

Minutes
of Sulhamstead Parish Council Meeting
held at Sulhamstead Abbots Parish Rooms Thursday 20th March 2014 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 Ivan Wise, Mr. Gary Newell, Mrs Rosemary Sanders-Rose, Mrs Margaret Baxter, Mr. Roger Ashfield, Ms Teresa Sosna

In attendance: Mrs Elisabeth Shaw-Brookman (Clerk)

1. Apologies

Apologies received from Mr Keith Chopping, Mr Chris Souden, Mr. Richard Smith,

A Minute's Silence was held to acknowledge the passing of Mr. Roy Wheeler, past SPC Councillor.

2. Open Forum

- a) An update was given by Robert Hubbard-Clark PCSO on local crime figures which are zero for the months January – present 2014. Rogue Traders targeting elderly residents are being investigated and fly tipping is an ongoing problem that is being addressed. Speeding on Sulhamstead Hill and parking outside schools are also issues that are receiving action from the local police. The Chairman thanked him for his very detailed report.
- b) Mr. Tony Holden gave a very detailed and encouraging report on the fund raising to clean the two war memorials in St Peter's and St Michael's Churchyards. Funds to date stand at £2500 which is half way to the total required. Work on the memorials is scheduled to commence shortly with a finish date of end of June. Details of how to donate towards the fund can be found on the Sulhamstead Parish Website and www.sunww1.com. Poppy seeds can be purchased from Wellers. He requested a letter of authorization from the Parish Council giving him permission to have the war memorial in St Michael's cleaned and to place signs for the Paint Your Village Red campaign.
- c) Mr. John Howell Counter Terrorism Officer TVP gave a very detailed and interesting presentation on the concerns expressed over the explosions heard in November. These were controlled explosions of munitions handed into the police that were too unstable to be taken elsewhere to be detonated. These are rare occurrences and if it is possible they will give some warning in future. The Clerk will pass on the contact details of the Chairman and herself so that either a prior warning or an explanation after the event can be given and details put on the Parish website.
- d) A request was received from a member of the public for a sign to be placed at the Shortheath Lane/ Sulhamstead Road cross roads. The Clerk will confirm the correct name of the road and arrange for a sign to be erected. He also expressed concern on the condition of the local roads, in particular Jacques Lane.

3. Approval of Minutes of 16th January 2014

Minutes from the meeting held on 16th January 2014 were approved and signed.

4. Matters Arising from Minutes of 16th January 2014

None

5. Local Interest

- a) **Bridges & Weight limits:** Mr. Richard Smith sent an update stating the warning signs in place for weight limits on Tyle Mill Bridge are still be ignored.
- b) **Website & Parish Communication** – The Website is proving very popular giving invaluable information on the flooding situation being updated on an almost daily basis since Christmas. The Clerk has received various communications from the public through the website and the feedback is that residents are logging-on on a regular basis. The number of visits each month since the beginning of December are:

December : 2393

January: 3102

February: 3212

The increase is probably due to the daily weather updates but it does prove people are using the website as we intended as a up to date information tool.

The Clerk has been advised that we can ask for donations from Businesses which we hope to profile each month.

- c) **Land at Jordans Lane.** The Clerk was asked to research the history on this problem and draft a letter to be sent from the Parish Council to the Chief Executive of West Berkshire Council.
- d) **Road Issues around the Parish.** An update on the present situation was given – potholes, mud, flooding etc. This is on the District & Parish Council Meeting on 25th March agenda
A letter had been received from Mr Robert Astor in response to the Council's concerns about the mud on the roads. Details of approved Highways improvements have been received and repairs to Jacques Lane are listed for the coming year. Folly Lane is an ongoing problem with mud and gravel being a safety issue. Councillors asked to report problems to the Clerk who will collate them for discussion at the next meeting.
The Clerk was asked to speak to Robert Hubbard-Clerk about speeding issues around the Parish.
- e) **Public Transport Funding.** Funding will continue but on a reduced basis. Details will be sent by WBC in due course.
- f) **Noticeboards.** The noticeboard on Three Firs Way needs repairing as it is loose in the ground. The quotations for rubbing down and re-varnishing that noticeboard together with the ones on Abbots Road and at the Village Hall were discussed. A quotation from Bob Hirst Garden Services was approved and the Clerk will contact Mr. Hirst instructing him to go ahead as soon as possible.

- g) **POS.** Three trees have been removed by Bob Hirst. Two had come down in the gales and were leaning on the bridge and a danger to the public, a third was in danger of falling down. The possibility of asking the Scouts to do some work on the pathways was mentioned. Mr. Wise reported that the ground is still waterlogged.

There is a problem with dog walkers using the POS and not picking up after their dogs. The Clerk was asked to request a quotation from WBC for a Dog Litter Bin and emptying and to obtain Dog Fouling signs.

- h) **Flooding** issues were discussed. Four Councillors and the Clerk will report our concerns at the District and Parish Council Meeting on 25th March. Request from WBC to mark on a map those areas subject to flooding. The Clerk will ask Mr. Smith if he will co-ordinate this.

- i) Request from WBC to regularize the Right of Way from Woodmans Lane to Hollybush Lane was approved.

