

HARPSDEN PARISH COUNCIL

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

on
Monday 18th July 2016

| | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Present: | Cllr Kester George (KG) | Chairman |
| | Cllr Tony Wright (TW) | Deputy Chairman |
| | Cllr Robin Dorkings (RD) | Parish Councillor |
| | Cllr Malcolm Plews (MP) | Parish Councillor |
| | Cllr Catherine Rubinstein (CR) | Parish Councillor |
| | Cllr David Bartholomew (DB) | OCC Councillor |
| | Cllr Paul Harrison (PH) | SODC Councillor |
| In attendance: | Mrs Sarah Tipple (ST) | Clerk |

2632 Welcomes and Apologies: There were no apologies.

2633 Declarations of pecuniary interests and/or requests for dispensations from Members regarding any item on this agenda: There were none.

2634 Approval of Minutes of last Council Meeting on 16th May 2016: The minutes were approved and signed as a correct record.

2635 Matters arising:

2610: Manorial Waste: As KG had not yet received a response from the surveyor at the Phillimore Estate regarding the legal status of the track running from Woodlands Road to Red Hatch Lodge, it was agreed that he would advise the Estate that the Parish Council would now take action. Brian Marsh, the owner of Red Hatch, might take his own action as well. **Action: KG**

2615: Parish Maps: The maps had been framed and were now being stored until the building work at the hall had been completed.

2625: Highways: ST confirmed that the overgrown visibility splays at the junction of Woodlands Road and the A4155 had been cut back. She had also reported the alleged missing signs along the road past Hunts Green on 'Fix My Street'.

2636 Oxfordshire County Councillor's Report: David Bartholomew's full report is attached at Appendix 1. The main points were as follows:

- Although OCC and SODC had appointed separate consultants to prepare reports on the future of local government in Oxfordshire, following recent discussions with DCLG civil servants, the councils had now decided to work together to discuss areas of common ground, assess potential options and establish whether a way forward could be agreed. In view of this, publication of both reports had been postponed until these plans had been jointly developed. The cross-border option, however, would no longer be pursued. OCC had received feedback from ten meetings held around the County and although those attending had appreciated that there could be cost savings from forming a unitary council, they had also expressed concerns about the lack of weight given to the opinions of Parish Councils and about a general lack of expert knowledge should some of OCC's services be devolved to local parishes.
- a study which could lead to up to five new park and rides being built to serve Oxford had now been published.
- adult and child social care costs continued to increase as a proportion of OCC's expenditure with OCC's obligation to assist with unaccompanied young asylum seekers putting further pressure on the council's budget.

- OCC was among the UK's best for children's social care following a recent Ofsted inspection for children's social services
- OCC was expecting up to £6.75 million of funds to be made available to extend the high-speed broadband network
- OCC had had to reduce its verge mowing programme from three cuts a year to just one except where there were concerns about visibility splay

In matters more specific to Harpsden:

- DB had attended the third summit meeting on the third Reading Bridge proposals to review the progress on the preparation of the Strategic Outline Business Case to secure funding to move the proposal forward. The Third Thames Crossing Appraisal Specification Report had been made public following a request by DB and could be found at <http://www.robwilsonmp.com/news/third-thames-bridge-update-traffic-modelling-specification-report-made-public> DB remained concerned that the project was gaining momentum on regional economic grounds with no weight being given to environmental issues and the quality of life of those living in South Oxfordshire. The Strategic Business Case was due to be published in the autumn.
- The County Rights of Way Officer had looked at the alleged footpath diversion at Fairacres, Bolney Lane, and did not believe there had been any infringement. SODC was now investigating the 'Change of Use' aspect of the land adjoining the watermeadow.

2637 South Oxfordshire District Councillor's Report: PH's full report is attached at

Appendix 2. The main points were as follows:

- three strategic directors would have left SODC by the end of September. The new Chief Executive, David Hill, would take up his position in September.
- Town and Parish Forums were held in July to keep local town and parish councils up to date with SODC's activities.
- Dead animals on the road or offensive graffiti should be reported to Biffa on 03000 610610 or by emailing admin.south@biffa.co.uk. Hazards on the road should be reported to Highways on 08453 101111, and all other street issues should be reported on www.fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk
- SODC had recently made new commitments to its equalities objectives and these were available at <http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/community-advice-and-support/equality-and-diversity/our-equality-and-diversity>
- Capita and Vinci were taking over some of the back office functions of five local District Councils which would result in significant cost savings and service improvements
- changes in bus subsidies would affect bus routes in the District. Details were available at <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/sites/default/files/folders/documents/roadsandtransport/publictransport/busservices/BusSubsidyWithdrawal-route-details.pdf>
- SODC was inviting comments on its new Design Guide at <http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/conservation-and-design/design/design-guide>. Hard copies were available at Henley library.
- Sonning Common's Neighbourhood Plan referendum would be held on Thursday 29th September.

2638 Local Plan 2032 Preferred Options Consultation: SODC was continuing to work on a new Local Plan which would shape the future of the District and was inviting all residents for their views on its latest Preferred Options. The Local Plan 2032 would set out how development would be planned and delivered across South Oxfordshire to 2032. The Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) of April 2014 had identified new evidence of South Oxfordshire's housing need beyond that which was planned for in the existing Core Strategy. In addition, Oxford City Council had indicated that it

could have difficulties in meeting its identified housing need within the city boundary and had asked other districts across the County to consider taking some of this “unmet need.” Provision needed to be made for at least 19,500 new dwellings over the plan period, not including windfalls. It was proposing to allocate a further 10% to large villages and 5% to small villages, although protection should be afforded to Harpsden by the Neighbourhood Plan. Further information would be made available at a public event taking place at the D2 Centre in Henley on Saturday 23rd July from 11am to 3pm and Councillors were welcome to attend. The consultation could be found at

<http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/sites/default/files/SODC%20LP2032%20preferred%20options%20low-res.pdf>.

