

**Minutes**  
**of Sulhamstead Parish Council Meeting**  
**held at Sulhamstead Abbots Parish Rooms Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2013 at 7.30pm**

**Declarations of Interest:** members are reminded that declarations of interest should be made where appropriate.

Present: Mr. Bill. Jones (Chairman). Parish Councillors: Mr. Chris Souden, Mr. Ivan Wise, Mr. Richard Smith, Mr. Roger Ashfield, Mrs. Margaret Baxter, Mrs. Rosemary Sanders-Rose

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

**1. Apologies**

Apologies received from Ms. Teresa Sosna, Mr. Keith Chopping and Mr. Gary Newell

**2. Open Forum**

Mr. David Smith reported that there is not further news on the new Fire Station.

Mr. Tony Holden gave an update on the initiative to commemorate World War I, "Paint Your Village Red". He has been authorized by the Burghfield Branch of the Royal British Legion to take the plans forward locally. He is talking to local organisations and schools to spread the word and to West Berkshire Council to find out exactly where the poppy seeds can be sown.

He is asking for donations to pay for the cleaning of the war memorials in St. Michael's Churchyard, Sulhamstead and St. Peter's Churchyard, Ufton Nervet. Ufton Nervet Fuel Allotment Charity is willing to donate £500 (£250 to each memorial) and he is asking for contributions from both Sulhamstead Parish Council and Ufton Nervet Parish Council. The Chairman advised him that this would be discussed at the next Finance Meeting of Sulhamstead Parish Council on 30<sup>th</sup> December. Mr. Smith proposed that it should not be a simple donation but a core responsibility. Mrs. Sanders-Rose agreed and suggested that the Parish Council could organise a fund raising event. The Councillors agreed.

It was also suggested that Mr. Holden approach Greenham Common Trust and other charitable trusts for a grant.

A decision will be made at the next full Council meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> January after a report from the Finance Committee.

**3. Approval of Minutes of 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2013**

Minutes from the meeting from 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2013 were approved and signed.

**4. Matters Arising from Minutes of 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2013**

The Clerk was asked to write a letter to Mr. Robert Astor regarding the ongoing problem of mud on Folly Lane which has not been addressed. There had been no response to a previous letter sent to the Farm Manager at Home Farm.

**5. Local Interest**

- a) Bridges & Weight limits: Mr. Richard Smith reported that there are now some signs in place but they are in the wrong place. He has spoken to West Berkshire Council and they have agreed to place signs at the top of Camp Road and Whites Hill before Christmas.

- b) Website & Parish Communication – the new website is coming along very well and will be a valuable resource for Parish communications. The website committee is working with Steve Hounsome to put on as much relevant and up to date information as possible. It should be live during December.  
The Link to the website is: [www.sulhamsteadcommunity.org.uk](http://www.sulhamsteadcommunity.org.uk). Councillors are asked to look at it and feedback any thoughts to the Clerk who will liaise with Steve Hounsome and the Website committee.  
Ufton Nerve Parish Council will also be on the website and the Village Hall will have separate link.
- c) Road Markings – West Berkshire Council have replaced the road markings at the end of Camp Road and by St. Peter’s Church
- d) Land at Jordans Lane- Mr. Souden reported that he had spoken to the Enforcement Officer who is due to retire shortly and is not being replaced. Mrs. Sanders-Rose suggested that the Clerk should write to Mr Gordon Lundie, Leader of West Berkshire Council, copy to Mr. Keith Chopping, expressing the Council’s concerns regarding the situation.
- e) Road Issues: Ufton Lane. Although this is in Ufton Nerve Parish it still causes problems to all local residents who use it. The potholes have been fixed but the banks are falling away. Two cars have ended up on their sides. Mr. Wise has spoken to the Chairman of Ufton Nerve Parish Council and the problem will be brought up at their Council meeting next week. The Clerk will contact Mr. Hannington and advise him of the Councillors’ concerns.
- f) Public Transport Funding: An email had been received from West Berkshire Council concerning funding for Bus Route 73. According to their findings no one from Sulhamstead uses this bus. It was noted that this may not be true as some Sulhamstead residents may get on the bus in Ufton Nerve. For some people who do not drive this route will be essential.

An email had also been received concerning Bus Route 75 which is used by a small number of residents. Mrs. Sanders-Rose suggested that we should talk to the other villages affected to discuss the problem. As Mr. Smith is already in touch with Mr. Mark Edwards on the matter of these two Bus Routes, he agreed to attend meetings at West Berkshire Council on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November at 5pm. and Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 5pm. to express the Council’s views.

- g) Superfast Broadband: An update was given on Superfast Broadband being rolled out across Berkshire. Copies of correspondence from WBC were given to Councillors for their information.

There are 619 premises in Sulhamstead and the table below indicates the broadband coverage before and after the Superfast Project.

