

## BRIGHTWELL CUM SOTWELL PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Parish Council meeting duly convened and held on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2013 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

**Present:** Cllrs D. Fox (Chair), C. Collett, H. Baines, C. Collett, G. Gillgrass, A. McGivan, R. Nielsen and A. Wood.

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

1	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> Apologies were received from Cllr Rodda.	
2	<b>Minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2013.</b> The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman.	
3	<b>Declarations of personal and prejudicial interest</b> 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 Celia 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 Clive Collett in matters relating to the Village Hall.	
4	<b>Public Participation</b> Dr & Mrs Ebbs gave further details about their planning application P13/S2899/FUL.	
5	<b>Reports</b> a) County Councillor's Report I've had the plans for improvements to the Slade End corner from the Highways team and have forwarded them on for residents and councillors who were at the site meeting to review.  The slow signs to be painted onto the road and the road sign as vehicles enter the village were welcomed by the Council however concerns were raised about the size of the proposed signs as vehicles exit the village as they are to be sited in a conservation area.  There has been a change to bus services for young people travelling from Brightwell-cum-Sotwell to secondary schools in Didcot. Unfortunately, as the schools are not in the catchment area for the village and the bus services concerned are run commercially and not subsidised, this was not something on which I could intervene. Efforts by those affected to raise the profile of the issue have resulted in some changes to the changes, so things are not as bad as they might have been.  I've had notification of two road closures. Firstly, the B4016 through Sutton Courtenay and Appleford will be closed from 11 <sup>th</sup> November for about 5 days for resurfacing. The posted diversion will be through Long Wittenham, so traffic levels there will increase for that week. Secondly, the section of the A34 past Beedon will	

be closed completely for the weekends of 15 – 18 and 22 – 25 November. The diversion won't be through Long Wittenham, but it will go a very, very long way round so travel planning ahead for those weekends will be a very good idea.

Just a reminder that on 18<sup>th</sup> October the Emergency Planning and Highways team will be holding a town centre Road Show in Wallingford to offer advice about how to cope in an emergency situation – particularly adverse weather, flooding and so on.

b) District Councillor's Report

#### **New Telephone Menu shortcuts**

When you call the council's switchboard number (01491 823000), to help get you to the right person quickly and accurately, there is now a new telephone menu system. In the menu system a list of shortcuts has been created for key services to help you navigate to the correct person, without having to listen to all of the menu options. If you have any problems please let me know.

#### **Community Investment Fund Under £15,000 grants – open 1 October 2013 – 21 December 2013**

The council can award grants to any community-based organisation, including parish and town councils for up to £15,000. An organisation can apply for a grant award of 60 per cent of the total project costs. The project must cost less than £50,000 exclusive of VAT.

The council is encouraging organisations to apply for a share of £217,388 that must be allocated in this round of funding.

Information on how to apply for one of these grants is available on the council's website at <http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/grants>

If you require any further information, please contact Carole Cumming @ SODC

#### **Fraud in Oxfordshire**

A man pretending to be a Metropolitan Police officer from Paddington Green police station has called victims to say their personal details have been obtained by criminals. The offender then advises the victim to hang up and call their bank, but unknown to victims the offender does not disconnect the call meaning the victim continues to speak to the offender. Believing they are speaking to their bank, the victims then provide their bank details to the suspect. The caller then persuades the victims to put their bank cards in an envelope, which is collected by another offender.

The offences have taken place in Henley, Oxford, and Hambleton recently. The victims have been between 86 and 89 years old. The police have provided descriptions of three men involved in these incidents:

An Asian man, aged about 25, of large build, approximately 5ft 8ins tall, with black hair. He was wearing a high-visibility jacket and dark trousers.

An Asian man, about 25-years-old, of slim build. He was wearing dark clothing.

A White man, of slim build, about 5ft 8ins tall, in his mid-twenties, with short dark hair. He was dressed in a dark suit.

**Please could you ensure that you make any vulnerable people in the Parish aware of the problem and pass on the advice and contact details below.**

#### **ADVICE FOR RESIDENTS**

If you any other information about these offences please contact Sgt Phil Bennett via the Thames Valley Police Enquiry Centre on 101.

If you believe you have been a victim of a similar offence, please contact the police.

