

HARPSDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held at Harpsden Village Hall

on

Monday 17th November 2014

Present: Cllr Kester George (KG) Chairman
Cllr Malcolm Plews (MP)
Cllr Tony Wright (TW)
Cllr Rob Simister (RS) SODC Councillor
Cllr David Bartholomew (DB) OCC Councillor

In attendance: Mrs Sarah Tipple (ST) Clerk

2496 Welcomes and apologies: There were apologies from Cllr Robin Dorkings (RD) and Cllr Nick Young (NY). NY had tendered his resignation by email earlier in the week as his work commitments were preventing him from attending Council meetings. KG would thank him for his service in due course and ST would advertise the vacancy in the usual way. **Action: KG and ST**

2497 Declaration of pecuniary interests and/or requests for dispensations from Members regarding any item on this agenda: KG, TW and RS in respect of their houses and gardens in the parish. There were no requests for dispensations.

2498 Minutes of 15th September 2014: The minutes were approved and signed as a correct record.

2499 Matters arising:

2469: RS reported that the recently approved boundary change between Harpsden and Shiplake would disenfranchise the residents of Bolney Road, Manor Wood Gate and Northfield Avenue when it came to voting in the NP referendum.

2477: MP had contacted Carol Cummings at SODC regarding applying for a grant towards the upgrade of Henley Golf Club. As the application could not be made until June, the Golf Club would delay their funding project until that time. If granted, the SODC monies would be allocated to a specific part of the project such as the extension and refurbishment of the kitchen.

2494.iii: The mirror at the exit to the cricket club car park had been cleaned but was still badly placed. ST would ask Rod Birkett to see if the Golf Club could reposition it.

Action: ST

2500 Neighbourhood Plan (NP)

As suspected, the decision by the Henley College to offer 3 areas of its land as potential development sites at such a late stage had caused a significant delay in the NP process. The earliest date for the referendum would be June 2015 as a new draft plan was now required as well as an additional public consultation period. RS reassured Councillors that speculative applications, such as the one being considered by Bloor Homes at Lucy's Farm, would not be considered while the NP process was ongoing. In an attempt to share the responsibility for re-drafting the plan, Nexus had advised the Governance Committee to select at random 50 people who had responded to the public consultation, in order to form a 'Focus Group'. KG would establish who the selected Harpsden residents were, to ensure they represented the views of the whole parish. **Action: KG**

2501 Oxfordshire County Councillor's Report

DB's full report is attached to these minutes at Appendix 1. In matters specific to Harpsden and its neighbouring parishes, DB reported that the roadworks through Bix were ahead of schedule and should be completed by the end of November. The speed

camera at the Plowden Arms in Shiplake had been relocated opposite the entrance to Shiplake College and had now been commissioned. The repair of the road between the Playhatch roundabout and Sonning Bridge had been completed ahead of schedule. A traffic study into the third bridge over the Thames in Reading had been delayed until traffic flows in Reading had returned to normal following major repairs to the Reading Bridge. DB expressed his disappointment that the planning application at Chelford House had been approved despite strong objection from Shiplake Parish Council, Malcolm Leonard and himself. He was concerned that further plots might now be developed along this already very dangerous stretch of the A4155. DB had also been dismayed that OCC Planning had withdrawn its objections (on transport and education grounds) to the development at Thames Farm, without consulting him. He had complained about this failure of process to the director of Planning and to the cabinet member. He assured the parish council of his personal support in continuing to fight the appeal.

2502 South Oxfordshire District Councillor's Report: RS was no longer on the planning committee as he had been promoted to cabinet member for property and technical services, as well as the southern parishes. He explained that one of the key tenets of the SHMA was the duty of neighbouring District Councils to cooperate with Oxfordshire City Council if it could not fulfil its housing needs. SODC would robustly defend the South Oxfordshire area and had already raised concerns about OCC's initial proposal of additional housing it could not accommodate. He would send the link to this proposal to ST. **Action: RS.** In other matters, SODC was offering free car parking on Tuesday afternoons throughout December, the use of CCTV in the area had led to eighty arrests, and SODC had allocated £1m to ensure that superfast broadband, which was currently being installed by BT as part of the 'Better Broadband for Oxfordshire' project, would reach a minimum of 95 per cent of properties in the district. Again he would send the link to ST. **Action: RS**

2503 Extension of AONB: The committee of four local parishes set up to apply for an enlargement of the AONB had been told that their bid was too small to be made in isolation. An AONB Variation Order was a major undertaking representing around three years' worth of effort and requiring a substantial budget. However, the Chilterns AONB Conservation Board was suggesting a substantial boundary variation which included over half of the land in the committee's bid. The committee had therefore agreed to ask the Board to amend its proposal, which was under active consideration by Natural England, to include all the land put forward by the committee.

