

## **SIDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE MEETING ROOM, SIDDINGTON, ON TUESDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2015**

#### **PRESENT**

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

Four members of the public were present.

#### **APOLOGIES**

**Cllrs.** Mrs. A. Wagstaff (Chairman) and J. Hall.

**District/County Cllr.** S. Parsons

#### **MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

- The minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2015, were approved and signed.
- The Clerk reported that Graham Ross, Secretary/Advice Officer, Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association, had attended the playing field on 27 October 2015 to assess the current state of the “Spider” climbing frame. Mrs. Marcia Turner was also in attendance. Mr. Ross said that although the equipment was still stable, the risk factor should be increased from Wicksteed’s “low” to “medium” and close monitoring was required. If any rusting occurred on the adjacent poles then the situation would need to be reviewed but in any event the equipment has reached the end of its life. The Clerk confirmed that it was installed in 1975.  
Replacement ideas were put forward by Mr. Ross together with a possible source of funding and the name of a possible supplier.
- The Clerk said he had reminded Andrew West about the sand store which had not yet been painted. Andrew said that he had had personal problems in the summer but would now do the work when weather permitted.
- It was decided that bulbs – which will be bought from the donation received earlier in the year – will be planted near the “Siddington” signs at the three entrances to the village. Any surplus bulbs will be planted in the south east corner of the playing field.
- The result of the Clerk’s approach to Liz Gardner regarding the state of some of the allotments was that she will send an email to the people whose plots have been neglected, to say that the Parish Council had been in contact pointing out that if they didn’t use them they could lose them. Liz said that there was a waiting list, the Bathurst Estate did all the paperwork and knew who the bad tenants were. Neil said that he had given the result of an annual audit to Liz to follow up the bad tenants but nothing had been done for two years. He added that those tenants must still be paying as they still had the plots.
- Bromford Living has confirmed that Sally Alder, their local Housing Manager for Siddington, has been in touch with the owner of the open truck in the Park Way car park to discuss its removal. As Ms. Alder is currently on leave until next week, there is no further news at present.
- Highways will be dealing with the damaged reflective posts in Upper Siddington without delay and without issuing a job number.
- The Clerk said that Safety Inspectors had visited The Butts to assess the situation regarding the damaged road surface on 29 October 2015 and their report is awaited. The LHM reference on the web site for this job number (11072191) is the Local Highways Manager.
- Chris Rumble reported that the wall in front of the Elizabeth Way Community Room had been repaired.

#### **PLANNING**

##### **North Hill Road**

John Hall’s latest report on North Hill Road was read by the Clerk. Since the opening of the show house on 31 October 2015, Bloor have advised that there is only one 4 bedroom house still to be sold. They anticipate that the first occupant will take up residence in early December. The power lines will be located underground week commencing 23 November 2015. The sales office has confirmed that all

houses will have an annual charge of £196.00 per annum to cover the cost of grass cutting, hedge trimming and maintenance of the proposed car park. The site will have street lighting but no decision regarding the bus shelter and adjoining tree has yet been made.

Brian Barnes reported that the two way traffic lights had been removed this afternoon and that in future, should lights be necessary, they will be three way to safeguard traffic exiting from Cherry Tree Drive and Wildwood Park.

CDC's Mike Napper wrote to Shaun Parsons on 4 November 2015 regarding the flood concerns as follows:

**“It is correct to say that formal notice of compliance with the drainage condition has not yet been issued by the Council and therefore any works that the developers undertake in advance of this are at their own risk. They have been made aware of this. However, consultations with Thames Water and our Drainage Engineer are now well advanced to the extent that final confirmation of their satisfaction with the submitted details is expected shortly. The Council has ensured that Thames Water and the Drainage Engineer have taken a great deal of care in the consideration of the specific issues that have been raised as concerns by local residents in reaching their conclusions to ensure that the effect of the development will not worsen the longstanding drainage issues, which Thames Water are hoping to improve in the longer term.”**

### **Severalls Field**

It was reported that the number of properties proposed for this site had been reduced from 99 to 88.

