

# HARPSDEN PARISH COUNCIL

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

on

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2016

Present: Cllr Kester George (KG) Chairman  
Cllr Tony Wright (TW) Deputy Chairman  
Cllr Robin Dorkings (RD) 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

**2643 Welcomes and Apologies:** There were apologies from Cllr Malcolm Plews.

**2644 Declarations of pecuniary interests and/or requests for dispensations from Members regarding any item on this agenda:** There were none.

**2645 Approval of Minutes of last Council Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2016:** The minutes were approved and signed as a correct record.

**2646 Matters arising:**

**2635: Manorial Waste:** Brian Marsh, the owner of Red Hatch, had asked his solicitor to establish the legal status of the track running from Woodlands Road to Red Hatch Lodge as no information had been forthcoming from the surveyor at the Phillimore Estate.

**2638: Local Plan 2032:** TW questioned why neighbouring Councils were being asked to accommodate Oxford City Council's unmet housing need. PH and DB explained that the figure of 100,000 new homes required in the area was arbitrary and far exceeded the actual number needed. As Oxfordshire enjoyed nearly full employment, its requirement for new housing was in reality far less than this figure. They encouraged Councillors to join an Oxfordshire campaign entitled 'Need not Greed' which recognised the need for economic growth in the area but at a realistic level. **Action:**

**KG**

**2647 Oxfordshire County Councillor's Report:** David Bartholomew's full report is attached at Appendix 1. The main points were as follows:

- With regards to the Unitary Debate, both SODC's and OCC's reports had shown that cost savings in excess of £100m could be possible over five years although OCC preferred a single unitary Council whereas SODC preferred separate councils. If value was to be got from these expensive reports, the debate needed to continue
- Residents were being encouraged to have their electric blankets checked for free in Henley on 19<sup>th</sup> October.
- OCC was offering advice and support for young people who had just sat public exams. Staff were available via the web chat service on the Oxme website.
- OCC had established the 'Oxfordshire Comet', a not for profit, bookable transport service between 10.15am and 14.30pm for local residents who could not access public transport. As it was offering its vehicles that normally took children and adults to day care centres and were therefore only used at the beginning and end of each school day, the Council only had to cover its running costs. More information was available at: [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/oxfordshire-comet](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/oxfordshire-comet).
- OCC and Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group in conjunction with other organisations had launched a consultation about the strategy for carers in the County

and proposed options for carers' personal budgets. This was needed as both organisations recognised and valued the important role that the 61,000 family, informal or unpaid carers had in the lives of vulnerable members of the community. Residents were encouraged to respond at:

[www.consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult/ti/Carers/answerQuestionnaire?qid=4183363](http://www.consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult/ti/Carers/answerQuestionnaire?qid=4183363) or by attending a workshop taking place from 10.30am to 13:00pm on 13<sup>th</sup> September at Didcot Civic Hall, 15<sup>th</sup> September at Banbury Town Hall or 29<sup>th</sup> September at Oxford Town Hall.

In matters more specific to Harpsden:

- As the Area Steward had considered the road surface on Kings Farm Lane unsuitable even for non-motorised traffic, some pothole patching had recently been done on the lane despite it only being a restricted byway.

- A planning application had been received by SODC for seven houses at Mount Ida, on the A4155 opposite Thames Farm. Furthermore, a leaflet had been door-dropped to Shiplake residents outlining plans for a 40-bed care home and 66 houses/apartments on a site just beyond Tower House, also on the A4155. KG agreed that the Parish Council would support Shiplake in its objections to both these developments on account of the unsustainability of both plots, the resulting increase in traffic on an already dangerous stretch of road and the precedent it would set for further ribbon development along the A4155. **Action: KG**

**2648 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, had taken up his position on 1<sup>st</sup> September. PH had requested a meeting with him on 23<sup>rd</sup> September to discuss various local issues.

- Town and Parish Forums had been held in July to keep local town and parish councils up to date with SODC's activities.

