

BRIGHTWELL-CUM-SOTWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting duly convened and held on 20th October 2015 at 7.30pm in the Church Room

Present: Cllrs D. Fox (Chair), S. Collett, S. Booth, H. Baines, J. Debney, S. Jackson and A. McGivan.

In attendance: L. Dalby (Clerk), District Cllr J. Murphy and four members of the public.

| | |
|----|--|
| 1. | Apologies for Absence Apologies were received from Cllr S. Robson and County Cllr L. Atkins. |
| 2. | Minutes of the meeting held on 15th September 2015 The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman. |
| 3. | Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest There were none. |
| 4. | Public Participation Residents from Well Springs asked for an update on the ash tree which has shed branches. OCC Countryside has inspected the tree and as it is on unregistered land will carry out any necessary work. It has been suggested that the Parish Council should register the land as a Village Green or Common Land. The Clerk is investigating the process and obligations of registering the land. The Clerk will also report the matter to the SODC Tree officer. Mr Colver and Mr Crabb reported that they hoped to open a dialogue with the Parish Council regarding the Old Orchard site. They have studied the CLP and feel that the site could be considered as infill. They have considered all aspects of sustainability of the site and haven't found any significant issues that would prevent modest development of the site. They are open to suggestions from the Parish for the type of development needed. Cllr Fox reported that the Parish Council are not currently able to comment on specific sites in the Parish until the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group is in a position to enter into dialogue with all potential developers. The Steering Group will contact landowners once the Site Assessment Criteria has been confirmed. |
| 5. | Reports a) County Councillor's Report I submitted my response to the Minerals consultation ahead of the deadline and have had confirmation that it was received and has been properly recorded. OCC is keen to encourage parishes to look at taking over some services. I am not sure if anyone from the Parish Council was able to attend the meeting at the Kassam stadium on the subject, but will ask for further information to be forwarded if it would be helpful. Cllr Fox reported that CAGE thought the Brightwell-cum-Sotwell submission on the Minerals Consultation was very good. Cllr Fox also responded to the Household Waste consultation objecting to the proposed closure of recycling and waste centres. |

b) District Councillors' Report

Cllr Murphy reported that the Council Tax Reduction Scheme will go at the end of this financial year. The money will be made available for grants for specific items.

Recycling of small electricals

A reminder that residents can now recycle small electrical goods and old clothes at the curbside. The new scheme went live at the start of the month. You can now leave these items in a tied carrier bag along with your green bin. For more information you can check the website

Consultation on closure of recycling centres

SODC has now responded to the County Council's proposal to close recycling centres. We have objected to the proposals and raised concerns about how the closure would affect residents.

This can be seen on the website.

Voter registration update

We're making good progress visiting homes to confirm people's voter details. By the end of the month our 44 canvassers will have visited around 30,000 homes and we'll also have called well over 7,000 properties.

Our canvassers carry official ID, but our advice to anyone with doubts about somebody on their doorstep is to politely turn them away, close the door and give Elections a call on 01235 540351.

Funding means GO Active will go Gold in January

We're getting £227,000 from Sport England to launch Go Active Gold - a new three year project offering sports and classes for those over 60 in our rural areas.

The activities will begin in January and include dance, tai chi, table tennis, golf, bowls, pilates, yoga, Nordic walking and fitness. We'll be recruiting enthusiastic volunteers to help set up activities and raise awareness of the scheme nearer the time.

Green Belt study published

The Green Belt in South Oxfordshire is continuing to do its job of protecting our settlements and rural setting. That's the conclusion of an independent study we published this week, giving further weight to our position against large scale development on the edge of Oxford.

There are a few small areas where the Green Belt boundary could be changed or where there are opportunities for some sustainable small scale development and we'll look at these as part of the work towards our Local Plan. We'll also ask parish councils to consider the study when preparing their Neighbourhood Plans.

To read the full study please click on www.southoxon.gov.uk/greenbeltstudy.

Town and Parish Forum

The next South Oxfordshire Town and Parish Forum takes place at Didcot Civic Hall on 4 November between 6 and 8.30pm.

The evening will feature presentations on planning appeals, grants and the Local Plan.

There will also be a buffet and a question and answer session.

To register your attendance, please contact Yvonne.cutler-greaves@southandvale.gov.uk

Orchard Centre Expansion update

The expansion of the Orchard Centre will start shortly with the developer, Hammerson clearing the land to the east of the existing centre (next to Next). This will involve demolishing two warehouses and they're expecting to start work there in about six weeks' time.

