

BRIGHTWELL CUM SOTWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting duly convened and held on 18th March 2014 at 7.30pm in the Church Room.

Present: Cllrs D. Fox (Chair), J. Rodda, Celia Collett, G. Gilgrass, H. Baines, A. Wood and R. Nielsen.

In attendance: Mrs L. Dalby (Clerk) and one member of the public.

1	Apologies for Absence Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Clive Collett and A. McGivan.	
2	Minutes of the meeting held on 18th February 2014. 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 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	Public Participation Cllr Nielsen joined the meeting. Sue Robson from the Brightfest Committee gave a report on the event and asked for a contribution from the Parish Council. In total £3500 - £4000 is required for all the equipment needed. The Committee have secured a donation from The Community Association and have begun a series of fundraising events. It was agreed that the Council would donate £500 towards a specific element of staging Brightfest and would consider a further donation in May if it was needed in order for the event to go ahead.	
5	Reports a) County Councillor's Report Following the meeting on 23 rd February with Cllr David Nimmo-Smith about the A4130 speed limits, I am still hopeful that a meeting of all parties involved can be set up so that a detailed discussion can take place. I am pleased to see that the new road markings at Slade End are now all complete. I haven't yet had a response about the cost of the 20mph limit, but have not chased that as the highways team have been extremely busy with other more urgent matters. There is a change in management of the local highways team in the next week or so, and I will pick this up with the new incumbent.	

The new Minerals and Waste Strategy Consultation has opened. Cllr Atkins has met with CAGE who consider the new strategy to be a vast improvement however they are considering their response to the consultation. Cllr Gillgrass will contact CAGE for guidance for the Parish Council response.

Cllr Rodda asked if the County Council has a plan of action for dealing with the very poor state of the roads. Cllr Atkins reported that she will be meeting with the new area steward to discuss how the problems are to be tackled. The County Council have budgeted an extra £1m for repairing the roads and will also be bidding for extra funding from central government.

b) District Councillor's Report

SHMA

The key findings have now been published and can be found on the SODC website, the full report is expected within the next few weeks. The six main authorities in the county are reviewing these findings. The report identifies the need for the provision of homes up to 2031 and sets out the figures for the individual local authorities these figures are assessments, the District Council will now be required to look into how they can deliver this extra number. Although South Oxfordshire is better placed as it has an adopted Local Plan, it will now need to review the plan to look ahead to 2031. There will be a consultation process for finding places for this additional housing.

Cllr Rodda asked what mechanism the District Council employs to identify empty houses. Cllr Collett reported that SODC are recording empty houses but are reluctant to act to force them back into housing stock.

Community Governance Review

The Parish Council should have received a consultation letter, letters have also been sent to all affected residents. The consultation will run until 31st May 2014.

The review was discussed and it was agreed to respond to the consultation after the meeting with Wallingford Town Council.

c) Clerk's Report

Work to the War Memorial should be completed next week.

Angus Dart has had the ditches around the recreation field cleared, it was agreed to pay the cost of the machinery needed for the work as Mr Dart has paid for the labour. Some debris remains near to the Cricket nets as there was concern about damaging the nets. It was agreed to move the debris and burn it.

The Clerk has reported that there was no water flowing into the ditch from the pipe in the corner of the recreation field even at the height of the bad weather.

The Clerk will log, photograph and report potholes to OCC.

d) Planning Report

Ref	Description	PC Rec	Decision
P14/S0062/HH	Erection of single storey rear and side extension. Redstones, 4 Bell Lane, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell	Approve	Approved

e) March Payments

The following accounts for payment were agreed.

Payee and reason	£ detail	£ VAT	£ total
Sarah Ewbank Landscapes reports relating to Site B	944.00		944.00
ORCC - Subscription	65.00		65.00
OALC - Subscription	242.95	48.59	291.54
Tom Cottrell Landscapes – tree work	1200.00	240.00	1440.00
L. Dalby – Clerk’s salary and expenses	477.19		477.19
Post Office Ltd - PAYE	80.80		80.80
Brightwell PCC – Roomhire CLP	30.00		30.00
Brightwell PCC - Roomhire	86.00		86.00

f) Community Led Plan

Work continues on the analysis of the data.

