

**Minutes**  
**Sulhamstead Parish Council Meeting**  
**held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2012 at 7:30 pm**  
**Sulhamstead Parish Rooms**

**Present:**

Mr. Bill Jones	Chairman
Mr. Gary Newell	
Mr. Ivan Wise	
Ms. Teresa Sosna	
Mrs Rosemary Sanders-Rose	
Mr. Richard Smith	
Mr. Roger Ashfield	
Mrs. Margaret Baxter	
Mrs. Mary Marsland	Clerk
Mr. Keith Chopping	

**Apologies**

Mr. Chris Souden,

**36) OPEN FORUM**

Mr. John Winstanley – came to address the concerns from the parish council and the community over the potential closure of the railway and canal bridges on Sulhamstead Hill at the same time.

He is the Project manager in highways and transport for WBC and looks after bridges. His department has been liaising with network rail and British Waterways. There are several railway bridges to be worked on including Sulhamstead hill and 3 others. The current plan is for Network rail to start work on the bridge in April with the work to be completed in June. The work is part of electrification programme and the underside of the bridge will be raised.

Aesthetic issues – the bridge currently has a brick parapet with a woodland approach. Latest standards were likened to Padworth lane including safety barriers 20 – 40 mtrs on the lead up to the bridge and there may be some trees removed. The Bridge will be closed completel as the deck of the bridge will be raised.

There were concerns raised over pitch of the current road and whether this will be altered. Ufton crossing will remain open to traffic.

Dispensation from department of transport as part of temporary limit to be extended to 3.5T.

Canal bridge would be proposed to strengthen to 7.5T. Coordination team at WBC would not allow combined works on both railway and canal bridge to happen at the same time. BWB would have to ask permission and would only be given a licence to close the bridge at a time when the railway bridge was not closed.

Communication of these works will be included in the parish magazine and the parish website.

Concern over Bottom Lane as a rat run particularly during the closures but is already being used by large lorries.

Diversion would be down Ufton Lane

Request for a plan from network rail regarding their proposals and plans to be given to the parish council for circulation and discussion.

Bridge will remain 40T limit

Mr. John Winstanley will

- write to depart of transport re the temporary fix of 3.5t for ufton lane
- Talk to British Waterways with potential for shoring up bridge and when they will do work
- Draft letter to go to residents between bridges and perhaps up Sulhamstead Hill.
- Provide parish council with information to go on the website and parish magazine
- Will talk to the parish regarding advance warning weight limit signs

Work complete at white house green and the white line will be moved to the centre

An objection to this within the council is recorded

### **37) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF: 24<sup>th</sup> November 2011**

Minutes approved and signed

### **35) MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF: 24<sup>th</sup> November 2011**

Mr. Jones to take concerns over the spring inn junction to the NAG

### **36) PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- a) Planning decisions taken since last meeting – 11/02556/HOUSE The Cottage, White House Green – application refused
- b) New applications to consider – no new applications

### **37) TRANSPORT & ROADS**

- a) Parish Road Signs – action Mr. Ashfield to completed audit of street name signs. Total of 51 signs at 38 locations – lack of signs in Sulhamstead Abbots. The council had proposed purchase of signs but the Parish Council may be required to pay. The requirement would be 7 or 8 at £150 approx each. No legal requirement. Purpose of survey due to disappearance of road signs.  
**Action** Mr Ashfield to review which signs to be replaced and the Clerk to write to WBC proposing request of road signs due to forthcoming road closures
- b) Litter & Fly Tipping – action Mr. Jones spoke to Linda Hannington re: disposal of rubbish collected by litter pickers at the Village Hall. Linda Hannington would allow this but WBC have said only 1 bin can be located at the hall.  
**Action** Mr. Chopping to enquire whether a larger bin could be allocated to Sulhamstead Village Hall.

Concern over litter in the bridleway at Beenhams Farm. The route of the litter pickers doesn't include the bridleway.

**Action** Ivan Wise will review the routes of the litter pickers

Mr. Jones spoke to Miss Helen Lewis WBC Waste Reduction Officer WBC is taking information on details of persistent fly tipping activities.

**Action** Mr. Wise will liaise with Ufton PC to provide list of roads where there is a persistent problem and communicate with Mr. Jones who will email Miss Lewis.

