

BRIGHTWELL CUM SOTWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting duly convened and held on 19th February 2013 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

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

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

1	Co-option onto the Council A resident has expressed an interest in joining the Council but was unable to attend this evenings meeting.	
2	Apologies for Absence Apologies for absence were received from Cllr G. Gilgrass.	
3	Minutes of the meeting held on 15th January 2013. 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.	
5	Public Participation There was none.	
6	Reports a) County Councillor's Report I am delighted that the Vehicle Activated speed signs at Slade End and Shillingford Park have been installed (the former at the time of writing, the latter due on Friday 15 th February). It has taken a while, but they are going in and I know the residents at Shillingford are very pleased. It's to be hoped that they do work. I know that the local highways manager was 'flashed' by the Slade End camera the other day, and felt suitably ashamed of himself. The Parish Clerk has confirmed that the Council has now received a cheque for half of the cost of the salt-spreader. Since the last meeting I have agreed grants for both a new sign outside the Village Hall (for the Hall, the shop and the post office) and towards trees to fill gaps in hedgerows. The funds will come from my 'Big Society' budget which has previously provided a grant towards the Parish Plan.	

OCC's annual budget setting meeting was on 19th February. Budget cuts will continue however the Big Society Budgets have been retained. I will continue to work with Highways officers, in particular, to do as much as possible of the work which residents consider necessary.

An opinion survey about Primary School provision in relation to Site B is about to be launched.

The County Council Elections will take place on 2nd May.

Cllr Atkins had been made aware of the following information this morning.

'As you will recall, the draft Oxfordshire Minerals & Waste Core Strategy was agreed by County Council in April last year and then submitted to Government in October following a period of public consultation.

In November and December, the Government-appointed Inspector provided the County Council with a set of comments on the submitted plan, in a series of Technical Notes. These Notes identified the need for some further work to be carried out in advance of the formal Examination hearings but also asked some questions which the Inspector wished to see addressed.

Since that time, we have been in a helpful dialogue with the Inspector regarding the matters raised in his Technical Notes. We have also discussed with him and the Programme Officer the timetable for the delivery of that additional work and the consequent implications for the date of the Examination hearing sessions.

In doing so, we have further been mindful of the fact that come May this year there will be a new County Council, which may wish to take a view about the future direction of the plan.

Having regard to all of these considerations, we have therefore now agreed with the Inspector that the Examination process (which began with the submission of the plan last October) will be placed on hold until the end of May this year, at which stage we will let the Inspector know how the County Council wishes to proceed with the plan. He will then announce new arrangements for the subsequent stages as appropriate.

In the intervening period, technical work will continue as planned, primarily focusing on the additional information which the Inspector has previously asked us to provide.'

The Parish Council thanked Cllr Atkins for her help in providing the Vehicle Activated Signs.

b) District Councillor's Report

Rural Crime

There has been a large increase in reports of illegal hare coursing across the local area towards Cholsey/Moulsford, this is mostly happening during the morning and early afternoon. There have also been reports of burglaries to non-dwellings & thefts on farmland. Please ring 101 if you see anyone acting suspiciously.

CIF Grants

Grants for over £15,000 will open on 25th February and closes on 12th April 2013. Under £15,000, this year, will have two rounds of funding. Round one will open on 22nd April and closes on 28th June 2013. Round two will open on 1st October and closes on 21st December 2013.

Housing Allocations Policy

Consultation on the revised housing allocations policy is underway you have until the 1st March 2013 to respond.

A 2 ½ % reduction in the SODC portion of the Council Tax is likely.

A Consultation on reforms to the planning process is available on the Government website until 4th March.

c) Clerk's Report

Complaints have been received about dog fouling on Kings Meadow. The PCSOs have agreed to add the area into their patrols and any culprits will be dealt with appropriately. The flooding at Well Springs has been dealt with by a resident who has unblocked the pipe.

d) Planning Report

Ref	Description	PC Rec	Decision
P12/S1720/FUL	Erection of fan house and installation of drying equipment for adjacent grain store.	NSV	Approved
P12/S2951/HH	Proposed single storey extension. Rainbow House, Well Springs	Approve	Approved
P12/S3008/HH	Erection of 2 storey extension to the north, demolition & reconstruction of eastern single storey wing. Erection of single storey extension to south & alterations to fenestration on existing dwelling. Old Copse Cottage, Shillingford Rd.	Approve	Approved
P12/S3041/HH	Erection of new garage/workshop building. Saddlestones, High Road.	Approve	
P13/S0107/HH	Removal of existing conservatory and erection of single storey side extension. Four Winds, Sires Hill	Approve	
P13/S0085/HH	Proposed side and rear extensions. 1 Meadow View.	NSV	

e) February Payments

The following accounts for payment were approved.

