

Minutes
of Sulhamstead Parish Council Meeting
held at SUN Village Hall Thursday 18th September 2014 at 7.30pm

Present: Mr. Bill Jones (Chairman), Parish Councillors:, Mr. Ivan Wise, Mrs. Rosemary Sanders-Rose, Mr. Roger Ashfield, Ms. Teresa Sosna, Mr. Richard Smith, Mrs. Joan Palmer and Mr. Gary Newell

In attendance: Mrs. Elisabeth Shaw-Brookman (Clerk)

Open Forum: Members of the Public will be invited to comment on any of the items on the agenda before the meeting convenes.

Declarations of Interest: Visitors are reminded that declarations of interest must be made where appropriate.

1. Apologies

Apologies received from Mrs. Margaret Baxter, Mr. Keith Chopping

2. Declarations of Interest by Councillors

- a) Mr. Gary Newell declared his interest in Item 7b
- b) Mr. Roger Ashworth declared an interest in the request for funding for 1st Ufton Nerve Scouts under Open Forum.
- c) Mr. Jones introduced the new Parish Councillor, Mrs. Joan Palmer and welcomed her to the meeting.

3. Open Forum

There were no questions from the members of the public present

Mr. Tony Holden formally requested that the Parish Council consider a donation to the new 1st Ufton Nerve Scouts who are in need of financial support to purchase equipment such as tentage etc. Mr. Jones responded that this would be considered at the next council finance meeting in October.

Mr. Holden then reported on the up-to-date position of the Memorial Restoration Fund which has reached and exceeded its target. The memorial at St Peters will need some additional restoration and the £580 balance after payment for the cleaning of the 3 memorials should cover this.

Mr. Wise proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Holden for all his hard work, this was endorsed by all the Councillors.

4. Approval of Minutes of 17th July 2014

The minutes were approved and signed with the exception of item 6B under Land at Benhams Farm. This has been amended to read:

“This land had been offered for housing and for a Gypsy, Romany, Travellers and Showmen site. The offer for housing was rejected and there is no requirement for a Gypsy, Romany and Travellers site at Benhams Farm as there are sufficient proposed pitches across the rest of the District.”

These amended minutes will be circulated by email to Councillors for their approval and formally signed at the meeting on 20th November.

5 Matters Arising from Minutes of 17th July 2014

- a) Mrs. Sanders-Rose asked if we have received a reply from Ufton Nerve Fuel Allotment Charity to the request for the amount donated for the renovation and conversion of St Peter's Church. No reply has been received but Mr. Smith was able to give an answer, namely that approximately £350K had been donated so far. Mrs. Sanders-Rose will pass the information back to the interested party who had requested it.
- b) Mrs. Sanders-Rose mentioned that there was a spelling mistake under item 5a. this should read Bob Hirst not Hurst.

6. Local Interest

a) Public Open Space

Mr. Wise reported that there are no problems in the POS. The walkway has been repaired and clearing up had been undertaken. Dog Fouling signs – the Clerk has contacted WBC and will report back at the next meeting.

b) Website & Parish Communication –

December	2393
January:	3102
February:	3212
March:	3202
April:	2633
May	2627
June	3054
July	3269
Aug	3708

Two “Taster” have been put on the website by Steve Hounsome to generate interest. Need to source other businesses to contact. Mr. Hounsome has contacted some of the “free” businesses already on the website but no interest so far. We need to have a concerted push to see if this is going to be a viable proposition. Ms. Sosna has emailed her contacts at the SUN Business Group and Mr. Wise has two possible businesses who are interested in advertising. He said that the sum of £40 was felt to be too high for small businesses. Mr. Jones said he would convene a website meeting to discuss further strategy.

c) Local Roads

Recent repairs to Jaques Lane, Sulhamstead Road, Reading Road, Hollybush Lane and Ufton Lane have been undertaken by WBC. The Clerk was asked to write a letter of thanks to WBC Highways Department thanking them for the work and mentioning that new white lines are required at the cross roads of Jaques Lane and Folly Lane.

d) **Flooding Issues**

Consultation on Community Emergency Plan Template & Tool Kit. This had been circulated to Councillors in July. Mr. Smith questioned why we need this in our area, Sulhamstead houses had not been affected, just land and roads. Mr. Smith was asked to look at the consultation again and come back to the Councillors with his comments.

e) **Broadband**

Mr. Jones had attended the launch of Superfast Broadband in Burghfield and met with Open Reach staff. He asked when Sulhamstead would be brought on board and was told that the boxes are there but only parts of Sulhamstead would be able to access Superfast Broadband – at present Hollybush Lane. Mr. Smith had also spoken to them but was offered a 2 year contract which he declined. Ms. Sosna had also spoken to them and was told that she would have to register an interest – she might be able to access via a box in Ash Lane. It was agreed that it was very confusing and that it seems that if you are too far from a box you cannot access the superfast broadband.

There will be an update at the District Parish Conference and Mr. Smith will keep the Parish Council informed.

