

SIDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE MEETING ROOM, SIDDINGTON, ON TUESDAY 12 JANUARY 2016

PRESENT

Cllrs. Mrs. A. Wagstaff (Chairman), C. Rumble (Vice Chairman), A. Painter, Mrs. M. Painter, Mrs. M. Turner, B. Barnes, N. Deller, N. Selby and J. Hall.

District/County Cllr. S. Parsons from 8.15 pm.

APOLOGIES

Cllr. Mrs. A. Prosser.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2015 were approved and signed subject to the following:-

Under the heading "Severalls Field," the first sentence should be amended to read "Adam White of Hunter Page," rather than "Adam White of Bloor Homes."

MATTERS ARISING

The items on the new "Outstanding Issues" sheet were brought up to date as follows -

- The owner of 6, Laurel Cottages had emailed expressing his concerns regarding the proposed litter bin on his land. The Clerk has responded by saying that no decision would be taken until Highways had checked their underground maps. If the all clear is given, the Chairman and Clerk would meet the owner on site to resolve the matter.
- The Clerk said he would contact Richard Gray to see if the estimate for removing the grass triangle at the entrance to Church Avenue was now available.
- Bromford Living are awaiting a report from their legal team to see what action can be taken regarding the abandoned vehicle in the Park Way car park. Meanwhile, an official has reported that she could not find the site, let alone the vehicle.
- Denys Young has been in regular contact regarding the road surface at The Butts. Richard Gray has inspected the area and confirmed that, because of financial constraints, improvements are restricted to reinstating the verge with compacted plantings to provide some structural strength. It had been noted that foliage growing in a section of the verge was starting to protrude into the road and Amey has been commissioned to have this cut back. Green Lane will also be inspected to ascertain if works are required.
- The Clerk is following up the missing school sign. The case reference is 11072155.
- Cllr. Rumble said would be erecting dog signs for the playing field as soon as possible.
- Brian Barnes confirmed he would shortly be finalizing amendments to the Council's Standing Orders.
- The Chairman is pursuing the possibility of new village signs.
- John Hall reported that he had made initial enquiries regarding setting up a new website for the Council's exclusive use. However, as the installation charge was £975.00, followed by an annual charge of £105.00, it was decided to seek alternatives.
- The Clerk said he had asked Highways to look at the overhanging hedge at 1, Ashton Road and if action was required, they would write to the owner.
- Richard Gray has instructed Amey to inspect the damage caused by hedge cutting in the Upper Siddington section of Park Way. The concern was that the road would flood as the

ditch and culverts underneath the road may be blocked with materials from a land owner's boundary hedge cutting.

- The Clerk reported that the grass cutting contractor had repaired the broken playing field fence opposite Hatters Cottage, Park Way. In addition, he had inspected the fencing around the entire playing field area to ensure no pieces were loose.
- The Clerk said that Highways would be repositioning the reflective posts in Park Way, the case reference was 11081789.
- Mike Barton, the Public Rights of Way Networks Manager, has said he will look at the damaged footpath surface by The Coach House when he was next in the area. The footpath number is BSN13.

PLANNING

North Hill Road

It was reported that contractors would be off site by November 2016.

Alison and John reported on the site meeting held on 16 December 2015 with three officials from Bloor Homes to discuss the future of the bus shelter. It was agreed to retain the existing style of shelter but with the same block-work as the houses on the site. It will need to be moved as the pavement width needs to be at least two metres and in its present position it will obstruct the pavement leading to the site. The solution appears to be moving the shelter onto land in front of the site but it will remain the responsibility of the Parish Council. A window will be inserted on the east side of the structure so that buses can be seen approaching and a bench provided. The existing tree will be removed and the bin moved to be adjacent to the new shelter.

Also discussed was the access to Siddington School from the site. Bloor Homes are negotiating this with the Bathurst Estate but the access point to the canal path is problematic as the canal path is uneven and narrow and borders a steep drop into the canal basin.

After some confusion, it has finally been confirmed that CDC has received a cheque for £32,519.00 – the initial Section 106 payment plus index linking – and this will be released to the Parish Council when costed specifications for the village hall improvements have been provided to CDC.

Shaun Parsons confirmed that reserve matters regarding drainage have still not been finalized.

Severalls Field (Planning Application 15/05165/OUT)

It was noted that the deadline for responses to this application was 28 January 2016, although the email from CDC with the full application was not received until 5 January 2016. Hunter Page are now looking into what involvement the Gloucestershire County Council has had in the formulation of the proposed school changes – a query originated by the Vicar. The Clerk confirmed he had copied and circulated the Planning Statement for those members not on email. It was accepted that there were a number of positives in this application, mainly in relation to Siddington School. However, the overriding objections had to be sewerage infrastructure, drainage, access and the erosion of the gap between Siddington and Cirencester. The Clerk will draft an objection letter and this will be circulated for comments. A copy of the objection, when finally agreed, will be attached to these minutes.