Parish Broadband Coverage							
Basic Broadband (2Mbit/s)				Superfast (NGA) Broadband (24Mbit/s)			
Before Project		After Project		Before Project		After Project	
No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
604	98%	619	100%	499	81%	524	85%

6) **Planning Applications**

13/02263/FULEXT

<b>Application Received</b>	Mon 09 Sep 2013
<b>Address</b>	Land At Hunters Hill Burghfield Common Reading Berkshire
<b>Proposal</b>	Erection of 28 dwellings (8 x 1 bed flats, 14 x 2 bed houses and 6 x 3 bed houses) with associated parking and amenity space.
<b>Status</b>	Pending Consideration
<b>Appeal Status</b>	Not Available
<b>Appeal Decision</b>	Not Available

13/02392/HOUSE

<b>Application Received</b>	Tue 24 Sep 2013
<b>Address</b>	4 Padworth Road Burghfield Common Reading Berkshire RG7 3QE
<b>Proposal</b>	First floor side extension with drive through under
<b>Status</b>	Approved

13/01928/MINMAJ

<b>Application Received</b>	Thu 01 Aug 2013
<b>Address</b>	Alan Hadley Ltd Fenton House Deans Copse Road Theale Reading Berkshire RG7 4GZ
<b>Proposal</b>	Construction and operation of a Waste Recycling and Transfer Facility, Inert Waste Aggregate Facility, Recyclable Storage and Treatment Building, Workshop and ancillary infrastructure on land at the former Theale Quarry Plant Site.
<b>Status</b>	Pending Consideration
<b>Appeal Status</b>	Not Available
<b>Appeal Decision</b>	Not Available

The Clerk will advise Mr.Wise when this Planning Application is being discussed by West Berkshire Council.

## 7) Finance

a) Account Balances Current **£15,529.64**

Savings **£14,643.42**

Investment Bond **£30,000** maturing 1/10/15

Total: **£60,173.06**

b) Proforma invoices requiring signature

Karen Eagle	£ 54.00
Bob Hirst Garden Services	£150.00
Printwise	£ 84.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£288.00</b>

c) **Online Banking update:**

Mrs. Baxter had contacted Unity Trust concerning an application to move the bank accounts from Lloyds Bank. They are sending her a new application form and the account can be moved 2 weeks from receipt of the completed form. However due to the recent adverse publicity concerning the Co-op Bank – of which Unity Trust is a subsidiary – both Mrs. Baxter and Mr. Jones suggested that we should wait and see what transpires in the next few weeks and review the situation at the Finance Meeting in December.

**To consider requests for donations under Section 137 of the local Government Act 1972 as amended – 2013-2014 budget for donations set as £1250.**

The Finance Committee looked at the donations made in 2012 and decided that the donations for 2013 will be looked at again at the next Finance Meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> December when the Parish Council's financial situation will be clearer. As reported to the last full Council meeting

a) **Parish Budget Planning 2014-2015**

At the next Finance meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> December the Committee will be considering all options to mitigate the impact of the shortfall on the Parish Precept and will report back to the full Council meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2014. Mr. Jones reminded the Councillors that they are welcome to attend the Finance Meeting but they should inform the Clerk beforehand because numbers may necessitate a change of venue

## 8. Review of Post

a) **Police & Crime Commissioner Thames Valley**

Public Meeting: Wed. 18<sup>th</sup> Dec. 19.00-21.00 Newbury Town Hall

b) **Clerks & Council Direct (Communication)**

A copy of this newsletter was shown to the Councillors for their information.

## **9. Any other Business:**

### **a) PCSO Report and next NAG meeting:**

Brief Outline of recent meeting:

There has been a recent speeding enforcement on Sulhamstead Hill which resulted in 7 penalty notices being issued.

A stop/check initiative held one Sunday night on white vans in the Sulhamstead/Ufton Nervet area. Nothing found.

Zero crime rate in Sulhamstead apart from a criminal damage incident involving a parked car and a horse and cart. An elderly gentleman in Island Farm Rd. was targeted by Rogue Traders who took a significant sum of money from him, TVP/ Trading Standards are investigating.

The next Neighbourhood Action Group Meeting is on 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 5.00pm in Burghfield Village Hall.

### **b)**

Mr. Wise reported that two extremely loud explosions had been heard on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November in Sulhamstead which had caused considerable alarm. Some 300 small parachutes were seen descending – Mr. Wise showed the meeting a sample – the metal part was red hot when they hit the ground. They were seen hanging in the trees along Bottom Lane and in the fields and Lake. He spoke to the Police who informed him that a “demonstration” had taken place at the Police College. A similar occurrence a year ago had set fire to a field. The Councillors agreed that this could be very dangerous particularly to animals. A formal complaint will be made to the police and Mr. Jones and Mr. Wise agreed to contact the Police College as a matter of urgency and arrange a meeting to express their concerns. Mr. Wise said there should have been a warning issued and the parachutes cleared up afterwards. The Clerk agreed to pass the relevant contact details to Mr. Jones immediately after the Council meeting.

### **Next Parish Council Meeting**

The next meeting of Sulhamstead Parish Council will be held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2014 at the SUN Parish Rooms at 7.30pm. Mr. Souden has agreed to chair in the absence on holiday of Mr. Jones

There will also be a Finance Committee Meeting on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> December 6:00pm at Thane Cottage, Sulhamstead. *Post meeting note: this date may change and the Councillors will be informed of the revised timing as soon as confirmed.*