Payee and reason	£ detail	£ VAT	£ total
Tennis and Multisports Maintenance	1000.00		1000.00
Lucy Dalby – Clerk’s salary and expenses February	431.39		431.39
Post Office Ltd – PAYE	101.00		101.00
CPRE - Suscription	29.00		29.00
Tom Cottrell Landscapes – tree works	600.00	120.00	720.00
ORCC - Subscription	65.00		65.00
Milton Parish Council – share of Clerks Subscription to SLCC	54.00		54.00
OALC – Planning Training	35.00	7.00	42.00

Payments received

BcS Cricket Club Junior Section - £186.00

Brightwell FC - £72.00

OCC for salt spreader - £104.95

f) Inspection and Maintenance

The Clerk has spoken to the RoSPA inspector who feels that the risk from cricket to children using the play area is low and that no further action is needed. It was agreed that the Clerk should obtain his opinion in writing.

Clerk

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Matters for Discussion/Decision

a) CLP – Affordable Housing

The Housing Paper by Russell Govan on behalf of the Community Led Plan (a copy of which is held on file) was discussed.

It was agreed that there was no need for another Affordable Housing Needs survey to be conducted. Any further consultation would simply mirror the current survey and the expense could therefore not be justified. However questions relating to housing should be included in the CLP questionnaire.

The questions should include both Rural Affordable Housing need the perceived need for ‘downsizing housing’ for residents. The way the questions are framed will be key and the PC should have the opportunity to comment on them before they are finalized.

Concerns were raised about the design and scale of any development. It was pointed out that the Rural Exception Site scheme would ensure that any housing fitted into the character of the parish.

It was agreed that the Parish Council should urgently consider creating a Neighbourhood Plan or Development Order in order to balance the need for affordable housing and to

protect the parish from overdevelopment.

Cllr Collett will arrange a meeting with SODC to discuss a Neighbourhood Plan/ Development Order before the Annual Parish Meeting.

It was also agreed that several management companies should be considered for any potential housing.

b) Planning

Ref	Description	Decision
P13/S0169/HH	Alteration and extension of existing garage to form residential annexe ancillary and incidental to Peacock Cottage for elderly relative together with new carport and garden store/workshop. Peacock Cottage, Slade End.	Approve

c) Website

The design and content of the Parish Council website was agreed. The site will be functional and straightforward with clear links to and from the Community Website. The Clerk reported that she had attended a meeting organised by the Community Website Committee and had made it clear that the Parish Council website would not overlap with the Community Website.

d) Tree for Square

The diseased tree has now been removed and a replacement was considered. Cllr Collett will discuss the options with the residents of The Square. A budget of £100 was agreed for the replacement.

e) Telephone Boxes

The following suggestion from Alison Debney was discussed.

Proposal for the fifth plinth - Brightwell cum Sotwell Telephone Box Gallery

Idea: at the heart of Brightwell cum Sotwell is an exhibition space that could showcase all that is good about the village.

Location: the public telephone box, The Street.

Concept: an on-going series of temporary exhibits by local and national artists, societies, clubs, schools and crafts people.

Process: exciting ideas that are visually impressive and that will make people think about Brightwell cum Sotwell, its locale and its people, will be requested through The Villager and the village website. They will be reviewed by a committee and commissioned.

Frequency: exhibits will be changed quarterly or more frequently if popular.

Costs: a lock would need to be fitted. Artists would meet their own costs. Small grants

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<p>secured for materials and promotion.</p> <p>Communication and promotion: the art works could also feature on the village website with a supporting piece about the makers.</p> <p>Get out clause: it can be stopped anytime if it is deemed not to be working. There will be no permanent alteration.</p> <p>The Council agreed to go ahead with the proposal subject to the agreement of the neighbours of the box.</p> <p>Previous discussions about a defibrillator for the phone box were also reconsidered. Cllr Collett will obtain more information from Long Wittenham PC about installation of a defibrillator.</p> <p>f) Cycle Tracks</p> <p>As reported last month North Moreton PC has hit a stumbling block with their proposed cycle track as the land owner is not interested. However they would be happy to discuss alternative routes.</p> <p>The way forward with a possible route from Shillingford to Brightwell-cum-Sotwell seems to be through the Parish Plan initially. This would give weight to the proposal but it would then be dependent on the agreement of the land owners.</p> <p>g) Brightfest</p> <p>The Brightfest organisers would like to use the recreation field for the event this year. It was agreed in principle to give permission.</p> <p>A request has been received to use the recreation field to erect a marquee for a wedding. It was agreed to give permission on condition that it was booked in conjunction with the Jubilee Pavillion, the Cricket Club did not have a fixture that weekend, that all necessary licenses were obtained and that adequate insurance was provided.</p> <p>h) APM</p> <p>The date of the Annual Parish Meeting was confirmed as 30th April.</p> <p>i) Donations</p> <p>A request from The Environment Group for funds towards the cost of publishing an updated Environment Plan for Brightwell-cum-Sotwell was discussed. It was agreed to donate £500 and underwrite a further £500 as necessary.</p>	<p>CC</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
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8	<p>Matters for report and items for inclusion on next month's agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cllr Dixon announced her resignation as she is moving from the parish and thanked her fellow Councillors. Cllr Fox thanked Cllr Dixon on behalf of the Council for all her work especially in relation to planning matters. - Cllr Wood reported that SODC have confirmed that site B will not be known as Slade End Farm and that there will be a consultation on the road names. - It was agreed a Core strategy Working Party meeting was needed urgently. 	
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It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council would take place on Tuesday 19th March 2013 at 7.30pm in The Village Hall.
There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 10.30 pm.

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