

The Parish Council of St. Helen Without

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 24th February 2014
at Dry Sandford Primary School at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Cllrs. G. Fitzgerald (in the chair), M Bailey, M. Gilbert, K Houlden, C. Parkin, C. Priestley, B. Rogers, M Russell-Taylor and V. Talbot

In attendance: Mr John Higgs, County Cllr Richard Webber, District Cllr Catherine Webber and George Edmonds-Brown (Clerk).

1. Apologies for absence

None.

2. Declarations of Personal or Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Cllr Talbot declared that she lived next to the north farmyard that would be the subject of discussion.

3. Matters raised by –

a) Members of the public

Mr Walter Jacob outlined the plans to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the First World War. The event would be held on Sunday 3rd August at the Wootton & Dry Sandford Community Centre. Mr Jacobs had been in touch with Captain John Barker at Dalton Barracks and had been promised up to 20 troops for the event. He had also been in contact with the Sea Cadets, Army Cadets and Air Cadets. A major element in the plans was to involve the two primary schools. The idea was that the children should read out citations of three Oxfordshire VCs and also research the names on the War Memorials. It was suggested that the three children should include one from Shippon and Mr Jacob agreed to pursue this. Mr Jacob was seeking the support of the Parish Council to underwrite the cost of the refreshments to the public at the event. These were estimated at £3 per head making a total cost of up to around £500. Wootton Parish Council had already agreed to meet half the cost. It was agreed that St Helen Without Parish Council would do the same. Mr Higgs agreed to put Mr Jacob in touch with an officer at Dalton Barracks who can advise on benevolent funds. The Church in Shippon was planning a World War 1 event on 16th June.

JH/GE-B

b) Attending Councillors and MOD

County Cllr Webber said that the Parish Council had been well represented at the VWHDC meeting on the Community Governance Review and had presented good reasons for the *status quo* particularly the separation of the Church and school and the representation of the residents of Dry Sandford. A decision will be made by a committee before going out to consultation. He would continue to monitor the situation and keep the Parish Council informed. The next surgery would be in Marcham on the second Saturday in May. It was suggested that the Prince of Wales pub would be a good venue in Shippon and a surgery on the second Saturday in April between 11am and 1pm was being considered. There was still scope for the Youth Club to apply for a grant of up to £500.

Mr Higgs said that the Dalton Barracks Youth Club was rebuilding its activities under a new Community Development Worker; contact had also been made with Adam French the OAYP Community Link-up Project Manager.

Mr Higgs asked for notes for Parish Councillor to use for finding a volunteer from Dalton Barracks to serve on the Council.

GE-B

There were a number of events on the airfield. On the 24th March there was the Ethnic Groups International Day. Invitations would be to VIP guests only. Invitations would be sent to the Parish Council, the Friends of Shippon and the Church. The British Legion Motor Sport event would take place on 7-8 June

The MOD had accepted responsibility for the wall on Cholswell Road. The road signage would be addressed once the new speed limits were in place.

MOD would need specific proposals on tree planting stating where they would be planted and for what reason. Funding for the trees would need to be provided by the Parish Council although maintenance would then become the responsibility of the MOD. Cllr Talbot undertook to make enquiries about costs and would consult the Woodland Trust. A proposal would then need to be considered by the Parish Council before being put to MOD.

VT

4. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6th January 2014

Cllr Russell-Taylor had proposed amendments to the minutes of 6th January.

- i) Item 5D; Speeding and Speed Limits

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It was noted that if the speed limit changes were agreed there may still be a need for road calming measures on Cholswell Road/Long Tow to ensure that the speed limits were adhered to. This would need to be assessed with a traffic speed survey some months after the speed limit changes.

ii) Item 6 Point 1 Planting along the Army Sports Field

Mr Higgs was asked to look into the possibility of getting permission and funding.

iii) Item 6 Point 3

Cllr Talbot said that there was a need for a “No Through Road” sign on Old Faringdon Road at Gozzards Ford.

It was resolved to accept these clarifications and the minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters arising from the Minutes

a) The Jubilee bench

Mr Higgs had produced a map showing that the proposed site for the bench was on MOD land; there was therefore no need to consult OCC Highways. Installation can now go ahead. MOD would arrange the publicity following installation.

JH

b) Bus shelters: Sandleigh Road / Cholswell Road

The Sandleigh Road bus stop was in the process of being moved on to Besselsleigh Road; this should be done on 3rd March. The general view was that buses would not have to reverse as far back as the shelter when the new stop was in operation so future incidents should be avoided. Oxford Bus Company had agreed to pay for the repair of the shelter or its removal. It was resolved that the shelter should be repaired.

