twister unit at the Rec. Including the spare part it will cost £630. It was agreed to go ahead with this work.

To remove the existing surface from under the chin up bar, remove from site, topsoiling,

	<p>turfing and laying of grass matt would cost £3797. To turn the two mounds at Kings Meadow into a basic bmx circuit would cost in the region of £3k-£5k a skateboard park would cost in the region of £30K</p> <p>It was agreed to consult with young people in the Parish before going ahead with any further work.</p> <p>The work to the trees at Kings Meadow and the Recreation Ground has been completed this week. Mr Cottrell has reported that when stripping the ivy from the trees by the tennis court he discovered large rot cavities in 2 ash trees to the south of the tennis court over the path. He recommends that they be removed. This will cost £650 + VAT and he has available days in May. It was agreed to obtain two further quotes for this work.</p> <p>e) Proposed Memorial Bench The family of Sid and Teresa Moody have asked for permission to place a memorial seat in Kings Meadow. The Council agreed to the request.</p> <p>f) Jubilee Celebrations It was agreed that the Parish Council would underwrite up to £750 of the costs involved with organising the Jubilee Celebrations.</p> <p>g) Community/Jubilee Orchard and Path The Clerk has contacted the Earth Trust about a footpath but has not had a reply. The Clerk will contact the Village Hall Trustees about the orchard.</p>	
7.	Matters for report and items for inclusion on next month's agenda	

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council would take place on Tuesday 20th March at 7.30pm in The Village Hall.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 9.30 pm.

Signed.....Dated.....