

BRIGHTWELL CUM SOTWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting duly convened and held on 18th December 2012 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

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

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

1	Co-option onto the Council As agreed at the last meeting several residents have been approached about becoming a Parish Councillor. There are 2 or 3 interested parties.	
2	Apologies for Absence There were none.	
3	Minutes of the meeting held on 20th November 2012 The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman.	
4	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 Dixon in matters relating to the Village Hall. It was agreed to allow a dispensation to all councillors to discuss the precept.	
5	Public Participation Mr and Mrs Fisher outlined their proposal to extend Peacock Cottage to include a granny flat. The Council took note of the plans and will comment when the plans are received from the planning authority.	
6	Reports a) County Councillor's Report The latest information I have on the OCC minerals proposals is that some questions have been raised by the inspector and these are being addressed by OCC. As these will delay the EIP for a couple of months, and it cannot take place during the election period, the EIP is now not expected until June next year. I have asked for information about the Inspectors queries, and will forward that once it arrives. Whenever the EIP happens, I will make the strongest representations I can against the proposals.	

I have been dealing with a number of individual problems with the new system for blue disabled parking badges. I hope this is just the new process settling down, but will keep an eye on things.

I am pleased that the Parish Council is taking up my offer of funding half of a new salt spreader, although the process seems to be as bureaucratic as possible!

The County Council budget discussions have been delayed.

b) District Councillor's Report

Council Tax Reduction Scheme and Council Tax Discounts

It has been agreed between Oxfordshire Council leaders that for the first year of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (2013/14) a scheme that replicates the current Council Tax Benefit scheme be adopted. This will help to protect vulnerable people and pensioners Council Tax Discounts – SODC is recommending that the council tax discount to be applied on 2nd homes is reduced from 10% to nil from 1st April 2013. On unoccupied and unfurnished dwellings for up to six months is reduced from 100% to 25%. Dwellings requiring or undergoing structural repair for up to 12 months is reduced from 100% to 50%. On long term empty dwellings a premium of 50% (on top of the 100% currently payable) is applied to long term empty properties.

The District Council budget discussions have also been delayed.

Help to Keep Warm and Well This Winter

For the second year running Vale of White Horse/South Oxfordshire District Council is part of a group of organisations that has been awarded funding from the Department of Health to help vulnerable residents keep warm and well this winter. Until March 2013 the Warm Homes Healthy People project will be offering the following practical help for vulnerable people to make their homes cheaper to heat.

- Grants for energy saving home improvements and emergency heating repairs
- Benefit entitlement checks
- Free membership to an oil bulk-buying scheme
- Fuel vouchers and food boxes for those struggling to pay energy bills
- Energy saving advice

Funding is limited and support is subject to applicants meeting eligibility criteria. To find out more or for advice on keeping warm and well in cold weather please call 0800 107 00 44. Lines are open 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. Calls are free.

Free talks on energy saving for community groups are also available. Call 0800 107 00 44 for more information.

Contact details:

Warm Homes Healthy People Helpline 0800 107 00 44

Cynthia Sullivan, Energy Officer, 01235 540 537

cynthia.sullivan@southandvale.gov.uk

c) Clerk's Report

The new salt spreader has now been delivered and will be stored at The Church. It has cost £199.95 + VAT plus £9.95 freight.

The County Council has been unable to grit High Road due to poor parking, if the situation isn't resolved they will stop gritting this section of road. It was agreed that Cllr Fox would distribute a letter to the residents asking them to park more considerately as buses are also finding this a problem and in the case of an emergency a Fire Engine would be delayed.

The Clerk has explored various options for a Parish Council Website costing between £40 and £600 per annum.

It was agreed that the website needed to be kept up to date with information relevant to the Parish Council and links to other Village Websites.

Cllrs Wood and Dixon agreed to meet to discuss the best type of website and design.

