

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 21st JULY 2010[/heading]

The meeting commenced at 7.35pm.

PRESENT: Sid Bishop, David Lomax, Gordon Wilson (Chair), Liz Carmichael (Clerk) and Andrew Bennett (Ward Councillor).

1. APOLOGIES

Stephanie Penfold

2. CO-OPTION

The clerk advised the meeting that she had spoken with Mrs Mascia who had delayed submitting her resume whilst she reviewed her personal commitments. The Parish Council clarified the point that the vacancy for parish councillor was still unfilled and that other candidates may apply if they wished to do so.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

David Lomax declared an interest in agenda item 10.4 as he is a representative for the Parish Council on the Parish Plan committee.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th June were approved and signed as a true record.

5. UPDATE FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

David Lomax advised the meeting that he was not sure that the overhanging hedge was the responsibility of the adjacent homeowner as it was in front of the fence. It was noted that Swindon Borough Council (SBC) would either cut the hedge or contact the landowner and request that they cut the hedge. Gordon Wilson will be meeting with Robin Archer to discuss installation of the seat. Mr Archer has stated that he will need to see the seat in order to determine how to secure it. The clerk advised the meeting that Rachel Ind has recommend that a site meeting be held to discuss the location of the seat. It was noted that Rory Draper, Community Beat Manager, will be attending the September meeting. The clerk has been looking for a supplier for the website sign and has been in contact with Emily Sykes who has stated that SBC will not permit signs with this information to be placed on the public highway. Other villages may have this information on signs at entry points however it is not prescribed by the Department for Transport. Emily Sykes has advised that speed limit roundel road markings can only be used where a speed limit

changes or as a repeater in conjunction with upright repeater signing. As the existing 30mph speed limit repeater signing on Purley Road conforms to the regulations, additional repeater signing cannot be provided. However, now that the scheme has been completed a speed limit survey will be carried out so that the effectiveness of the scheme can be assessed. A VAS sign coming up the hill may be effective although this would need to be added to the list of requests for consideration in the new financial year. Emily Sykes has advised that once the results are back from a speed survey, she will be able to assess if additional measures might be appropriate.

Actions completed

Send letter of thanks to Anne Snelgrove

Send letter of congratulations to Robert Buckland & invite him to attend a meeting

Circulate Hackney Carriage Vehicle Specification and review document

Send letter of appreciation to Emily Sykes. Copy G Lloyd & P Greenhalgh.

Speak to Emily Sykes about additional repeater signs

Send letter of complaint to sorting office regarding collection plates

Invite a member of the Neighbourhood Policing Team to July meeting

Actions carried forward from previous minutes

Arrange meeting with SBC to discuss parking issues Action: AB

Get costings for website sign Action: clerk

Speak to resident about alternate places to park Action: JM

Get permission from Highways to place seat on triangle at the top of the Street Action: clerk

Get costings for cementing in new seat Action: clerk

Walk around village & review parking issues Action: All

Speak to resident about overhanging hedge Action: DL

6. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

6.1 Ongoing Matters

(i) Traffic Calming – The VAS location has been changed and the crossing widened. The project is now complete except for a traffic survey which will be carried out to check the effectiveness of the scheme.

(ii) Electricity Poles – Ongoing.

(iii) Flooding & blocked drains – It was noted that 2 drains in The Street have been repaired however the blocked drains in

Medbourne lane are still an issue.

(iv) Medbourne Lane road signs – It was noted that the new signs have still not been installed.

(v) Postal Collection Plates – Matter is still ongoing.

6.2 Hackney Carriage Vehicle Specification – It was agreed that a response be sent stating that at this point in time the Parish Council was unaware of any problems experienced by residents

6.3 Cluster Projects – The Parish Council agreed that it's response to the request for cluster projects would be that it was not aware of any immediate project and will be in contact if something arises in the future. The Parish Council would like to be kept informed of what's happening with cluster projects.

6.4 Robert Buckland MP – It was agreed that the MP for Swindon South should be invited to meet with the Parish Council and members of the public.

Invite Robert Buckland MP to meeting & book hall Action: clerk

6.5 Bus Service – Sid Bishop confirmed that due to a reduction in the subsidies from the government there had been a knock-on impact on the bus service. As a result of the changes to the bus service, it was no longer convenient for some residents. The Parish Council was particularly concerned that there had been no communication from Thamesdown and that there had been changes made to the bus service without any consultation or notification. It was agreed that a letter of complaint be sent to Thamesdown buses.