2639 Planning Matters

2639.i SODC Decisions

P16/S0642/FUL

Land at Sheephouse Farm, RG9 4HF

Demolition of existing buildings, alterations to vehicular access to Reading Road, construction of new buildings for use by Bremont Watch Company, new access drive, car parking and landscaping

Planning permission granted

P16/S1032/HH

Crowsley Park Lodge, Harpsden Bottom, Harpsden, RG9 4JD

Variation of condition 2 of planning permission already granted ref P15/S3874/HH

Planning permission granted

P16/S1033/HH

Crowsley Park Lodge, Harpsden Bottom, Harpsden, RG9 4JD

Alterations to existing garage building to provide rooflight and door, alterations to provide doors to annexe and erection of a shed

Planning permission granted

P16/S1159/HH

The Old School House, Harpsden, RG9 4HL

Remove existing conservatory and replace with new one

Planning permission granted

P16/S1677/HH

The Elms, Harpsden Bottom, RG9 4HZ

Single storey side extension replacing existing conservatory

Planning permission granted

2639.ii Outstanding Applications and Appeals:

P16/S0077/O

Highlands Farm, Highlands Lane, Rotherfield Greys, RG9 4PR

Outline planning application to demolish existing buildings and develop up to 170 dwellings along with up to 2,000m² employment space, a Community Hub, public open space, sustainable urban drainage, earthworks, structural planting, substations and associated infrastructure

At a recent public exhibition, KG had suggested that an additional community building in the middle of the development could be beneficial. He had also expressed concern that the

proposed green amenity space had been reduced in size. It was agreed that the Parish Council could pay for the upkeep of the green space.

P16/S0970/O

Thames Farm, Reading Road, Shiplake, RG9 3PH

Outline planning application for up to 95 dwellings and associated public open space and landscaping. Means of access and strategic landscaping not reserved.

P16/S1275/HH

Harpsden Wood House, Harpsden Woods, RG9 4AF

Proposed construction of a tennis court and enclosure and erection of new entrance gates and piers.

The owner of Harpsden Wood House had established from the land registry that the parcel of land at the end of his driveway did indeed belong to the house. On revised plans the proposed entrance gates had been moved closer to the property.

P16/S1252/FUL

Former Dairy Building, Flowercroft Farm, Kings Farm Lane, Harpsden, RG9 4JF

Revised plans to incorporate changes to windows and addition of small single storey plant room to side of dwelling. Conversion of former dairy building to 2-bedroom dwelling to incorporate parking and change of use of agricultural land to form domestic garden

P16/S1873/LB

Hunts Farm Cottage, Harpsden, RG9 4HY

Insert French doors in dining room wall. Replace existing SW door with single glazed panel in SW frame. Paint existing S/C render plinth. Colour to match existing mortar above

P16/S2027/HH

Hunts Farm Cottage, Harpsden, RG9 4HY

Construction of a single storey outbuilding to accommodate an office and guest room. Objection on the grounds that the plans paid no heed to the surrounding AONB and the proposed structure was sited too close to the boundary with the neighbours.

Golf Club: the Golf Club's preferred partner, Octagon Developments, had become less supportive of the Golf Club's proposal to move its Club House to the top of Chalk Hill. Following Brexit it had become concerned that the type of large family houses it was proposing to build on the site of the existing Club House would become harder to sell. Plans had been further delayed as the board was seeking to make the Club an incorporated body, limited by guarantee. This would protect members, board members and trustees should the project fail financially. An EGM would be needed to ratify this course of action.

2640 Financial Matters

2640.i Bank Balances and Reconciliations

Community Account: £284.43

Business Saver Account: £5,480.01

ST had previously circulated by email the bank reconciliations for the 2 months to 21st June 2016 for the Community and Business Saver Accounts and both were now approved by Councillors and signed by the Chairman. They are attached to the minutes at Appendix 3 and 4.

2640.ii Approval of Payments

ST tabled the following payments for approval:

| <u>Item</u> | <u>Amount</u> | <u>Power</u> |
|-----------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Chiltern Society Membership | £30.00 | Section 137 |

| | | |
|--------------------|---------|--------------------|
| Arrow Accounting | £156.90 | |
| Parish Map framing | £335.82 | LGA 1972, s. 226-7 |

The payments were authorised by a resolution of the Council and signed by the Chairman and are attached at Appendix 5. The Section 137 payment to CPRE was proposed by KG, seconded by TW and carried unanimously.

2640.iii Budget vs Actual Expenditure: This was circulated by ST and approved by Council and is attached to these minutes at Appendix 6.

2640.iv Review of the Effectiveness of the Internal Audit: The internal auditor had made no recommendations during the internal audit. Phil Hood from Arrow Accounting had been very thorough and helpful and had completed the internal audit with the minimum of fuss. He had mentioned that next year he could conduct Shiplake's and Harpsden's internal audits on the same day, thus saving each council 50% of his petrol costs. The Council reviewed the effectiveness of the internal audit and found it to be very effective.

2641 AOB: There was no other business.

2642 Dates of next meetings:

Council Meeting: Monday 19th September 2016 7.45pm

Council Meeting: Monday 21st November 2016 7.45pm

Approved:..... Date: 19th September 2016
Kester George, Chairman