Concern over persistent mud on road in Folly Lane potentially caused by farm activity and creating a dangerous and slippery surface

**Action** Mr. Jones and Mrs Sanders Rose to draft a letter for the Clerk to send to the Farmer, cc WBC

Footpaths – action Mrs Sanders-Rose to bring the findings of the WI to the meeting on 19/March 2012.. The WI are concerned regarding their liability if they are providing a report. A vote was taken and passed that the parish were unable to undertake the upkeep of the footpaths following a request from WBC

**Action** The Clerk to write to WBC.

- c) Bridge weight limits and closures. – refer to discussion with J Winstanley
- d) Fire and rescue action plan –Mr. Smith reviewed the action plan with the main comment being:- Although this puts a permanently manned station closer to us in geographic terms, the response time could actually increase because of restrictions on roads as such as the weight and width restrictions on Theale, Sulhamstead and Ufton bridges.

- 38)** West Berkshire request for financial support for Broadband – Mr. Jones has spoke to Kevin Griffin Head of ICT WBC. WBC is requesting £6800 from SPC over 3 years achieved by requesting £4 per band D property for 3 years. The plan is to upgrade boxes £40k each (about 40 boxes available) The situation with Sulhamstead is not everyone will benefit but 90% of population will be on 20mgb and everyone else would have 2. Reality is 1.3mgb, 1.2mgb in local community. Precedent is only two parishes have said no. Burghfield are considering it. Main beneficiaries would be Three Firs, Hollybush lane, Ufton Nerve, maybe Sulhamstead hill. It seems that resident of White house green may not benefit. Views in the room: complete waste of money, really would object, no current problem on Hollybush Lane. Ms Sosna has emailed the SUN business group 15/16 responses with ranges 17mgb 3.5 and 6.5. Update of boxes doesn't affect line. Speed depends on ISP. Results will vary greatly. Mr. Wise totally against. Difficult to support because of huge variations and no guarantees. Waste of money. The question should be asked if we say no does that mean that our boxes won't be updated. View of the majority of the council is no.
- Action** Mr. Jones to contact Kevin Griffin and the clerk to write formally to WBC declining Parish Council support for this project.

## 41)FINANCE

a) Account Balances      current £10,700.95  
Savings £13,630.02  
Savings Bond £30,000

b) Financial Regulations – approved and formally adopted.

c) New Banking processes proposal – research is currently taking place to investigate the potential benefits of moving the Parish bank account

**Action** Mrs Baxter, Mr. Wise will view a demonstration, the Clerk to continue to liaise with other clerks and understand their banking processes.

d) To consider requests for donations under Section 137 of the Local Governments Act 1972, as amended. No requests have been made

e) Draft expenditure plan for 2012/13 – some additional expenditure to be allowed for the salary of the clerk particularly if Firlands application goes in. unclear situation with PCSO, insurance likely to increase,

f) Setting of the Parish Precept for 2012/13 recommendation of a tax base expenditure of average cost to band D property is £22.94 17.8% increase on last year totaling £13,500. Views in the room, reasonable, right to consider Firlands and maintain the current balance.

**Action** Clerk to communicate with WBC regarding the precept request of

g) Willink Leisure Centre – Further complaint received of swimming pool being absolutely filthy. Right to expect contract is enforced. The council are within rights to withhold payment.

**Action** Mr. Chopping to investigate further.

#### **42)REVIEW OF POST SINCE LAST MEETING**

Receipt of parish records from 1845 –

**Action** Ms Sosna will scan document and it was suggested that the book could be donated to the Museum of Rural Life

District /Parish Conference Event 7<sup>th</sup> March 6-8pm WBC offices

#### **43)ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Localism Act – conference Mr Jones and Mrs Sander Rose attending conference 20<sup>th</sup> February, Newbury RFC

Firlands – until an application is received very little can be done.

Questionnaire ready for distribution. Potential to engage a planning consultant but the costs would need to be considered carefully.

TPO received for Firlands – whole of the Firlands site has now got a Tree Preservation Order on it

Hollybush Lane – members of the public are pleased its been resurfaced but why did the work stop at the Firlands entrance? Why not up to traffic lights? When is Bannister Road being resurfaced? It is scheduled for 2011/2012.

Fortnightly bin collection causing overflowing bins. Excess bags left by collectors. The recycling capacity should prevent this happening and the use of the new facility at Padworth is open for use.

#### **44)DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

15<sup>th</sup> March 2012 – Parish Rooms