7. Planning Applications

a) **Planning Decisions taken since last meeting:**

Baytree and May Cottages :	14/01395/FULD (revised application):	Approved
The Oaks:	14/01405/HOUSE	Approved
Rose Court	14/01701/HOUSE	Approved
Firlands	14/01730/OUTMAJ	TBA
7 Shortheath Lane	14/01547/HOUSE	Approved
Orchard End.	14/01801/HOUSE	Approved

New Planning Applications received were discussed:

Hunters Hill	14/02217/FULEXT	Revised Plans
(Mr. Jones and Mr. Wise will look at revised plans)		
8 Normoor Rd	14/02223/PASSHE	Revised Plans
Jackaways Cottage	14/01984/LBC2	No objections

b) **Benhams Farm**

Mr. Newell withdrew from the meeting due to Conflict of Interest

There was a misunderstanding at the Parish Council meeting on 17th July. Mr. Chopping had talked to the Parish Council meeting on 17th July about the rejection of housing SHLAA BUR.011 and the Gypsy, Romany, Travellers and Showman site offered under GTTS.03

Mr. Chopping had clarified the details of the application with WBC and has written a letter to Mr. Jones as follows:

“Dear Bill

Following concerns that have been expressed about the wording of some items in the last Parish Council minutes regarding the ownership of the proposed housing site plus proposed gypsy site at Benhams Farm, I have now been able to clarify with the Officers as follows:

Charlesgate Homes were acting as the Agent for the proposed housing site but which is a combined site and is in the ownership of a number of people, although entitled “Benhams Farm” and known as BUR.011 in the SHLAA documents.

The site offered for use as a gypsy site, also known as Benhams Farm, is the land in the sole ownership of Mr. Gary Newell and he was the sole proposed of GTTS.03.

I am happy to clear up these misunderstandings and concerns but as I am unable to attend the next Parish Council meeting I would be obliged, therefore, if you would be kind enough to inform the Parish Council of the above clarifications on my behalf.

The above wording has been agreed with Mr. Joe Atkinson.

Yours sincerely

Keith Chopping”

8. Finance

a)

1. Account Balances Current :	£12445.16	
Savings:	£14648.22	
Investment Bond	<u>£30,000.00</u>	maturing 1/10/15
Total:	£57,093.38	

2. Proforma Invoices requiring signatures:

Karen Eagle	£50.00
Bob Hirst Garden Services	£150.00
SSE Contracting	£21.07
Total	£221.07

An up-to-date Bank Reconciliation was given to the Councillors.

At the next Finance Meeting on 6th October the proposal to invest some of the money held in the savings account into a Bond will be discussed. Requests for donations will also be looked at.

b) Update on Audit:

The Audit has been approved and signed off by Mazars. Notices are on the noticeboards and website.

c) Online Banking.

We are making slow progress towards resolving the issues that have held up online banking. Mr. Wise and Mrs. Baxter and shortly Mr. Jones, are able to access the accounts. The Clerk's application has been lost by Lloyds twice. The latest application went in 7 weeks ago but nothing received back from Lloyds. A very helpful member of staff at Lloyds Tadley is endeavouring to progress things and the Clerk will be in contact with her next week when she returns from holiday. It is hoped that we might have a positive outcome to report at the next Parish Council Meeting.

d) There have been repairs to the POS. See 6a.

e) There is a requirement to spend money on repairs to the Play Area. Mr. Wise reported that a quote had been received from Playdale. Mr. Wise had tried to obtain a second quote from Slatters and had asked them 3 times but had still not received a reply. They told him verbally that it would not be less than the Playdale quote. Mr. Wise proposed that we accept Playdale's quote, all the Councillors were in favour. Bob Hirst Garden Services had quoted separately for repairs to the fences and grounds.

9) Review of the Post/Any other Business

- a) Splitting APA from AGM, this has been approved and the APA will be held at the March Meeting and the AGM in May. The Clerk confirmed that the appropriate minutes will be circulated at before each meeting.
- b) Annual Standards Committee Report – Mr. Jones will look at this report in depth and report back at the Parish meeting in November.
- c) Annual Citizen Award/West Berkshire Council Community Champion Awards.
Mrs. Sanders-Rose proposed that we look at a local Citizen's Award modelled on Mortimer's. The other Awards are too large and cover the whole West Berkshire area. The Clerk will contact the Clerk at Mortimer to obtain details of how their award to run.
- d) CPRE Campaign. The Clerk was asked to respond to CPRE's email informing them that this campaign was not relevant to us as we are a rural community. However we fully support their idea.
- e) Free Highway Code Training Offer. An email had been received giving details of free Highway Code Training, particularly for young people. Ms. Sosna will look at the proposal.
- f) Vehicle Activated Speed Signs : we do not wish to purchase any.
- g) Parish Council Representative to SUN School, this is no longer required as the School Governors/Government have changed their constitution.

- h) There will be a presentation on their work by the PCSOs in SUN Village Hall on Wednesday 8th October at 7pm. The Councillors are encouraged to attend.
- i) Mr. Ashfield reported that hedges are encroaching on the roads around the village. Mr. Smith will contact Jon Winstanley of WBC Highways to ask him to look into the problem.
- j) Mr. Newell expressed a wish to see the minutes of the meeting before publication.
- k) DPD Meeting minutes. This was an internal meeting and concerns have been addressed under Items 4 and 7b

8) Next Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 20th November 2014 at 7.30pm in the SUN Parish Rooms