

BRIGHTWELL CUM SOTWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting duly convened and held on 19th June 2012 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs D. Fox (Chair) J. Rodda, G. Gillgrass, L. Dixon, A. Wood, C.Strudwicke and C.Collett.

In attendance: Mrs L. Dalby (Clerk) and three members of the public.

1	Apologies for Absence Apologies for absence were received from Cllr H. Baines and County Cllr L. Atkins.	
2	Minutes of the meeting held on 15th May 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. Cllr Dixon declared an interest in Item 6a as she had prepared the application from The Orchard Group.	
4	Public Participation Concerns were raised by members of the public about the proposed location of the Community Orchard. The area has been sympathetically managed by the Environment Group and it was said that it is a rare example of an unattended site with a wide biodiversity – other sites should be considered. It was also pointed out that the current fruit trees in the village produce a surplus of fruit much of which is wasted – would members of the Community be prepared to put in the hard work necessary to manage an Orchard. Cllr Fox explained that the Parish Council isn’t running the project and that comments should be directed to the Village Hall Committee who own the site and Orchard Group (an off shoot of the Environment Group) who are taking the project forward. Cllr Dixon reported that she had proposed the idea as orchards are for various reasons diminishing in the village and she wanted to protect an orchard in perpetuity. It was suggested that an ecological survey be carried out on the site and that there might be wider public consultation on the proposal perhaps through the Community Led Plan.	
5	Reports a) County Councillor’s Report – Lynda Atkins I regret that I won’t be able to attend the meeting of the Council on 19 th of June. I have a commitment involving the appointment of the new Chief Executive of the Oxford Health Trust of which I am the Governor Representative on the appointment panel. I’m happy to take any queries by email/phone or pigeon post, and will be at the meeting in July. I’ve found that it won’t be possible to divert the 130 bus past the Red Lion on Friday and Saturday evenings, as it would mean the timetables being re-written. The next	

opportunity will be the next review of timetables, so that's at least 2 – 3 years away.

The news on the super-fast broadband was circulated a couple of weeks ago. Sadly, it amounted to confirmation that the project had been announced prematurely and will not now go ahead. The new cabinet member for IT is discussing possible alternatives with BT, but I am not holding my breath!

After a very useful meeting with Celia Collett, I have asked Highways at OCC to confirm the details of ownership of Witches Walk so that the position of the new fence can be assessed.

As part of the budget for highways improvements in the area, I am arranging for a site meeting so that we can work out the best way to put a barrier at the end of Back Lane where it meets Church Lane so that pedestrians, buggies and wheelchairs can get through easily but scooters and bikes are prevented from rushing down the slope directly into the road. Celia's help has been very much appreciated in sorting out ways this might be done.

b) District Councillor's Report – Celia Collet

Core Strategy

The Inspector has decided to hold a session on the 21st June 2012 at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, this is in regard to the National Planning Policy Framework and the comments sent to him.

CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) & s106 Agreements

The new CIL will fundamentally alter the existing s106 regimen. CIL will become the main mechanism for the funding of strategic infrastructure and for pooling monies. S106 agreements will be only for the provision of local infrastructure and to mitigate the site specific impact of individual developments.

Town & Parish Boundary Review

The Town & Parish Boundary Review will take place next year after the District Council Boundary review.

c) School Governor's Report - John Sheard

I attended the Governors Finance sub-committee meeting on Tuesday 12th June when the school budget 2012-13 was discussed and finalized. The budget is to be presented for approval to the full Governors meeting on 18th June.

I am no longer a Parish Councillor and the new council has been formed, if anyone is interested in taking over as school governor I would be happy to pass on this role.

d) Fairthorne Memorial Trust Report

Nick Spencer reported that The Edward Fairthorne Memorial Charity is an amalgamation of a number of local trusts formed in the last century. It was established in January 2003 and the object of the Charity 'is the relief of persons resident in the area of benefit who are in need, hardship or distress.' The trustees operate in a discreet way and all applications are treated confidentially.

e) Clerk's Report

I have reported the problem of overgrown vegetation on the footpath between

Shillingford Hill and Wallingford to Highways. I am told that this isn't a priority pavement to be dealt with but it is on the list.