If you do receive a call which you suspect is not genuine and they ask you to call your bank, make sure that after you hang up, that you hear a dialling tone before contacting the police, or use a mobile phone if appropriate.

If you don't want to speak directly to the police you can contact the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or online at [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org). No personal details are taken, information is not traced or recorded and you will not go to court.

If you would like to register for Thames Valley Alerts then please visit [www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk](http://www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk) for more information

#### c) Clerk's Report

I have spoken to the school about the children designing posters to encourage dog owners to pick up after their dogs.

It was agreed that the Clerk would order one hundred 20's Plenty wheelie bin stickers.

#### d) Planning Report

Ref	Description	PC Rec	Decision
P13/S2505/LB	Proposed internal alterations, relocation of front door & porch, new ground floor window at rear. Chestnut Cottage, The Street	Approve	Granted

#### e) October Payments

The following accounts for payment were agreed.

Payee and reason	£ detail	£ VAT	£ total
L. Dalby – Clerk's salary and Expenses	477.39		477.39
Post Office Ltd - PAYE	80.60		80.60
Earth Trust - Donation	1000.00		1000.00
Home Start - Donation	100.00		100.00
Printinco - CLP	31.90	6.38	38.28

#### f) Community Led Plan

The questionnaire has been printed and distributed.

6	<p><b>Matters for Discussion/Decision</b></p> <p>a) Neighbourhood Plan  Cllrs Celia Collett, R. Nielsen, D. Fox and A. Wood agreed to form the working party for the Neighbourhood Plan along with other volunteers from the Parish. A meeting will be arranged as soon as possible. The Clerk will obtain copies of other plans initial submissions.</p> <p>b) Site B  Cllr Wood has met with a planning consultant and along with Cllr Celia Collett attended the SODC Site B Focus group.</p> <p>c) Maintenance and Inspection  Cllr Fox has agreed terms of employment with the handyman, Bob Sherwood who will be added to the PAYE payroll and paid £10/hr. He will submit monthly timesheets. The new inspection procedure proposed by Cllr Gillgrass was agreed, and will include a six monthly inspection to be completed by Cllrs Gillgrass, Clive Collett and the handyman. A letter has been received from a former resident complaining about the poor appearance of the village. It was agreed that most of his complaints were down to County Council cutbacks. The letter will be published in The Villager and on the website in order to gauge the reaction of residents before deciding whether further action is needed.  The see-saw is reaching the end of its life – the Clerk will find out the cost of a new see-saw.  The Jubilee Pavilion committee have asked for a contribution to the cost of clearing up after the rat infestation. The Council decided not to award a donation on this occasion.</p> <p>d) Lane Markings Slade End  The Council agreed it would prefer that there were no signs before the bend as drivers exited the village as this is in the conservation area.</p> <p>e) Speed Limit A4130  A reply from Cllr Nimmo-Smith has been received and circulated, Cllr Fox will respond to it.</p> <p>f) Meeting Venue  The Stewart Room is no longer available on a Tuesday evening. The Council there for has the option of using the Village Hall at a cost of £30 per meeting or the Church room at a cost of £20 per meeting. It was agreed to hold meetings in the Church room from December in order to give notice of the change in The Villager.</p> <p>g) Insurance</p>	<p>LD</p> <p>LD</p> <p>LD</p> <p>LD</p> <p>DF</p>
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The Parish Council is currently in a long term agreement with Came and Co which comes to an end next September. The current quote is £2541.66 or £2414.58 if the Council ties in until 2016.

The Clerk has been given indicative quotes from Zurich of £2000 and £1496 from AON. It was therefore agreed not to tie in with Came and Co.

h) Planning

Ref	Description	PC Rec
P13/S2899/FUL	Erection of detached dwelling with integral double carport, creation of new vehicular access and pedestrian access. The Orchards, The Street.	No strong views

Following a lengthy discussion it was agreed to return a No Strong Views response.

A majority of Councillors (7 to 1) were concerned about the safety of the proposed access although this could be addressed by changing the access.

A majority of Councillors (5 to 3) felt the application was contrary to the Conservation area policy.

Two Councillors were concerned about the size of the building.

7.	<b>Matters for report and items for inclusion on next month's agenda</b>
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It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council would take place on Tuesday 19th November 2013 at 7.30pm in The Village Hall.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 9.50 pm.

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