- Despite a recent campaign to raise awareness about the problem of contamination of green recycling bins with non-recyclable rubbish, from 3<sup>rd</sup> November bins would only be emptied if the recycling in them was loose or in clear sacks

- The Council had provided additional funding to the Better Broadband for Oxfordshire programme to extend broadband coverage across the District. The latest plan for the local area was at [www.betterbroadbandoxfordshire.org.uk/cms/content/coverage-map](http://www.betterbroadbandoxfordshire.org.uk/cms/content/coverage-map).

- Capita and VINCI had started to take over some of the back office functions of five local District Councils which would result in significant cost savings and service improvements.

- Each year the Council provided £100,000 to part fund six PCSOs who, amongst other things, provided help to older residents to avoid scams, gave crime prevention and internet safety advice and assisted victims of crime.

- All homes across the District should have received a yellow letter asking residents to confirm who currently lived at that address. This information was needed to ensure that everyone eligible to vote was able to do so at future elections.

- Thames Valley Community Rehabilitation Company was looking for opportunities for offenders who had been given Community Payback sentences, to work on community projects such as pathway clearing, graffiti removal or repainting play equipment in public places.

- A new revenue grants scheme had been launched and although the deadline for applications for this round had now closed, it was hoped more grants would be announced in due course.

- PH also mentioned that the Phillimore Estate had moved the land it owned between Emmer Green and Sonning Common from its agricultural portfolio into its property

portfolio. He understood that Gladman Homes would be putting an outline planning application in for 270 homes along this stretch of road.

## **2649 Planning Matters**

### **2649.i SODC Decisions**

#### **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.

**Planning permission unanimously refused, largely on traffic issues**

#### **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.

**Planning permission granted, although modifications had been made to the height and location of the gate posts.**

#### **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

**Planning permission granted**

#### **P16/S2027/HH**

Hunts Farm Cottage, Harpsden, RG9 4HY

Construction of a single storey outbuilding to accommodate an office and guest room

**Planning permission granted**

#### **P16/S2492/AG – Agricultural Notification**

Land off Kings Farm Lane

Tractor and associated implements storage shed

**Formal application for planning permission not required**

### **2649.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 2,000m<sup>2</sup> employment space, a Community Hub, public open space, sustainable urban drainage, earthworks, structural planting, substations and associated infrastructure

#### **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

**No objection.**

#### **P16/S2360/LB**

Hunts Farm, Harpsden Bottom, RG9 4HY

Refurbishment and extension of existing farm house and conversion of two farm out-buildings and yard to residential use, including amenity garden space and off-street parking  
**As the conservation officer had expressed concerns over the extension to the farmhouse, KG would comment in a similar vein. Action: KG and TW to visit the site**

**P16/S2470/LB**

Hunts Green Barn, Harpsden Bottom, Harpsden, RG9 4HY

Modification of existing planning permission granted in 2014 – Erection of single storey extension and glazed link to existing barn and grain store building providing ancillary accommodation in field compound

**No objections**

**2650 Financial Matters**

**2650.i Bank Balances and Reconciliations**

Community Account: £311.71

Business Saver Account: £4,930.01

ST had previously circulated by email the bank reconciliations for the 2 months to 21<sup>st</sup> August 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.

**2650.ii Approval of Payments**

ST tabled the following payments for approval:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Power</u>
Clerk's salary + expenses	£756.86	
Clerk's PAYE	£180.00	

The payments were authorised by a resolution of the Council and signed by the Chairman and are attached at Appendix 5.

**2650.iii Budget vs Actual Expenditure:** This was circulated by ST and approved by Council and is attached to these minutes at Appendix 6.

**2650.iv Presentation of Annual Return:** The Annual Return had been previously circulated by email now that the external audit opinion had been given. The Annual Return including BDO's certificate was approved and accepted on TW's proposal which was seconded by CR. A copy of the Annual Return is attached at Appendix 7.

**2651 AOB:** As work on the flat above the committee room of the village hall was due to start on 10<sup>th</sup> October, the next three Council meetings would be held in the pavilion at Harpsden Cricket Club.

**2652 Dates of next meetings:**

Council Meeting: Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2016 7.45pm

**Approved:..... Date: 21<sup>st</sup> November 2016**  
**Kester George, Chairman**