

# The Parish Council of St. Helen Without

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at 7.30pm  
at the Dry Sandford Primary School

**Present:** Cllrs. G. Fitzgerald (in the Chair), M. Bailey, M. Gilbert, K. Houlden, J Lowe, C. Parkin, C Priestley, B Rogers and V. Talbot

**In attendance:** George Edmonds-Brown (Clerk), and District Cllr Catherine Webber.

## 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Madeleine Russell and County Councillor Richard Webber

## 2. Declarations of Personal or Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None

## 3. Matters raised by a) members of the public

None

### b) attending Councillors and MOD

District Cllr Webber said that Tilsley Park had not yet been signed off and Abingdon School would not be taking over until maintenance work had been completed. There was an issue about what charges would be made to the public. On the County side the subsidy had been removed from the No 4 bus (see para 5c below). The painting of the village gates had been overlooked but still will be done. The problem of Elm Tree Walk being used as a rat-run was discussed; it was still being used by coaches. The problem of speeding on Barrow Road continued; a VAS was under consideration but the only solution likely to have a real impact would be a chicane or speed bumps. The mobile library service had been cut.

Captain Lowe said that he would be leaving in May so would not be standing for the Parish Council. The new Station Staff Officer to replace Mr Higgs would be Derek Kelso and he was due to arrive on 11 May. Captain Lowe confirmed that the Dalton Barracks base was unlikely to be affected by cuts.

## 4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2015

Cllr Talbot drew attention to the earlier decision by the Parish Council that the Parish Council should receive information on the WADS accounts before awarding it a grant. It was resolved that this should be implemented before a grant is awarded in 2015/16.

Marcham Parish Council will take the lead if an application is put to OCC and would be issuing an article asking for any evidence on the use of the footpaths for over 20 years. There had been two responses so far to the article in the WADS Community Newsletter.

The above amendments were made to the minutes of the meeting of 2 March. The minutes were then approved and signed by the Chairman.

## 5. Matters arising from the Minutes

### a) The Jubilee bench

Captain Lowe said that the bench was still with the contractor. He undertook to brief the new Station Staff Officer.

JL

### b) Community website and newsletter

The contract for the newsletter had now been awarded to a new printer. It will be collated and stapled with a coloured cover. A request has been made to increase the number of copies for Shippon to 150. Adam Flinn had resigned as Editor and a replacement was being sought. It was resolved to continue producing the St Helen Without annual newsletter.

GE-B

### c) Transport including No 4 Bus

The Parish Council had been informed by Oxfordshire Country Council that the No 4 bus evening, Sunday and Back Holiday service would no longer be subsidised but the service provider had agreed to continue it commercially on a trial basis. In addition the Monday to Saturday daytime service via Wootton will increase from hourly to half-hourly (though the service via Dalton Barracks will remain hourly as alternate journeys will operate between Wootton and Abingdon via Wootton Road and via Shippon). Revised timetables will appear on the Oxford Bus Company website in due course. A meeting had been arranged with Oxford Bus Company at 3pm on 22<sup>nd</sup> April to obtain details. Following the meeting a decision can be taken on whether further action is necessary.

GF/GE-B

## The Parish Council of St. Helen Without

### d) Highways matters; Road Safety; Barrow Road and Cholswell Road

Mr Lee Turner has been on leave and sick leave was on leave then on sick leave; a site meeting will be pursued after the election.

**GE-B**

### e) Hitch Copse Cothill, Footpath Closures

It was agreed that Marcham Parish Council should take the lead and that the next step should be a meeting with the landowner.

**VT/GF**

### 6. New Clerk advertisement

It was resolved to insert the advert for a new Clerk as drafted in the newsletter and on the website.

**GF**

### 7. Matters raised by members of the Council

Cllr Houlden said that there was a serious litter problem in the copse area on Wootton playing fields.

**GE-B**

### 8. Finance

#### a) 2014/15 Accounts and Audit

The Account would be presented to the next meeting of the Council for approval.