I have emailed Highways asking to arrange a meeting about potential traffic calming at Shillingford Hill and the Slade End junction – I await a response.

Anna Kennedy will be attending the July meeting to discuss Rural Affordable Housing. I will shortly be sending out an email with all the details. Please could you let me know if you have any specific questions for Anna to allow her to be fully prepared?

An email has been received complaining about the smell from the recently refurbished slurry pit. Cllr Dixon reported that she had spoken to SODC about the problem – they are able to investigate the nuisance but relevant licences etc are the concern of the Environment Agency. Cllr Collet reported that the slurry pit had recently been refurbished to bring it up to current standards and that a crust should form to prevent smells escaping. Some smell should be expected but it shouldn't be prolonged. It was agreed that individuals should complain to SODC and records kept of the problem in order to establish if the nuisance is excessive. Cllr Dixon is awaiting diary sheets from SODC to record the problem. Cllr Gilgrass will mention the matter in his Villager Report and how to contact SODC.

Tow Path between Wallingford and Benson – Benson Parish Council have applied for funding to improve the tow path part of which crosses though the Parish of Brightwell-cum-Sotwell. It was agreed to support the application.

I have reported the parking problems near the Alms Houses however as all the vehicles are parked legally there is little that can be done. I will however be talking further with the Housing Association about vehicles being repaired in the road.

The Risk Assessment was adopted.

f) Planning Report

Ref	Description	PC Rec	Decision
P11/50080 P11/50081/L B	Removal of existing pergola. Construction of garden room and insulation of existing utility room to habitable standard. Bell Cottage, Bell Lane	Approve	Granted
P11/50455(L B) P11/50248	Replacement of existing conservatory on rear elevation with garden room extension and extension to East Wing	No strong views	Granted
P12/50265	Forming pitched roof to existing dormer windows. Realigned replacement white upvc windows. Foxgloves, Church Lane	Approve	Granted

Clerk

LD

Clerk

P12/50399	Demolish existing store and build replacement extension. The White House, Mackney Lane	Approve	Granted
P12/50657/F UL	Enclosure existing porch. Erection of cycle shelter. Wallingford Sports Park	Approve	
g) June Payments			
Payee and reason	£ detail	£ VAT	£ total
L. Dalby – Clerk’s Salary and Expenses - June	411.21		411.21
Post Office Ltd - PAYE	97.60		97.60
Scion Estates Ltd – grass cutting	532.80	106.56	639.36
SODC – Dog Bin emptying	40.66	8.13	48.79
West Waddy – Professional Services – Core Strategy	300.00	60.00	360.00
Tom Cottrell Landscapes – tree works	650.00	130.00	780.00
G. Gilgrass – wood for bench repairs	150.00	30.00	180.00
D. Fox – Chairmans Allowance for Annual Parish Meeting	86.39		86.39
K. Allen – Village Maintenance	805.00		805.00
Talk Talk Direct Debit			18.60
<p>The balance of the current account on 30th May was £34,437.27.</p>			
<p>h) Jubilee Celebrations – Sue Robson</p> <p>On the whole we think it was a successful village event. There seemed to be something for everybody – the Brightfestlympics particularly was very enjoyable for all ages. I have had lots of very positive comments from the villagers who came and enjoyed the day. It seems the Rec was a much better venue as children had more space to play freely and safely. I don’t know what the Parish Council feels but we would be keen to do it again next year but this time we would seek sponsorship and funding much earlier on to avoid the worry of not making a profit. Now we have done it once and seen what the costs are, and the likely numbers of people attending we could be a lot more accurate in the planning. Hopefully you agree. Thank you for your support in underwriting the event which I am pleased to say we did not need. The profit of £200 will be donated to Save the Children.</p> <p>The Clerk will respond to the report.</p>			
Clerk			
6	Matters for Discussion/Decision		
	<p>a) Donations</p> <p>The application from the Orchard Group was withdrawn for the time being.</p> <p>The school had applied for £650 towards a new notice board. It was agreed to donate £650 on condition that the Parish Council is able to post notices and that the school confirm that they have three quotes for the board.</p> <p>The Church has asked the Parish Council to confirm the level of expenditure on items it might donate. It was agreed to ask the church for a budgeted list of items still required, so that a proper response could be given.</p>		
Clerk			