Funding available for rural businesses

In just four years the Southern Oxfordshire LEADER Project handed out more than £1.2million to projects aimed at supporting the rural economy across the two districts.

It was so successful that when the opportunity to get more funding came up we jumped at the chance.

We've now set up an Oxfordshire wide LEADER scheme which also includes Cherwell and West Oxfordshire and there's £1.5million on offer for rural projects until 2020.

We're looking for farmers, foresters, rural businesses or communities with projects that fit into one or more of these themes:

- growing, selling, eating more local food
- vibrant villages
- reviving the River Thames and associated waterways
- unlocking the potential of woodlands.

If you know of a project that could benefit from some funding please encourage those involved to visit **The Oxfordshire Leader website** www.oxfordshireleader.gov.uk to see if they're eligible.

Air quality website now live

You can now see real-time information about air quality thanks to a new website.

The site www.oxfordshire.air-quality.info gives hourly updates about the level of pollutants in the air, information about how poor air quality can effect people's health and what people can do to reduce their own impact on air quality.

It's funded through a £20,000 Defra grant following a successful bid by our environmental health team. For more information, contact Claire.spendley@southandvale.gov.uk

c) Clerk's Report

The Clerk has asked Rhod Baker to confirm his quote for the tennis court path along with the concrete pad at the KM play area and also for strengthening the tennis court fence and installing the bike racks agreed at the November 2014 meeting. It was agreed that the Clerk would also obtain further quotes.

Defibrillator Signs for the telephone box will cost £30 per sign + VAT + delivery. It was agreed to purchase signs for the Defibrillator and the Red Box Gallery.

The work to the War Memorial has been completed and Mr Woodgate's son has been invited to the Remembrance Day Ceremony.

The Speed /Volume surveys for the 20mph speed limit review will cost £700.

The Village Hall Committee needs new Trustees.

The Clerk is working with the Shillingford Hill Residents Association to organise Defibrillator Training.

There is a Code of Conduct training event in November.

d) Planning Report

| Ref | Description | PC Rec | Decision |
|---------------|--|--------|----------|
| P15/S2748/FUL | Construction of one dwelling and garages. Land between Mount Vernon and North Barn | Object | |

An amendment has been received to this application. Cllr Debney will review the hedge report.

e) Neighbourhood Plan Report

The Scoping Report has been submitted to SODC for a six week consultation. The steering Group have started looking at site selection and would welcome any suggestions for Site Selection Criteria.

f) October's Payments for approval

The following accounts for payment were approved.

| Payee and reason | £ detail | £ VAT | £ total |
|---|----------|--------|---------|
| L. Dalby – Clerk's Salary and Expenses | 508.14 | | 508.14 |
| Post Office Ltd - PAYE | 72.60 | | 72.60 |
| Clive Collett Electrical Ltd – defibrillator Village Hall | 123.92 | 24.78 | 148.70 |
| Collier's of Crowmarsh – Gate catches | 7.16 | | 7.16 |
| Evergreen Grounds Maintenance – Grass Cutting | 1700.00 | 340.00 | 2040.00 |
| Arrow Fencing – wood preserver Kings Meadow | 170.00 | 34.00 | 204.00 |
| Jenks Oxford Ltd – tree work | 700.00 | 140.00 | 840.00 |
| Abingdon Stone and Marble Ltd – war memorial work | 124.00 | 24.80 | 148.80 |
| South and Vale Carers | 100.00 | | 100.00 |

The following payment was made between meetings.

| Payee and reason | £ detail | £ VAT | £ total |
|---|----------|-------|---------|
| Abingdon Stone and Marble Ltd – war memorial work | 124.00 | 24.80 | 148.80 |

The balance of the bank account on 28th September was £51,563.84.

6. Matters for Discussion/Decision

a) Discuss applications for donations from Community Groups

An application has been received from St Agatha's bell appeal. At the time of the application they had raised £30,000 of the £45,000 target and haven't requested as specific sum of money. This year the Council budgeted £2000 for donations. Applications for funding are expected from the Allotment Holders for a fence and the Community Store for alterations in connection with taking over the Post Office.

So far the following grants have been made.