**GE-B**

#### b) Accounts for payment

Payee	Purpose	Total	VAT
George Edmonds-Brown	Salary April 2015	£263.22	
George Edmonds -Brown	Expenses – April 2015	£44.85	
Dry Sandford Primary School	Meeting room rental	£10.00	
Shippon Church Hall	Meeting room rental	£16.00	

It was resolved that the above payments should be made.

#### c) Applications for grants

None

### 9. Planning

#### a) Decision Notices

Ref:	P14/V2264/LB
Date	3.12.2014
Description:	Replace existing front upvc windows with single glazed windows
Address	62 Barrow Road, Shippon OX13 6JQ
St Helen Without PC's comments	No objection as long as the Listed Building Department of the Vale has approved this.
Decision	Listed Building Consent 27.2.2015

It was resolved to note the Planning Authority's decisions

#### b) Applications dealt with between meetings

Ref:	P15/V0289/HH
Date	19.2.2015
Description:	Proposed replacement of existing stone slate roof, replacement of two existing dormers and three new dormers, erection of new garden gate and store building and replace existing front porch with new oak timber framed porch
Address	The Old Manor, 35 Barrow Road, Shippon OX13 6JF
St Helen Without PC's comments	<p>The Parish Council fully support this application for the following reasons –</p> <p>This building now has serious structural problems and requires extensive work by the new owner to ensure its continuing life as a viable home.</p> <p>This is appreciated by the Parish Council as the sympathetic planned reservations will retain and improve a very fine listed building which has historic and significant impact on the village scene of Shippon.</p> <p>The exterior changes are minimal resulting in the visible frontage remaining almost identical to the present. When the property is re-roofed, three smaller dormers will replace two larger dormers.</p> <p>The other changes requested are not felt to be detrimental to the appearance of the building.</p> <p>It is therefore hoped that the listed building consent can be granted for these alterations.</p>

## The Parish Council of St. Helen Without

Ref:	P15/V0615/HH
Date	24.3.2015
Description:	Single and two storey side extensions
Address	54 Besselsleigh Road, Wootton OX13 6DX
Deadline	No objection

It was resolved to confirm the Planning Committee's action

### 10. Sandleigh Road Recreation Ground

#### a) Insp. report; March Cllr Parkin/ April Cllr Rogers/ May Cllr Bailey

Cllr Rogers carried out the April inspection and noted that the chains on the swings were rusty at the base and the pathway leading to the Recreation Ground was dry and uneven and bordered with greenery.

#### b) Refurbishment of play area

Wicksteed would be carrying out the refurbishment in the near future.

#### c) Tree survey

Jenks had quoted £870 + VAT for the removal of three trees on Sandleigh Road Recreation Ground which were affecting neighbouring properties (Plum £300; Eucalyptus £475; Sycamore £95). It was resolved to take further quotes.

GE-B

### 11. Correspondence

Cllr Fitzgerald went through the correspondence and it was resolved to note it and his comments.

The Pensions Regulator – enrolment legal duties (for new Clerk)

*The law on workplace pensions has changed. Every employer with at least one member of staff must automatically enrol those who are eligible into a workplace pension scheme and contribute towards it.*

- i. Nominate a contact by 30 April 2015
- ii. Staging date: 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017
- iii. Fine or prosecution for failing to comply

It was resolved that Cllr Talbot would be the nominated contact.

Clerks and Councils Direct – March 2015

Letter from Superintendent Andy Boyd

- Reduction in crime by over 6%, 11<sup>th</sup> successive year of crime reduction.
- Domestic burglary reduction of over 65% in the last 10 years
- Replacements: Acting Superintendent Jim O’Ryan, is supported by Chief Inspector Graham Wharton

Oxfordshire Association for the Blind – thank you letter

Air Ambulance – thank you letter

VWHDC – submission of Local Plan Part 1

Message from Leader of Oxfordshire County Council

### 12. Cllrs reports and items for future agendas

None

### 13. Date of next meeting

It was confirmed that the Annual General Meeting would be held at 7.30pm on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2015 at the Church Hall Shippon. It will be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting at 7pm.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.53pm

Signed.....Date.....