2504 Planning Matters

2504.i SODC Decisions

P14/S2235/HH

Riverbank, Bolney Road, Lower Shiplake, Henley on Thames, RG9 3NS

Demolition of existing garage and replacement with new store

PERMISSION GRANTED

P14/S2298/FUL

Henley Golf Club, Harpsden Road, Harpsden, RG9 4HG

Construction of viewing galley on west face of lounge, application of stained timber weatherboarding on car park and flank elevations of main Club House, insertion of 3 Velux rooflights on west slope of lounge roof, replacement of aluminium framed porch with brick built structure, replacement of UPVC doors and windows with hardwood windows/doors on car park and flank elevations of main club house.

PERMISSION GRANTED

P14/S2784/HH

Wakeford Lodge, Harpsden Woods, Harpsden, RG9 4AD
Erection of a two storey extension

PERMISSION GRANTED

P14/S2592/FUL and P14/S2593 – listed building consent

Hunts Green Barn, Harpsden Bottom,
Erection of single storey rear extension and glazed link to existing barn and grain store providing additional accommodation in the field compound

PERMISSION GRANTED

P14/S2750/LB

Past Field, 9 Rotherfield Road, Henley on Thames, RG9 1NR

Demolition of existing utility room extension and removal of part of the car port.
Erection of new single storey extension. LISTED BUILDING CONSENT

PERMISSION GRANTED

P14/S2882/FUL

Thames Farm, Upper Bolney Lane, Lower Shiplake, RG9 3PH

Conversion of existing barn into a single residential dwelling.
Renewal of previous permission granted in March 2012

PERMISSION RENEWED

2504.ii Outstanding Applications and Appeals:

APP/Q3115/A/14/2217931

Thames Farm, Reading Road, Shiplake, RG9 3PH

Outline application for up to 110 dwellings

HEARING DATE: STARTS 9TH DECEMBER 2014, HENLEY TOWN HALL, 10AM

It was agreed that KG would ask Matthew Kinghan from Nexus Planning if he would like to address the Thames Farm hearing to explain why the development had been excluded from the NP's site allocations. ST would find out exactly what was required of anyone wishing to attend the hearing. **Action: ST and KG**

P14/S2882/FUL

Thames Farm, Upper Bolney Lane, Lower Shiplake RG9 3PH

Conversion of existing barn into a single residential dwelling. Renewal of previous permission granted in March 2012.

P14/S3304/HH

Raleith, Reading Road, Lower Shiplake, RG9 3PH

Demolition of existing garage and outbuildings and construction of new detached garage

NO OBJECTION

2505 Financial Matters

2505.i Bank Balances and Reconciliations

Community Account: £0.00

Business Saver Account: £5,015.39

(paid in were precept of £2,750 and VAT repayment of £112.08)

ST had previously circulated by email the bank reconciliations for two months to 21st October 2014 for the Business Saver and the Community Accounts and both were now

approved by Councillors and signed by the Chairman. They are attached to the minutes at Appendix 2 and 3.

2505.ii Approval of Payments

ST tabled the following payments for approval:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Power</u>
Sarah Tipple – Clerk’s salary and expenses	£746.92	
HMRC – Clerk’s PAYE	£165.00	
RBL Poppy Appeal	£25.00	War Memorials Act 1923 s. 1, Local Govt Act 1948 s. 133
M. Hooker flagraising	£50.00	War Memorials Act 1923 s. 1, Local Govt Act 1948 s. 133

The payments were authorised by a resolution of the Council and signed by the Chairman and are attached at Appendix 4.

2505.iii Budget vs Actual Expenditure: This was circulated by ST and approved by Council and is attached to these minutes at Appendix 5.

2505.iv Annual Return: ST presented the Annual Return to the Council. MP proposed approving and accepting it and this was seconded by TW. A copy is attached at Appendix 6.

2506 AOB

2506.i KG could think of two residents who might consider joining the parish council following NY’s resignation. He would speak to both in due course. **Action: KG**

2507 Date of next meetings:

- Monday 19th January 2015 7.45pm
- Monday 9th March 2015 7.45pm
- Annual Parish Meeting (APM): Wednesday 22nd April 2015 7pm
- Monday 18th May 2015 7.45pm
- Monday 20th July 2015 7.45pm
- Monday 21st September 2015 7.45pm
- Monday 16th November 2015 7.45pm

Approved:..... Date: 19th January 2015
Kester George, Chairman