GE-B

c) Community website and newsletter

A meeting was hosted by Cllr Rogers on 3rd February to develop the website which would be kept fairly simple with links to other sites in the two parishes. Roles were allocated to those at the meeting. Cllr Rogers would have an editorial overview. Cllr Ludlow would represent Wootton Parish Council and would arrange debit card payments of service charges reclaiming from the two parish councils. Sue Srawley would obtain new images for the home page separating it from the WADS website and together with Ian Bristow would build the website and obtain a new url “Wootton, Dry Sandford, Shippon.com” Ian Bristow would post material sent to him on the site. Adam Flinn, the editor of the newsletter, would send the monthly newsletter to Ian Bristow to paste on the site.

BR/GE-B

d) Speeding and speed limits

The new chevrons had been installed on Cholswell Road/Faringdon Road. The official notices of the changes in speed limits had issues and comments were required by 21st March. OCC had proposed that the unrestricted stretch on Long Toe should be reduced to 40mph. It was resolved that this was acceptable. Efforts should be made to encourage residents to support the changes in writing before the deadline. It was also important that written support is given by Dalton Barracks. It was noted that once the speed limits were changed speed surveys should be carried out after about six months and traffic calming measures considered if there has been no improvement. OCC has indicated that they will aim to place a “No Through Road” sign on Old Faringdon Road at Gozzards Ford when funding is available in April.

JH/All Councillors

e) Community Governance Review

Cllrs Fitzgerald, Russell-Taylor and Gilbert attended the meeting of the VWH District Council on 19th February and presented the Parish Council’s case for the retention of the existing boundary in Dry Sandford. Cllr Russell-Taylor also pointed out that all the proposed parish boundary changes except Dry Sandford brought villages together rather than splitting them. The meeting had gone well and both the Chief Executive and Steve Corrigan, the Manager of Democratic Services, took time from the meeting to speak positively to the Parish Councillors. Cllr Fitzgerald agreed to forward them his notes. Thanks were due to the councillors who attended the meeting for their efforts.

It was resolved that once the consultation letter had issued and the content analysed the following action would be taken –

Three letters would be prepared based on the content of the VWHDC consultation letter –

- i. Letter to residents affected by the change – to be delivered by Cllrs Houlden and Rogers
- ii. Letter to other residents of Dry Sandford – to be delivered by Cllrs Fitzgerald and Bailey
- iii. Letter to Shippon residents – to be delivered by Shippon councillors

It was considered that there was merit in obtaining a tally of views and that this would best be done by asking residents to sign a petition when the letter was delivered.

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The Parish Council should itself respond to the consultation copying its response to Cllr Richard Webber and Cllr Tony de Vere.

It was resolved that the Clerk should telephone Mr Corrigan to try to ascertain the timescale and content of the consultation process.

f) Shippon Plan developments

Cllr Fitzgerald said that there had been no further development since the withdrawal of the planning application for two houses on Elm Tree Walk. A new application was expected and the Parish Council would need to decide whether to “fully support” the application or raise “no objection.” To “fully support” an application required reasons to be given and had not be the previous practice of the Council. Cllr Russell Taylor proposed that “the previous practice of using ‘no objection’ on applications rather than ‘fully supporting’ them should be adjusted so that ‘fully support’ could be used on a case by case basis. Cllr Priestly seconded the proposal. This was put to a vote with six councillors supporting the proposal, two opposing (Cllrs Fitzgerald and Bailey) and one abstaining (Cllr Talbot). The proposal was carried.

g) Working group on communication with residents

It was resolved that the first task of the working group should be the Community Governance Review

6. St Helen Without PC Newsletter

A timetable and list of contributors had been circulated and it was resolved to go ahead with the preparation of the St Helen Without Parish newsletter. Additional space may be required for coverage of the Community Governance Review. Contributions to be sent to the Clerk by e-mail. **GE-B/All Councillors**

7. Matters raised by members of the Council

Cllr Russell-Taylor proposed that for all votes the names of the councillors and how they voted should be listed in the minutes. As this proposal was not seconded Cllr Houlden proposed that the number for, against and abstaining should recorded and councillors could request that they be named and the reason for their vote recorded. This was seconded by Cllr Parkin. The proposal was carried 8 in favour and one against. Cllr Russell Taylor asked that her vote against should be recorded.