### **Empire Villas, Ashton Road (Application 15/04480/OUT)**

The Clerk reported that this was an outline planning application for the erection of one detached dwelling next to the electricity sub-station but only details concerning access had been supplied by CDC at this stage. It was decided to submit the same comments to CDC as with 1, Ashton Road (15/02774/FUL – Meeting 8 September 2015) and the new dwelling at the rear of 6, Laurel Cottages (15/03556/FUL – Meeting 13 October 2015). The problem was with vehicles exiting onto the Ashton Road. There were no parking restrictions on this stretch of road and therefore the roadside outside the village shop was permanently congested by customer parking. In addition bus drivers had difficulty picking up and dropping off passengers. The proposed driveway exit is at the narrowest point in the road and the most difficult traffic flow position in the village. The road is only just two vehicles wide at this point and exit and entrance will be almost impossible with vehicles parked opposite. Exit from any of these three properties will only make a dangerous situation so much worse.

### **Local Plan Consultation**

The Vice Chairman allowed David Prosser to address the meeting at this stage in view of the considerable amount of research Mr. Prosser has carried out on this subject.

David stressed the need to respond to CDC in a robust fashion. This is because in the earlier part of the consultation, land was identified by CDC as suitable for development but then – following representations made by the Parish Council – was considered unsuitable. Thus, in the final draft of the emerging Local Plan, Siddington was not included as a “settlement.”

At the present time, Siddington does not have a Housing Needs Survey or a Neighbourhood Development Plan and in the past months two pieces of land have been offered to CDC for development, neither of which were in the proposed Local Plan.

The Local Plan now contains a proposed policy (2.2 Residential Development Outside Cirencester and Principal Settlements – Policy DS2) which will apply to Siddington. In view of its importance, the relevant section is reproduced below:

**“Beyond Cirencester and the Principal Settlements, appropriate residential development will be permitted in or adjacent to settlements that are capable of absorbing modest growth and where they are socially and economically sustainable in having at least one of the following – Shop, Post Office, Primary School, Access to nearby employment and Daily Transport Services during normal employment hours.”**

Siddington meets all five criteria and therefore could be subjected to ad hoc planning applications, giving a total new build many times more than was suggested when Siddington was scrutinized under the settlement proposals.

David was thanked for his valuable input on this matter and agreed to liaise with the Clerk on a response to CDC. It was noted that the closing date for consultation was 21 December 2015.

### **FINANCE**

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

1261 – K. S. Harrison - £298.35.

1262 – F. Lovatt - £100.38

1263 – A. B. West - £15.00

1264 – Cancelled.

1265 – Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association - £50.00

1266 – Campaign to Protect Rural England - £36.00

1267 – Wicksteed Leisure Ltd. - £54.00

1268 – A. S. Painter - £6.00 (replacing cheque no. 1264 which had been erroneously made out to Lister Wilder).

### **PLAYING FIELD/FOOTBALL CLUB**

#### **Grass Cutting**

The Clerk reported that as Andrew Woodman had been grass cutting for three years, the time seemed opportune to test the market with effect from 1 April 2016. It was agreed to ask for quotations and the Clerk will request figures from the following four contractors:-

- Andrew Woodman.
- Adrian Gibbs of Cowley, contractor for South Cerney Parish Council.
- Cirencester Town Council.
- Glebe Contractors, the Council's contractor until 2013.

#### **Dog Fouling**

Following the October meeting, a strongly worded article regarding dog fouling had been included in the Parish Council section of The Village News.

#### **Spider Replacement**

The Clerk said he had commenced enquiries regarding a replacement for the Spider climbing frame. The following six contractors will be approached:-

- Sovereign Design Play Systems Ltd.
- Playdale Playgrounds Ltd (Suppliers of the Aerial Runway and Youth Shelter)
- Glebe Contractors.
- Wicksteed Leisure Ltd (Suppliers of the Swings, Roundabout and Slide).
- Play Ahead Design (Mentioned by GPFA as suppliers for the Cerney Wick play area).
- Playforce (Suppliers of the Triple Tower and surfacing at Siddington School).

A representative from Sovereign Design – Julie Pearce - met the Clerk in the play area on 3 November 2015 in order to view the present equipment and see the size of the area involved. The Clerk stressed that this and other visits were free services and there was no obligation to purchase. A general discussion with Ms. Pearce revealed that probably at least £10,000.00 will be needed to purchase a suitable replacement, more if older children are to be catered for, bearing in mind that the other five items of equipment cater for children in their primary school years. It was noted that the Ariel Runway cost £9080.00 in 2014 but that grants reduced this figure by £2575.00. Ms. Pearce said she would submit a quotation in due course and in the meantime mentioned that grant funding from Biffa and Veolia could be available.