New Community Neighbourhood at Chesterton

Information from CDC that it had received a planning application for development at Chesterton was circulated by email on 8 January 2016. The Clerk circulated printed copies to those members not on email at the meeting.

FINANCE

- The monthly schedule of cheques, circulated with the agenda, was approved. The cheque totals were:-

1279 – K. S. Harrison - £294.64

1279 – Lister Wilder - £67.94

1280 – A. B. West - £15.00

1281 – Glos. Rural Community Council - £25.00

**- It was also decided to approve the following payment- not included on the schedule.
1283 – C. R. Rumble – Photocopying Expenses - £2.94.**

- The Clerk's Budget Report 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 had been circulated with the agenda. He pointed out that his 2% increased precept calculation was only an example and Page 1 showed the impact of the council tax support grant on Band "D" properties if this figure was accepted. The Clerk confirmed that the anticipated capital fund at the end of the financial year would be £15,860.00, increasing to £21,640.00 when the first instalment of the 2016/2017 precept was received towards the end of April. **It was unanimously decided to approve a precept of £21,200.00 for the financial year 2016/2017.**
- The Clerk reported another change to the Audit Regulations. From 2017, the Council will have to source its own external auditor. The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) is setting up a "Sector Led Body" (SLB) so that smaller councils can have an auditor appointed for them. Most councils will opt for this method as the proposed fees appear comparable to those charged at present and the SLB will have the backing of the Government, NALC and the Society of Local Council Clerks. To opt out of these arrangements appears a complex procedure and could be costly, but more details will be available in the next few months.
- A letter requesting financial assistance has been received from the Treasurer of the Siddington Evergreen Club. **It was unanimously decided to support the Club with a grant of £300.00 for the next 12 months.**
- The Clerk reported that he had sent out two invoices as follows:-
 - £500.00 to Siddington Football Club for the grass cutting contribution 2015/2016.
 - £50.00 to Gloucestershire Highways for their verge grass cutting grant 2015/2016.
- The Chairman said she had received a copy of the Siddington Village News Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2015. It was noted that the balance in hand at year end was £1143.35.

PLAYING FIELD/FOOTBALL CLUB

- Three quotations have been received in respect of playing field grass cutting as follows:-
 - (1) A. W. Services – Current Contractor - £90.00 per cut = £1440.00 for 16 cuts.
 - (2) Adrian Gibbs – South Cerney PC Contractor - £150.00 per cut = £2400.00 for 16 cuts.
 - (3) Glebe Contractors – Former Contractor - £112.18 per cut = £1794.96 for 16 cuts.Cirencester Town Council withdrew their interest but confirmed that, if they had responded, their cost per cut would have been between £150.00 – £200.00.
It was unanimously decided to appoint A. W. Services as the playing field grass cutter from 1 April 2016 for a period of three years. The contractor has guaranteed that his price per cut will remain the same for this three year period.
- Some quotations for replacing the "Spider" climber were still awaited. The Clerk said he would make a report to the February meeting.

HIGHWAYS, FOOTPATHS & HEDGES

- Mary Painter has confirmed that the hedge has been cut between Cherry Tree Drive and Church Avenue.
- Shaun Parsons said he would pursue the complex issues affecting Green Lane.
- Cllr. Painter reported that the barn had collapsed at the former Talland site. Alison said she would email Edward Allsop.

CORRESPONDENCE

There were no crimes reported for December 2015 compared to 4 last year. In the year to date, overall crime stands at 43, compared to 94 in the same period last year.

MEETINGS

There will be a Police Panel Meeting on 25 January 2016 and a meeting with Savills concerning the proposed Chesterton Development on 16 February 2016 at 7.30pm in the Community Room.

POINTS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

There were no points put forward and it was noted that the date of the next meeting was 9 February 2016.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- A question was raised regarding an alleged offence in 2014 regarding litter deposited in Green Lane. Shaun reiterated that he would be checking matters with CDC as soon as possible.
- Several members of the public present supported the Council's objection the Severalls Field planning application. Comments were that the Council should object to any application for this site, it was a departure from the Local Plan, 88 houses were completely out of character and drainage and access arrangements were inadequate.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Chairman

SIDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS – 9 FEBRUARY 2016

CHEQUE NO. 1284 – K. S. HARRISON – CLERK'S NET SALARY FEBRUARY 2016	
- £273.73 + EXPENSES £20.40	<u>£294.13</u>
CHEQUE NO. 1285 - SIDDINGTON EVERGREEN CLUB	<u>£300.00</u>
CHEQUE NO. 1286 - A.B. WEST – CLEANING BUS SHELTERS	<u>£20.00</u>

END OF SCHEDULE