Web Group £500

South and Vale Carers £100

Brightfest Games £50

Brightfest £200 (uncashed)

It was agreed to donate £500 to the Bell Appeal and the Council would consider a request for a further donation if it was needed.

b) Planning

| Ref | Description |
|-------------|---|
| P14/S2860/O | Proposal : Residential development comprising 555 dwellings, a one form entry primary school, associated landscaping and open spaces, construction of a new access onto the A3140 Calvin Thomas Way/Bosley Way, construction of a public transport link/emergency access onto Wantage Road and other supporting infrastructure works and facilities. (As amended by revised drawings and supporting information received 16 September 2015). Address : Land to the West of Wallingford (Site B) Wallingford (in the parishes of Wallingford and Brightwell cum Sotwell) |

Cllr Fox reported that there are two major issues – the bypass speed limit and the detriment of the landscape along the bypass.

Wallingford Town Council and the Parish Council agree that a 50mph limit would be appropriate. The Council Council would accept a 50mph limit but still want the junction designed for a 60mph limit.

Cllr Fox is seeking a meeting with Wallingford Town council to discuss both Councils' responses to the application.

Cllr Fox, working with the help of former Cllr Wood, will respond on behalf of the Parish Council further objecting to the application.

c) Discuss offer from OCC Highways for Partnership Working

The Clerk and Cllr Debney attended a meeting with OCC Highways to discuss taking over further services from the County Council.

The Clerk has requested figures from the County Council but has not yet received a response. It was agreed that further details were require before committing to any agreement.

| | |
|----|---|
| | <p>d) Designation of land at Well Springs As per Public Participation.</p> <p>e) Playground Inspections Rota There have been several problems with the weekly inspection rota. The Council's insurer has confirmed that weekly inspections are necessary. It was agreed that the Clerk would resend the rota to all Councillors along with blank inspection forms. The Clerk will send weekly reminders to Councillors ahead of their inspection weekend. Councillors will return their completed inspection forms to the Clerk. Councillors will notify the Clerk of any changes to the rota. Any items that need attention will be added to the action list until resolved.</p> <p>f) Recreation Ground Fencing Mr Winsor has expressed concern that the Council's decision to leave the car park gate open leaves the recreation field open to being taken over by travellers as there is a large enough gap by the gate to the field for a vehicle to squeeze through. The Playground group will consider resolving the gap as part of the landscaping of the playground redesign. The problems associated with the nettles and rabbits also need to be resolved.</p> <p>g) AONB Area Designation The Clerk has requested information about re-designating the whole parish as part of the AONB – so far there has been no response.</p> |
| 7. | <p>Matters for report and items for inclusion on November's agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cllr Debney reported that the problem with dogs mess at Kings Meadow means children have to be inspected daily before entering the school. The Clerk will speak to the PCSO. - There is no Planning Notice at Red House Lodge – Cllr Murphy will report to SODC. - The Earth Trust plans and consultation have been postponed to the new year. - Manor Pond remains dry – the Clerk will chase up SODC. |

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council would take place on Tuesday 17th November 2015 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 9.25pm.

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

Action List

| Reference | Action | Who | Status |
|------------|--|-------------|--------|
| 2015-10-01 | Well Springs Tree – OCC and Tree Officer | Clerk | |
| 2015-10-02 | Well Springs Designation | Clerk | |
| 2015-10-03 | Tennis Court Path | Clerk | |
| 2015-10-04 | Kings Meadow – Concrete Pad | Clerk | |
| 2015-10-05 | Tennis Court Fence | Clerk | |
| 2015-10-06 | Bike Racks | Clerk | |
| 2015-10-07 | Telephone Box Signs | Clerk | |
| 2015-10-08 | Defibrillator Training - Shillingford | Clerk | |
| 2015-10-09 | OCC Partnership Working | Clerk | |
| 2015-10-10 | Dog poo - PCSO | Clerk | |
| 2015-10-11 | Bank Signatures | RN/SR/SB | |
| 2015-10-12 | Asset Register | Clerk | |
| 2015-10-13 | File Weeding | Clerk/DF/CC | |
| 2015-10-14 | Recreation field Rabbits | Clerk | |
| 2015-10-15 | Notice Boards | Clerk | |
| 2015-10-16 | Paint Slide | Clerk | |
| 2015-10-17 | Surface under swings recreation field | Clerk | |
| 2015-10-18 | Playdale Platform | Clerk | |
| 2015-10-19 | Gate catches Kings Meadow | Clerk | |