Alister Painter said he thought the Spider could be repaired using suitable materials. The Clerk pointed out that whilst this was an option, RoSPA had recommended immediate replacement of this equipment in

April 2015 as it was at the end of its useful working life, a view supported by Graham Ross of the GPFA last month.

### **HIGHWAYS, FOOTPATHS & HEDGES**

**The following items have been transferred from “Any Other Business.”**

- The Clerk was asked to impress on Highways the deteriorating road and pavement surfaces in Pound Close and request that they be moved up the priority list.
- To be reported - No.4 street light in Park Way, opposite The Twenties not working.
- Marcia reported that the new grit bin was now in place.
- The Clerk was asked to follow up the September site meeting held with Richard Gray regarding the possibility of removing the grass verges in Park Way and the Church Avenue island.

### **CORRESPONDENCE/EMAILS**

- Friends of Gloucestershire Archives have written thanking the Council for its recent financial contribution towards the “For the Record” project.
- CPRE has reminded the Council that closer links with them would be beneficial. They ask if we might consider more directly assisting their work in future by alerting the South Cotswolds District to any significant emerging or actual planning applications in our area.
- The consultation period for Gloucestershire’s draft Local Transport Plan will run from 20 November 2015 to 5 February 2016. A leaflet will be placed on the notice board.

### **MEETINGS**

Chris Rumble presented a brief report on the Town and Parish Council Liaison Meeting held the previous day and the Village Hall AGM held on 20 October 2015.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Clerk referred to his notes on this subject circulated with the agenda. No other agenda headings were put forward, other than “Highways, Footpaths & Hedges” suggested by the Clerk. The four items mentioned under AOB have been transferred to this heading on the previous page and in future this heading will include all matters to be reported to other Authorities for action. The question on whether to keep AOB at all, e.g. for items of information or matters for consideration at a future meeting was left until the December meeting.

On the subject of notice of specific questions, it seemed only fair to give the Chairman and Clerk notice, especially if research was necessary. However, it was stressed that questions asked as a result of something said at the meeting would obviously be answered – if possible – at the time.

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

This was noted to be 8 December 2015 in the Elizabeth Way Community Room.

### **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

- Comments were noted on the need to formulate at some point the next stage of any action the Council could take to put pressure on recalcitrant allotment holders.
- Also noted was the hope that Shaun Parsons could attend the December meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Vice Chairman

**SIDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS –8 DECEMBER 2015**

CHEQUE NO. 1269 – K. S. HARRISON – CLERK’S NET SALARY DECEMBER 2015 - £273.73 + EXPENSES £17.64	<b><u>£291.37</u></b>
CHEQUE NO. 1270 – F. LOVATT – GRASS CUTTING & MAINTENANCE – - CHURCHYARD (7 HOURS), PLAYING FIELD (1 HOUR) - VILLAGE/VILLAGE HALL (8 HOURS) = 16 HOURS	<b><u>£107.20</u></b>
CHEQUE NO. 1271 – A.B. WEST – CLEANING BUS SHELTERS	<b><u>£15.00</u></b>
CHEQUE NO. 1272 – A. W. SERVICES – GRASS CUTTING CONTRACT	<b><u>£990.00</u></b>
CHEQUE NO. 1273 – SOCIETY OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS – SUBSCRIPTION	<b><u>£103.00</u></b>
CHEQUE NO. 1274 – WICKSTEED LEISURE LTD. – ROUNDABOUT REPAIRS	<b><u>£446.40</u></b>
CHEQUE NO. 1275 – HM REVENUE & CUSTOMS – PAYE CONTRIBUTIONS	<b><u>£205.40</u></b>
CHEQUE NO. 1276 – PATA (UK) – PAYROLL SERVICES	<b><u>£19.80</u></b>
CHEQUE NO. 1277 – SIDDINGTON VILLAGE HALL – HIRE OF ROOM	<b><u>£24.00</u></b>

**END OF SCHEDULE**