

HARPSDEN PARISH COUNCIL

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

on

Monday 19th January 2015

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

In attendance: Mrs Sarah Tipple (ST) Clerk

2508 Welcomes and apologies: There were no apologies.

2509 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.

2510 Minutes of 17th November 2014: The minutes were approved and signed as a correct record.

2511 Matters arising:

2477 Golf Club Plans: MP reported that the Golf Club was discussing the possible relocation of its clubhouse to near the 8th tee at the top of Chalk Hill. The land occupied by the existing clubhouse would then be sold to developers. The redevelopment of the two cottages owned by the Golf Club would also be considered.

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

2512 Neighbourhood Plan (NP)

A 'Focus Group' of 50 people, including 2 from Harpsden, who had responded to the public consultation, had met to re-draft the NP. The second draft was due to be published shortly and put out to public consultation in early February. The main area of discussion remained the allocation of the reserve housing sites should the land at Gillotts School not be released for development. KG and MP were attending a Governance Meeting on Wednesday 21st January.

2513 Oxfordshire County Councillor's Report

DB's full report is attached to these minutes at Appendix 1. In matters specific to Harpsden DB felt that the Thames Farm hearing had been conducted in a thorough and fair way. DB and Tudor Taylor, Chairman of Shiplake Parish Council, had both been disappointed with OCC's approach to the appeal. DB had agreed to try to arrange a meeting between Shiplake and Harpsden Parish Councils and senior OCC officials with the objective of improving consultation and communication in the future. DB had also received ST's request for a grant of £500 towards the installation of a defibrillator at the village hall and was pleased to support it. KG expressed initial concern at the recent suggestion by the leader of OCC, Cllr Ian Hudspeth, that one unitary authority based in Oxford could replace the District Councils in the county. He felt that due to its size and disparate nature, the county could be better served by a few smaller unitary authorities.

2514 South Oxfordshire District Councillor's Report: RS reported that the recent fire at SODC's offices had stymied its services but its disaster recovery plan had been successfully implemented. It was hoped that all lost data would be restored within a couple of weeks and residents were being encouraged to contact SODC with urgent

enquiries only for the time being. Anything sent electronically or by post during the week before the fire should be re-submitted. The next planning committee meeting had been postponed until 11th February. On a more positive note, SODC had spent £100,000 on funding PCSOs in Henley and the surrounding area and this had led to a significant increase in the number of crimes reported and in the number of parking tickets issued. He also drew councillors' attention to the Thames Valley Alert system which encouraged greater communication between the community and the police in an effort to improve the detection and prevention of crime and anti-social behaviour. He would send ST the link and she would promote it via the website. **Action: RS and ST.** Sadly RS would no longer be representing Harpsden from May and Malcolm Leonard would be retiring. Harpsden would be represented by Cllr Paul Harrison, who currently represented Sonning Common and Rotherfield Peppard. All agreed that the Thames Farm appeal was unlikely to be upheld, not least because it was incompatible both with the Neighbourhood Plan and SODC's Core Strategy. RS thought that SODC had a sufficient land bank for the next five years without the inclusion of Thames Farm.

2515 Extension of AONB: The application to extend the AONB had been submitted but any consideration of it by Natural England might not take place for many years as there were other applications ahead of it. The parishes had written to John Howell MP to ask for his support.

2516 Planning Matters

2516.i SODC Decisions

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.

P14/S3304/HH

Raleith, Reading Road, Lower Shiplake, RG9 3PH
Demolition of existing garage and outbuildings and construction of new detached garage

PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED

P14/S2959/HH

Turret House, Garden House, Bolney Road, Lower Shiplake, RG9 3NR
Raise the roof and erection of two dormer windows to provide a bedroom and conversion of ground floor to a self-contained visitor flat

PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED

2516.ii Outstanding Applications and Appeals:

APP/Q3115/A/14/2217931

Thames Farm, Reading Road, Shiplake, RG9 3PH
Outline application for up to 110 dwellings

P14/S3899/HH

Bolney Court, Bolney Road, RG9 3NR

Removal of existing four bay garage. Creation of new 4 bed garage building with recreation space to the room above.

NO OBJECTION

P14/S3888/FUL

Pumping Station, Bolney Road, RG9 3NZ
Installation of a pumping kiosk as part of an upgrade scheme
NO OBJECTION

P14/S3909/HH

Croft Cottage, Chalk Hill, RG9 4HN
Raising of roof and erection of front canopies. Demolition of existing annexe and replacing with two storey annexe with single storey link to dwelling.
KG had met the owner of the neighbouring property and had agreed that the proposed work would deprive her of a significant amount of light. He would write to the planning officer to suggest the plans be modified.

P14/S4032/HH

Yew Tree Cottage, Harpsden Bottom, RG9 4HS
Erection of a single storey rear extension
KG wanted to conduct a site visit with local historian, Ruth Gibson, at a mutually convenient time. **Action: ST to arrange meeting**

Little Hill Cottage, Harpsden

Although no formal application had yet been submitted, KG had met the new owner of Little Hill Cottage who wanted to demolish the existing property and replace it with a larger dwelling in the middle of the plot. The Council had no objections at this outline stage.

2517 Financial Matters

2517.i Bank Balances and Reconciliations

Community Account: £911.92

(Clerk’s salary and PAYE not yet cashed)

Business Saver Account: £4,028.99

ST had previously circulated by email the bank reconciliations for two months to 19th December 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.

2517.ii Approval of Payments

ST tabled the following payments for approval:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Power</u>
John Hodges Trust – meeting room	£320.00	
Rent 2015		
Woodland Trust donation	£300.00	Section 137 payment
Harpsden PCC – cemetery upkeep	£300.00	War Memorials Act 1923 s. 1, Local Govt Act 1948 s. 133
Chilterns Conservation Board	£25.00	Section 137 payment
Henley CAB donation	£50.00	Section 137 payment
Chairman’s expenses 2013 and 2014	£126.43	

The payments were authorised by a resolution of the Council and signed by the Chairman and are attached at Appendix 4. The Section 137 payments were proposed by Cllr Plews, seconded by Cllr Wright and carried unanimously.

2517.iii Budget vs Actual Expenditure: This was circulated by ST and approved by Council and is attached to these minutes at Appendix 5.

2517.iv Budget 2015-16 and Precept: ST had circulated by email a proposed budget for 2015-16. The only significant change year on year was the amount of £1,700 which the elections team at South and Vale had advised ST to set aside for the contested elections in May. KG proposed and MP seconded approving the budget and it was carried by a unanimous show of hands. It was agreed that a precept of £7,000 would be submitted to SODC. The budget is attached at Appendix 6. **Action: ST to submit precept request.**

2518 Council Membership

Following Nick Young's resignation, ST had advertised the vacancy in the requisite manner but no one had come forward. Catherine Rubinstein of White Cottage at the foot of Chalk Hill had expressed an interest in joining later in the year.

2519 AOB MP advised Council that he would be away for 5 weeks but would be contactable by email.

2520 Date of next meetings:

Monday 9th March 2015 7.30pm **NB VENUE TO BE CONFIRMED**
Annual Parish Meeting (APM): Wednesday 22nd April 2015 7pm
Monday 18th May 2015 7.30pm
Monday 20th July 2015 7.30pm
Monday 21st September 2015 7.30pm
Monday 16th November 2015 7.30pm

Approved:..... Date: 9th March 2015
Kester George, Chairman