Cllr Baines joined the meeting.

d) Planning Report

Ref	Description	PC Rec	Decision
P12/S2376/HH	Proposed extension to swimming pool and installation of an air source heat pump. Smalls House, Mackney Lane	Approve	Approved
P12/S2386/HH	Proposed 2 storey extension, alterations to existing roof line including new dormer window, new bay windows and new entrance porch. Iden House	Approve	Approved

e) December Payments

Payee and reason	£ detail	£ VAT	£ total
Stewart Village Hall – CLP Steering Group Meeting	10.00		10.00
Seton – Salt Spreader	209.90	41.98	251.88
Getmapping PLC	40.00	8.00	48.00
NP design & print Ltd – A-Z Printing	500.00		500.00

Clerk

DF

AW

LD

.. Dalby – Clerk’s salary and expenses	515.68		515.68
Post Office Ltd – PAYE & NI	174.79		174.79
D. Allen – Parish Maintenance	725.00		725.00
I. Baxter – ditch clearance	350.00	70.00	420.00

on compliance with the Duty to Co-operate (DTC) was deemed not to directly to the evidence on which the Council relies by the Inspector. OCC complete the documented evidence base for the plan by December 21st. Examination and hearing is currently scheduled for March 6th 2013.

the Examination in Public will be held before May 2nd 2013.

that they need to raise another £20,000 to support the examination in they have prepared draft letters from the Mayor of Wallingford to be sent parish councils and individuals.

Community Led Plan

ated that the working groups are moving forward with links to Parish

ming along well.

at a periodic progress report from the group be useful. Cllr Collett will ask for a report.

path at Earth Trust

are currently looking various options for managing visitors and do not feel a permissive path at this time. However they are participating in the Plan.

CC

7

Matters for Discussion/Decision

a) Inspection and Maintenance

General Maintenance

Debris, weeds and ivy between the hedge and sports pavilion on Mackney Lane. The ground has been levelled, weeds killed and ground lined with a plastic membrane under a gravel cover retained by barge board shuttering.

The bench on the Croft Path has been restored.

Phone box restoration has been completed.

Play Areas

Cllrs Gillgrass and Baines met with Nicole O’Donnell of Oxfordshire Playing Field Association on 01/12/12 to review the possibilities for play area refurbishment including funding options. Nicole’s report has been distributed and together with other information supplied relating to BMX track construction, project planning a play area and funding will

	<p>Cutting back and clearing trees and hedges along the side of the tennis court has been quoted at £600 by David Cottrel. It was agreed to go ahead with the work and to remove the small beech trees between the tennis court and infants play area. Leaves and detritus from these damage the surfaces in both areas and the trees impede access to the tennis court.</p> <p>Whist restoring the tennis courts, it is proposed that we should consider refurbishing the basket ball practice area to the same standard. A price for this will be obtained from the companies quoting for the tennis court.</p> <p>Due to the costs involved it may be worth considering the courts as a multi-activity area and including nets and court markings for basket ball and net ball for example – this question will be put to the CLP Amenities and Facilities Group for input.</p> <p>There was a discussion about the large expenditure on the tennis court. It was agreed that a commitment from users to look after the court would be required. The work is becoming urgent and will become more expensive if left for much longer.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">b) Handrail Footpath 17</p> <p>The Clerk is waiting for a response from the landowners agent. Dave Allen is preparing a quote for the handrail.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">c) Budget 2013/14</p> <p>In order to maintain the council tax payable by residents the Precept will need to be reduced by £988. It was agreed that the precept would be confirmed in January once the agreed maintenance figures had been included.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
8	<p>Matters for report and items for inclusion on next month's agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Boundary Review – Cllr Fox will respond on behalf of the Council. - Cllr Rodda reported that the draft Conservation Plan will be ready to print early next year. - The Post Office and Village Shop have requested that more visible signage be erected at the front of The Village Hall. - Replacement tree for The Square. 	<p>DF</p> <p>Clerk</p>

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council would take place on Tuesday 15th January 2013 at 7.30pm in The Village Hall.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 9.55 pm.

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