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Matters for Discussion/Decision

a) Neighbourhood Plan

There have been objections to the boundary of the plan from Wallingford Town Council and Oxfordshire County Council. SODC have arranged a meeting with the Parish Council and Wallingford Town Council to try to resolve the issue.

b) Site B Access and Speed Limits

No further progress.

c) Planning

Ref	Description	PC Rec
P14/S0562/HH	Conversion of existing garage for habitable use for disabled person & extension. Mayfields, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell	Approve
LP.0010/14	Consultation on Draft Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Core Strategy	

d) APM

It was agreed to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on April 15th following the Parish Council meeting. There will be an update from the CLP and the Clerk will ask the

Community Heartbeat Trust to provide a speaker to talk about defibrillators. It was agreed to serve cheese and wine as last year. Cllr Baines will design a poster.

e) Maintenance

Cllr Gillgrass has carried out the annual inspection of the Tennis Courts.

1. Vandalism and Misuse:

This has been generally at a low level during the past year. In the first few months football was played in the courts, denting and in one area punching two holes in the fencing. Skate Boarders were also using the courts; however, as a result of the official PC sign being fitted to the gate and adults removing children when found using the courts incorrectly, they have stood up very well in the first year since refurbishment. In the past two months there has been another spate of damage, with the right hand net being over tightened to the point that the wire broke and a stainless steel net end retaining rod stolen. The tennis club has fitted a new tensioning wire and replaced the stainless steel net end retaining rod.

It was agreed that the cost of parts at circa £55.00 will be reimbursed by the PC on production of receipts to the Clerk.

2. Playing Surface:

The playing surface of the courts has stood up very well and there only a few places on the white lines that need touching up.

The practice area at the South End has about 6 small holes in the Tarmac and also a few places around the perimeter of court fence, where weeds grew through in the first 2 months after refurbishment before being sprayed on a regular basis. The tarmac has cracked at the south end of the practice area due to water lying on the surface. This should be scheduled for repair in March 2015 together with pressure washing and repair of any other damage to the surface that has become evident in the meantime.

Moss has started to grow during the winter, particularly around the edges of the court, exacerbated by the constant wet weather. The sun has now started to dry this out so reducing the danger of slipping. However, the courts require spraying for moss.

The "Court Company" has quoted £300 for spaying the court for moss, repairing damage to the surface and repainting where required.

It was agreed that the tennis club should go ahead and buy a suitable sprayer at a cost of approximately £150.00, the cost coming out of the planned annual tennis club contribution to the PC costs of maintaining the courts.

3. Court Fencing Perimeter

The spaying, by the company that cuts the grass at Kings Meadow, of approximately 30 CMs width around the perimeter of the wire fencing to stop the grass and weeds growing has been successful except for few broad leaved weeds.

4. Access Path to courts

General use of the existing Coxwells binding gravel path is transferring material to the courts. The PC has agreed that this could be replaced by one laid from "Readymix Concrete" approximately 4ins deep at a cost of Circa £450, to be covered by the PC on production of receipts. A Kings Meadow Tennis Club Volunteer Group could undertake this work supervised by Bob Sherwood, including digging out a 30Cm trench around the perimeter of the courts and in filling it with the binding gravel from the current access

	<p>path.</p> <p>5. Strength of the North Side perimeter fence As the courts are kept open it is difficult to stop young children accessing the court after school and bouncing on the fence. It is recommended that an additional tensioning wire is run along the bottom of the North Side of the perimeter fence. Bob Sherwood is to fit the wire with the cost of parts at circa £75.00 reimbursed by the PC on production of receipts to the Clerk.</p> <p>6. Gate Bob Sherwood has replaced a nut holding the fencing to the end support by the door and fashioned a retaining flange now bolted to the upright to ensure the gate can remain shut.</p> <p>A schedule for cutting the grass verges is being written by Jason Debney.</p> <p>The walnut tree on the recreation field is in need of work.</p> <p>f) Brightfest As discussed in Public Participation.</p> <p>g) Community Governance review As discussed in Item 5b.</p>	
7.	<p>Matters for report and items for inclusion on next month's agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rights of Way Consultation - Cllr Celia Collett reported that the Dementia training is now complete and requested a donation towards the first two meeting of the group. - OALC Financial Briefing 	

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council would take place on Tuesday 15th April 2014 at 7.30pm in The Church Room.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 9.40 pm.

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