

# HARPSDEN PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting held at Harpsden Village Hall

on

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2012

Present: Mr Kester George (KG) Chairman  
Mr Richard Bossons (RB)  
Mrs Odette Moss (OM)  
Mr Malcolm Plews (MP)  
Mrs Karen Tross Youle (KTY)  
Dr Peter Skolar (PS)

In attendance: Mrs Sarah Tipple (ST) Clerk

**2249 Welcomes and apologies:** There were apologies from Rob Simister and Malcolm Leonard. While welcoming **ST** as the new Clerk, **KG** thanked her predecessor, Jane de Souza for handing over the files in excellent order, and hoped to thank her more formally at the Annual Parish Meeting in April.

**2250 Minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting** held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2011 were approved and signed as a correct record after the following items had been discussed: 2239 Co-option of **MP** as a new Councillor. **OM** expressed dissatisfaction with the way in which **MP** had been introduced to the Council's proceedings at the last meeting although **MP** himself felt it had been adequate. **KG** welcomed him as the new Councillor and **ST** would ask him to fill in the relevant forms at the end of the meeting. Signage at Upper Bolney Lane. **KG** reported that the misleading sign had been removed. 2242 Highway Matters: Gillotts Lane. **OM** tabled several photos of potholes along Gillotts Lane and reported new incidents of damage to cars. She complained that these conditions had gone on for far too long, that the road had not been resurfaced for about 30 years and that the passing places were inadequate for a road as well used as Gillotts Lane. **PS** advised her that as it was a single-track road, it would be given a low priority by the OCC Highways Department but that he would pass the matter to them in any case. **RB**, whose car had also suffered considerable damage, suggested that all those adversely affected by the potholes should submit a joint claim to OCC, but **PS** stated that compensation could not be awarded if the potholes were already a known problem. He suggested that all those affected put their complaints in writing to the Highways Department.

**2251 Oxfordshire County Councillor's Report**

Lafarge. **PS** reported that Lafarge had applied to increase the level of gravel extraction at its Sonning works and that the resulting holes would be backfilled with concrete. This would not only increase the likelihood of flooding in the area, but the increase in up to 50 HGV movements per day through Harpsden and Henley to transport the inert material to the works, would have a detrimental effect on the air quality and the flow of traffic and could cause damage to buildings. Lafarge had also suggested building another access road onto the A4155 near the Flowing Spring Pub and in compensation, would subsidise the cost to reduce the speed limit to 40mph from 50mph. **PS** strongly urged Councillors and residents to object. **KG** agreed to draft a letter from the Parish Council to the Director of Planning at OCC and would circulate it for comment. **(Action: KG)**

Big Society Funding. There was some funding available for services which used to be funded by OCC such as youth services and libraries under the Big Society Funding programme.

Vehicle Activated Speed Signs. There was funding available for vehicle activated speed signs to be installed on the chicane on the A4155 by the Shiplake War Memorial and by the primary school.

Townlands. Plans for the redevelopment of Townlands were on schedule but details on funding were unavailable since the development was at a commercially sensitive stage.

Highlands Farm No further details had been forthcoming about its role in SODC's Core Plan.

**2252 Highways and Footpaths**

**PS** advised that OCC planned in February to resurface the entire length of the A4155 from Henley to its boundary with Berkshire.

**2253 Planning Matters**

**2253.1 Appeals**

Ref: APP/Q3115/A11/2160528/NWF Thames Farm, Shiplake (in the Parish of Harpsden) RG9 3PH. Change of use of building from agricultural barn to residential dwelling with external alterations.

**KG** reported that Malcolm Leonard, Tony Wright (a Harpsden resident) and he would be speaking at the appeal hearing at Crowmarsh on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2012 against allowing the barn to be converted into a large house. He would draft his speech and circulate it to Councillors for comment. He reminded Councillors that the barn had been granted planning permission for agricultural storage purposes for ten years only and that time was almost up. **PS** stressed that as part of the core plan, further development of that land would not be allowed because it was outside the curtilage of the village. **KTY** agreed to send an email to several Harpsden residents, urging them to attend the appeal hearing or to relay their thoughts and opinions to **KG** who would incorporate them into his objection speech. **KG** would check the meeting's start time and circulate. He would also be in touch with Shiplake Parish Council, who would also be objecting at the meeting. **(Action: KTY and KG)**

**2253.2 Outstanding Applications**

Ref: P11/E2130 Perseverance Farm, Harpsden RG9 4AP

Proposed swimming pool and glass enclosure ancillary to the house NO OBJECTION

**2253.3 SODC Decisions**

P11/E1603 Land at Crosscroft Wood, Devil's Hill, Crowsley

Open sided timber barn GRANTED

P11/E1716 The Old Barn, Kings Farm Lane, Harpsden, RG9 4JG

Installation of one airsource heat pump GRANTED

P11/E1805 Minstrels, Woodlands Road, Harpsden, RG9 4AB

Extensions and alterations to existing dwelling and a replacement garage GRANTED

**2253.4 Other Planning Matters**

**2253.4.1 The former New England Cottage, now known as Hunts Green House.**

Councillors expressed disappointment that the Munsons had been allowed to move in despite their still being in breach of planning conditions. Planning enforcement officers had at least now asked them to remove their boarded roadside fence but apparently not their garish tiles, which seemed quite out of keeping with the local environment.

**2253.4.2 RB** reported that Colin White, a planning officer of the Chilterns Conservation Board, would be running a course on design for the SODC planning department. He would also email the 'Chilterns Design Guide' to Councillors.

**2253.4.3 MP** expressed concern that the plan for an additional 400 houses in the area still presented a huge issue. **KG** replied that as Harpsden was a small village in South Oxfordshire's Core Plan, it should be protected from large-scale development. He would, however, raise the issue with Rob Simister at the next meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> March.

**2254** **Financial Matters**

**2254.1 Balances as at 16<sup>th</sup> January 2012**

Community Account: £0.00

Business Saver Account: £4,673.69

**2254.2 Approval of Payments**

None

**2254.3** It was agreed that **RB** would become one of the signatories on the bank account. **ST** would give him the necessary paperwork at the end of the meeting.

**2255** **AOB**

**OM** wondered if the Queen's Diamond Jubilee would in some way be celebrated or marked. **ST** would ask the Shiplake Parish Council Clerk, Roger Hudson, if they were planning anything.

**KG** reported that the refurbishment of the Committee Room would be starting soon and would include the installation of wall cabinets which could be used for the storage of Parish Council files and the display of village artefacts.

**KG** further reported that the Cricket Club was hoping to move the cricket square and to level the boundary in an effort to reduce the risk of balls being hit on to cars in the Golf Club's car park and onto the road. Planning permission would probably be needed but the redevelopment would not significantly change the outlook from the road and would be beneficial for the village as a whole.

**2256** **The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2012 at 7.45pm in the Committee Room of Harpsden Village Hall.**