

HARPSDEN PARISH COUNCIL

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

on

Monday 28th July 2014

Present:	Mr Kester George (KG)	Chairman
	Mr Malcolm Plews (MP)	
	Mrs Odette Moss (OM)	
	Mr Nick Young (NY)	
	Mr Rob Simister (RS)	SODC Councillor
	Mr Malcolm Leonard (ML)	SODC Councillor
	Mr David Bartholomew (DB)	OCC Councillor
In attendance:	Mrs Sarah Tipple (ST)	Clerk
	Mr Krystian Groom	Curtin & Co, agents for Crest Homes
	Ms Sarah Wardle	Curtin & Co, agents for Crest Homes

2471 Welcomes and apologies: There were apologies from Cllr Robin Dorkings (RD).

2472 Declaration of pecuniary interests and/or requests for dispensations from Members regarding any item on this agenda: KG, OM, NY and RS in respect of their houses and gardens in the parish. There were no requests for dispensations.

2473 Minutes of 19th May 2014: The minutes were approved and signed as a correct record.

2474 Matters arising:

2463: OM made reference to the poor reception of the Henley Magazine by Harpsden residents.

2469: It was still unclear whether the recently approved boundary change, due to take effect in October, to move houses in Bolney Road, Manor Wood Gate and Northfield Avenue from Harpsden Parish into Shiplake Parish would disenfranchise the residents of those houses when it came to voting in the NP referendum. ML agreed to seek advice from Mr Buckle at SODC. **Action: ML**

2475 Consultation on Draft Neighbourhood Plan (NP)

It was agreed that the decision by Henley College to offer its land as a potential development site at such a late stage could have a dramatic impact on the draft NP. A committee comprising representatives from Henley Town Council, Harpsden Parish Council, Nexus Planning and the Henley College, including its Finance Director, would be meeting on 6th August for preliminary discussions. 600 responses to the consultation had been received by Nexus and, although the Henley College's late representation could call for some dramatic changes to the draft plan, there seemed to be a fair amount of optimism that the plan was moving forward. On the other hand, OM was of the opinion that the plan had been run undemocratically and unprofessionally and could founder at the referendum stage. The next Housing Group meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 12th August 2014 at 7.30pm.

2476 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 was advised by RS that the problem of flooding outside The Old Rectory along the valley road had now been fixed. OCC had been informed that the Secretary of State did not intend to call-in Lafarge's application to extend Caversham Quarry so officers were now obliged to approve the application subject to a satisfactory Section 106 agreement. Gravel could be sourced as far as Shiplake College. DB suggested that the best line of defence might be to

apply for an extension to the AONB. Wokingham Council's traffic modelling report on the potential third Reading Bridge had proved inconclusive so it would be undertaking a more comprehensive analysis and reporting back. The road between Sonning Bridge and Playhatch had been scheduled for repair during October which could necessitate a complete road closure. Lastly, DB had a much smaller budget this year but invited applications from the Parish Council in the region of £500 for an appropriate project.

2477 South Oxfordshire District Councillor's Report: RS would send ST details of an SODC fund of £100,000 for grants towards projects such as village signs or flower planters. A Community Grant was available of up to £15,000 per application. KG wondered if AFC Henley might be interested in applying as it had plans to refurbish the football pavilion in Harpsden. **Action: ST to let AFC Henley know.** In matters pertaining to the NP, RS warned the Council that the examination hearings on Cherwell's Local Plan had been suspended for six months to enable the Council to put forward proposed modifications to the plan involving increased housing numbers over the plan period to meet the needs of the district, based on the Oxfordshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2014 (SHMA). He suggested that there could be a similar delay with the Henley Harpsden Joint NP until the SHMA had been finalised although SODC's Core Strategy might provide some protection. The suggestion was that all Local and Neighbourhood Plans had to be able to identify future housing needs as well as current ones. ML reported on the recent meeting to finalise the proposed boundary changes brought about by the Community Governance Review. Despite the best efforts of the Henley Residents' Group to move land at Highlands Farm into the parish of Henley, ML robustly defended the parish boundary with a successful outcome for Harpsden. KG thanked ML for his sterling work and wanted it noted for the record how greatly his efforts were appreciated by the Council. ML asked to be copied in on parish council correspondence and minutes of meetings. **Action: ST** RS and ML left the meeting at 8.45pm.