Send letter of complaint to Thamesdown Action: clerk

6.6 Passenger Transport Forum – Due to the recent cuts in the bus service there is some interest in sending a representative, if available, to the passenger transport forum meetings.

6.7 Communication Activities – This agenda item could not be discussed as Maurice Spillane was unable to attend the meeting. It was agreed that it be carried forward to the next meeting.

6.8 Parking Issues – This agenda item was not discussed as information from a walk around the village has still to be gathered.

10. WARD COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

It was noted that Andrew Bennett had provided information and updates on matters on the agenda as they were discussed during the course of the meeting. He advised that Stuart Hanks in Sam Weller's office was working on emergency action planning and, if the Parish Council wished to create an emergency plan, Mr Hanks could provide some guidance.

Andrew Bennett left the meeting.

6.9 Quality Parish Council Scheme – As there were only 3 Councillors at the meeting it was agreed that this matter should be deferred until another meeting when all or most Parish Councillors are in attendance.

SUSPENSION OF THE MEETING FOR PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The meeting was not suspended as there were no members of the public present.

7. PLANNING

S/10/0842/1H Land at Commonhead – it was noted that this is an amended application for housing at Coate Water. It was agreed that the Parish Council will object to this revised application and the objections will be based on previous submissions.

No planning decisions have been received since the last meeting.

8. FINANCE

8.1 Account Summary – The Parish Council reviewed and approved the account summary. It was noted that as the bank account was in credit by over £4500 at the start of the financial year there are sufficient funds to cover the VAT on the village hall roof repairs until it is reclaimed.

8.2 Budget – The Parish Council reviewed the draft budget prepared by the clerk and agreed it with no amendments.

8.3 Payments – The Parish Council agreed to pay the following invoices :

Clerk's remuneration for Apr-June £375

Invoice 2131 & 2138 from Stratton St Margaret Parish Council for dog waste collection service £6.98 & £6.98

Invoice 570613 for £18 from Liddington Village Hall committee for hall rental

Invoice 241177847 for £120 from Swindon Borough Council for the contribution towards the cost of 3 gates

WALC, Swindon Area Committee annual financial contribution 2010/2011 £14

9. CORRESPONDENCE

9.1 The Parish Council discussed the points raised in Mr Conning's letter and agreed its response. It was noted that clarification is required as to where along Church road the public road ends.

Send reply to Mr Conning's letter Action: clerk

9.2 The Parish Council noted the list of correspondence for information that had been received. The National Training Strategy for Town & Parish Councils booklet “Being a good employer, a guide for parish & town councillors” was passed to Gordon Wilson.

11. COUNCILLORS’ REPORTS

11.1 Playing Field – Sid Bishop advised the meeting that he had carried out safety inspections on the play equipment on the 5th July and 19th July and that there were no issues to report.

11.2 Village Hall – No report as Stephanie Penfold was unable to attend the meeting.

11.3 Neighbourhood Watch Scheme – No report as Jonathan Miller was unable to attend the meeting.

11.4 Parish Plan – The group is moving forward and is waiting for the questionnaire to be finalised. Another meeting is planned for early August.

11.5 Jeffries Land Trust – Nothing to report.

12. PARISH MAGAZINE

It was agreed that the following items be put in the Parish Council’s report:

PC disappointed with lack of communication and is writing letter of complaint to bus company.

Traffic calming project is complete. Its effectiveness will be monitored, particularly with regard to traffic heading up the hill.

LPC will put forward some more proposals for the next financial year.

13. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/ITEMS FOR A FUTURE AGENDA

It was noted that the Parish Council was unclear about the status of the permissive footpath through the coomb and it was thought that possibly permission had been rescinded following a change of ownership.

A concern was raised that some of the recently created off road parking in Purley was unlawful development that should have had planning permission.

It was noted that a planning application may be submitted for the Sun Inn to be converted into a single residence with possibly a new dwelling being built on the car park. The clerk advised the meeting that Councillors’ could provide informal feedback on the proposals provided that it is made clear that any comments made represent the view point of the individual and not the Parish

Council. The Parish Council may review any pre-submission plans and provide feedback provided that the matter is placed on the agenda.

Agenda item – To discuss what the Parish Council is going to do with the trough outside the bungalows.

The meeting concluded at 9.45m

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 8th September 2010.