b) Planning

Ref	Description	PC Rec
P12/50848/ HH	Single storey rear extension. Wilmington, Didcot Rd	Approve
P12/50699/ HH	Erection of new boundary fencing to east and north east boundaries. The Gables, Sotwell St	No strong views – concerns about trees and neighbour objections. Concrete posts inappropriate in conservation area.

c) Code of Conduct and Standing Orders

It was resolved that the code of conduct adopted by South Oxfordshire District Council be adopted as the code for members and co-opted members of the Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Parish Council with effect from 1 July 2012, or such other date as may be specified in regulations, to replace the current code of conduct; and the clerk be requested to notify the monitoring officer of South Oxfordshire District Council of the passing of the above resolution.

Clerk

Cllr Strudwicke reported that she had reviewed the Standing Orders. The Clerk will circulate them before the next meeting.

Clerk

d) The Accounting Statement 2011/12 was agreed and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

e) The Annual Governance Statement was agreed and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

f) Village Maintenance

The benches and notice board have been repaired and varnished. The equipment to refurbish the telephone boxes has arrived. Several positive comments have been received about the benches.

Cllr Gilgrass is seeking quotes for work to the tennis court.

Mr Allen had provided a further quote to repair the fence around the Kings Meadow play area and one other seat of £170. It was agreed to go ahead with the work.

GG

The chains etc at King's Meadow have now been shortened and the part for the twister unit at the rec is to be delivered and installed this week.

The design and wording of ownership notices for both play areas was discussed. Cllr Wood will circulate a design.

AW

g) Core strategy

The final hearing affecting Brightwell-cum-Sotwell has now occurred.

	<p>h) Community Led Plan Cllr Strudwicke has spoken to Anton Nath and some of the volunteers from the Annual Parish Meeting have made contact. The next step is to organise a meeting with the volunteers and Mr Nath. The Parish Council agreed they would like to have an informal meeting with the volunteers in due course. North Moreton Parish Council would like to develop a cycle track between the villages. Cllr Collet has suggested they also consider a community led plan as if the track is supported by residents of both villages it may be easier to access funding for the work.</p> <p>i) Database Cllr Fox suggested that the Parish Council should co-ordinate a data base of the various email data bases held in the Parish. Giving individuals the opportunity to decide what information they wish to receive from whom. Organisations would remain responsible for their own database but it would give all groups the opportunity to reach more residents. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact groups in the Parish.</p>	<p>CS</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>Matters for report and items for inclusion on next month's agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cllr Gilgrass reported that representations opposing gravel extraction at Cholsey need to be submitted by 4th July. It was agreed to distribute information via the database. - Village Fete – it was agreed that the Parish Council would run an information stall at the fete advertising the Community Led Plan. - A-Z Directory for next month. - Rural Affordable Housing to be discussed at the next meeting. - Assuming that residents have not called for an election the vacancy will be advertised before the next meeting. - The council noted their Congratulations to Carole Dennis (former Chairman) for her award of a British Empire Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. A letter of Congratulations will be sent to Mrs Dennis. 	

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council would take place on Tuesday 17th July at 7.30pm in The Village Hall.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 10.10 pm.

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