2478 Planning Matters

2478.i SODC Decisions

P14/S0809/HH

Woodhill, Harpsden Woods, Harpsden, RG9 4AF

Replacement two-storey side extension on existing extension footprint

Planning permission granted

P14/S1351/HH

Kings Farm, Kings Farm Lane, Harpsden, RG9 4JG

Two-storey rear extension

Planning permission granted

P14/S1309/HH

Ash Farm, Upper Bolney Road, Harpsden, RG9 4AQ

Alterations and extensions to dwelling including raising link roof, conversion of garage to habitable location, new dormer windows and rooflights, alterations to the roof and single storey extension. Demolition and replacement of existing outbuilding and erection on new carport and log store to the western side of the house

Planning permission granted

P14/S1242/HH

4 Harpsden Hill Cottages, Harpsden Bottom, Harpsden, RG9 4HU

Erection of gable end type dormers to front and rear elevations

Planning permission granted

2478.ii Outstanding Applications and Appeals:

APP/Q3115/A/14/2217931

Thames Farm, Reading Road, Shiplake, RG9 3PH

Outline application for up to 110 dwellings

No hearing date yet set

P14/S1869/HH

The Old Barn, Kings Farm Lane, Harpsden, RG9 4JG

Removal of condition no 6 of planning permission granted in 2005 to allow the use of storage spaces above the double garage and the tack room for ancillary purposes to the dwelling house.

NO OBJECTION

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.

It was generally agreed that any improvement to the Golf Club's buildings were to be recommended, not least to match the vastly improved look of the cricket ground and pavilion opposite. Therefore NO OBJECTION.

P14/S2270/PDH

13 Manor Wood Gate, Lower Shiplake, RG9 3BY

Proposed rear extension – to determine whether prior approval is required for an extension which could be built under the new development rights.

TOOK NOTE.

P14/S2250/HH

Sheephouse Farm, Reading Road, Henley on Thames, RG9 4HF

Proposed new stone gate posts and wooden gates to entrance.

NO OBJECTION.

P14/S2235/HH

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

Demolition of existing garage and replacement with new store

NO OBJECTION

2479 Financial Matters

2479.i Bank Balances and Reconciliations

Community Account: £1,671.57 – the grant of £890 for the new noticeboard had not yet been spent and the Clerk's salary and expenses of £781.57 had not yet been cashed.

Business Saver Account: £3,622.53

ST had previously circulated by email the bank reconciliations for one month to 20th June 2014 for the Business Saver Account and for two months to 21st July for the Community Account and both were now approved by Councillors and signed by the Chairman. They are attached to the minutes at Appendix 2 and 3.

2479.ii Approval of Payments

ST tabled the following payments for approval:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Power</u>
Chiltern Society annual subscription	£25.00	Section 137
JNP Associates – internal audit	£70.00	
Greenbarnes – notice board	£958.96	£68.96 Section 137 £890 OCC grant

The payments were authorised by a resolution of the Council and initialled by the Chairman and are attached at Appendix 4. The Section 137 payment to the Chiltern Society was proposed by Cllr Moss, seconded by Cllr Plews and carried unanimously. The Section 137 payment to Greenbarnes for £68.96 was proposed by Cllr Young, seconded by Cllr George and carried unanimously.

2479.iii Budget vs Actual Expenditure: This was circulated by ST and approved by Council and is attached to these minutes at Appendix 5.

2479.iv Review of Effectiveness of the Internal Audit

ST ran through the recommendations of the internal auditor, of which there were two. Payments should be entered in the cashbook for the same year they were approved, if necessary writing unrepresented cheques back when reconciling. The agendas should ‘summon members to a meeting of the Council’ rather than to a ‘meeting of Councillors’. ST would action the latter with immediate effect and the former at the end of the next financial year. The Council reviewed the effectiveness of the internal audit and found it to be very effective. JNP Associates had been very thorough, very helpful and had completed it with the minimum of fuss. ST recommended using JNP Associates for HPC’s next internal audit and this was accepted unanimously.

2480 AOB

It was with regret that OM announced her resignation with immediate effect. She had enjoyed being a parish councillor but felt that she had served for a sufficiently long time and that the Council would benefit from some ‘fresh blood’. She also wanted to devote more time to her other charitable work. KG thanked her for all her greatly valued time and contributions to the Council and wished her well.

2481 Dates of next meetings:

Monday 15th September 2014 7.45pm

Monday 17th November 2104 7.45pm

Approved:..... Date: 15th September 2014

Kester George, Chairman