- j) Request for Salt Bin, Litter Bin and speeding issues in Three Firs Way. The salt bin has been ordered and a quote for a litter bin and emptying of same has been requested from WBC.

Speeding issues will be included in a communication by the Clerk with the PCSOs.

- k) Report on the SHLAA Meeting and Minerals and Waste Development Plans.

Mrs. Sanders-Rose gave a comprehensive report on the constructive meeting held in Theale on the issue of SHLAA. WBC had indicated that there was no support for large scale developments in the area. Small sites and infill will be sufficient for present needs.

Mr. Jones responded to WBC on the issue of Minerals and Waste Development as follows:

Dear Rebecca Williams,

Please find below our input and comments regarding mineral and waste issues, last day for input to the consultation being today, 28th Feb 2014

Sulhamstead and Ufton Nervet has been extensively “gravelled” over many years and we are basically left with three results

1) Low lying fields that have been subject to minimal extraction of a shallow nature. Our position is to leave these alone as infill would create an ugly uneven result making agriculture of any type very difficult.

2) Lakes around the junction of Theale, Burghfield and Sulhamstead that have become useful for recreation and a major site for wildlife, (Hose Hill Lake etc)

3) Infill in the land area sandwiched between Island farm Road and camp Road, Ufton Nervet that has left the land unfit for anything; uneven, difficult for walking or recreation.

Consequently our view is as follows

a) Low lying fields left after mineral extraction should not be selected for landfill, (Option 11.2)

b) Infill of existing lakes in the Sulhamstead area would be detrimental to wildlife particularly the bird population and other fauna. In general lakes should not be considered for infill as most become usable for recreation (Option 11.4)

c) Increasing waste site provision on the floodplains in West Berkshire is not an option.(option 26.1)

Many thanks for your help today,

Hew Jones

Sulhamstead Parish Council

6. Planning Applications

Planning Application 13/03041/FUL Rectory Cottage, Sulhamstead Abbots. Installation of a ground mounted photovoltaic solar panel array consisting of one hundred and thirty eight 250watt
Planning Application 13/1928/MINMAJ Waste Recycling Plant, Theale.

These have been approved

7. Finance

- a) Account Balances Current : **£11970.1**
Savings: **£14645.80**
Investment Bond **£30,000.00** maturing 1/10/15
Total: **£56,615.94**

- b) Proforma invoices requiring signature

Karen Eagle	£50.00
Bob Hirst Garden Services	£150.00
General Technics	£50.00
Elisabeth Shaw-Brookman	£225.19
Total	£475.19

- c) **Online Banking update:**

Mr. Jones, Mrs Baxter, Mr. Wise and the Clerk have a meeting scheduled with Lloyds Tadley on 3rd April. They will be discussing online banking and the possibility of transferring a sum from the Council's Savings Account into a Short Term Bond.

- d) **Parish Precept for 2014-2015**

At the Finance meeting on 16th December the Committee had considered all options to mitigate the impact of the shortfall on the Parish Precept. A revised Precept request of £15850 was recommended and was approved. WBC had subsequently advised that funding would be available on a reducing basis over the next 3 years. The precept request was reduced by the amount offered for 2014-15, a sum of £829.63 thereby confirming a precept of £15020. The sum allocated is 75% of £1349 adjusted for revenue support grant reduction and underlying changes in overall taxbase. The allocation in 2015-16 will be £50% and 2016-2017 will be £25% of this adjusted amount.

- e) **Donations**

The following donations were proposed by the Finance Committee and approved by the full Parish Council Meeting on 16th January and confirmed at this meeting.

Cleaning of the memorial in St Michael's Churchyard	£250.00
SUN Village Hall	£200.00
Thames Valley & Chiltern Air Ambulance	£ 50.00
Burghfield & Sulhamstead Scout Group	£200.00
SUN PCC towards maintenance of St. Michael's Churchyard	£300.00
Burghfield Royal British Legion	£ 75.00

Total **£1075.00**

The Clerk will raise the cheques accordingly

f) **Audit**

The Audit will take place on 25th April.

The Clerk has received information from the SLCC that there is a proposal that from 2017 councils with an annual turnover of less than £25,000 will be exempt from routine audits and instead asked to introduce a new transparency code. She will keep the Councillors informed as the details become known

8. Review of the Post

Building Stronger Communities Conference – 5th April

Request for update on superfast broadband – The Clerk will refer Mrs. Marie Parsons' email to WBC for an update.

Shaw House Lectures

Request from Ark Cancer Centre Charity

Annual Contribution to Willink Leisure Centre request was approved

Potential Residential Development – Mans Hill Burghfield Common

9. Any other Business

Concern raised by Ms Sosna concerning the road side vegetation on Kingston Lane/Whites Hill which is encroaching on the width of the road. The Clerk will write to Mr. Pat Froom whose land borders the roads and Mr. Sean Robinson at Moat Cottage.

10. Next Parish Council Meeting

The Clerk will contact the appropriate organisations requesting their annual reports for the Annual Parish Assembly.

The Sulhamstead Annual Parish Assembly will be held on 20th May at 7.30pm in the SUN Village Hall, followed by the Annual General Meeting and Parish Council Meeting.