Cllr Fitzgerald said that a tree had fallen on the road in Church Lane; this has been moved to the verge opposite the school.

8. Finance

a) Accounts for payment

Payee	Purpose	Total	VAT
George Edmonds-Brown	Salary February 2014	£363.74	
George Edmonds-Brown	Expenses February 2014	£60.00	
Oxfordshire County Council	Cholswell Road street lighting	£3,877.92	£646.32
Glasdon UK Ltd	Cholswell Road shelter repairs	£1174.03	£195.67
WADS Community Centre	2013/14 grant	£850.00	
Air Ambulance Trust	2013/14 grant	£50.00	
WADS Youth Club	2013/14 grant	£750.00	
Royal British Legion	2013/14 grant and wreath	£50.00	
Dry Sandford Primary School	Room rental	£10.00	

It was resolved that the above payments should be made.

b) Cheque signatories; Repeal of s.150 (5) of the Local Government Act

Proposals were under way to change the law to allow small councils to abandon the rule that cheques must have two signatures provided other measures were introduced. It was resolved to retain the *status quo* and continue requiring two signatures on cheques.

c) Applications for grants

None

9. Planning

a) Decision Notices

Ref:	P13/V2238/HH
Date	21.10.2013
Description:	Erection of extension and granny flat

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Address	75 Besselsleigh Road, Abingdon OX13 6DX
St Helen Without PC's comments	Object; overdevelopment of site
Decision	Permit 16.1.2014

It was resolved to note the Planning Authority's decisions

b) Applications dealt with between meetings

Ref:	P14/V0085/HH
Date	23.1.2014
Description:	Conversion of existing bungalow to a two storey dwelling (chalet bungalow) including two-storey rear extension, re-roofing and internal alterations.
Address	25 Sandleigh Road, Wootton OX13 6DP
St Helen Without PC's comments	Object due to overdevelopment of the site which represents an increase of over 40% in volume; also likely to cause parking problems.

Ref:	P14/V0098/HH
Date	27.1.2014
Description:	Raising of the roof to facilitate first floor accommodation single storey rear extension
Address	86 Lashford Lane, Dry Sandford OX13 6EB
St Helen Without PC's comments	No objection

Ref:	P14/V0035/HH
Date	4.2.2014
Description:	Rear flat roof single storey extension
Address	40 Gozzards Ford, Abingdon OX13 6JH
deadline	25.2.2014

It was resolved to confirm the Planning Committee's action

10. The Local Plan

The Vale of White Horse District Council had published its Local Plan Part 1. It was proposed that 200 houses should be built in North West Abingdon just on the other side of the A34; part of the site was in the Parish. Another 410 houses were proposed in North Abingdon. Comments on the proposal were required by 4pm on Friday 4th April. The dates for exhibitions and meetings had been published. The first exhibition being at Abingdon Guildhall on Tuesday 11th March from 4-6pm, followed by a stakeholders meeting. It was resolved that Councillors should try to attend an exhibition and/or meeting and the response would be organised by e-mail.

All Councillors

11. Sandleigh Road Recreation Ground

a) Inspection report

Cllr Priestley carried out the February playground inspection: The seat to the sputnik was cracked and needed replacing. Some of the fruit trees were damaged and there was foliage left behind the trees. Cllr Rogers agreed to deal with the foliage.

BR/GE-B/KH

b) Dog bin

Kate Morris of the VWHDC Waste Team was, in principle, prepared to have waste bin on Sandleigh Road but would need the Parish Council to get the agreement of house owner. It was resolved that a waste bin on Sandleigh Road would be too close to the houses and that a larger bin of the type in Arthur Evans Close should be ordered and installed to replace the dog waste bin on the existing site. **GE-B/KH**

12. Correspondence

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

South and Vale

Voluntary and Community Sector Forum- 12 March 2014

The Parish Council of St. Helen Without

Town & Parish Forum 2013 Report

Other

ORCC News Bulletin - February

Flood Forum 1 March 2014

Local Councils Explained

Carers Oxfordshire Monthly Update – January 2014

Clerks & Council Direct – January 2014

NALC; Repeal of s.150 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972

Consultation of cheque signatories

13. Cllrs reports and items for future agendas

The proposal to plant trees on Cholswell Road on MOD land would be considered at the next meeting.

VT

14. Date of next meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Monday 31st March 2014 at the Community Centre, Dalton Barracks.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.00 pm

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