

STADHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 14th January, 2008

Present: Cllrs Steve Wilson (Chairman) Golda Nann, and Tom Peers. Mike Rothery (Clerk) was in attendance.

1/08 Public Forum

1. Mr Hall asked of the present position regarding the enforcement order on the illegal dwelling at Richmond Hill Farm, as it appeared that the house was let during the summer. The Chairman said that the owner had obtained planning permission to reinstate the reservoir. He suggested that Mr Hall might consider writing directly to the SODC Planning Enforcement Officer with any useful information as to its current status, with copies to the relevant councillors to keep them in the loop.
2. Mr Foster asked what was the parish council's approach to the Copson Lane BOAT Order, since if ratified the parish would lose potential revenue from easements. The Chairman explained the outline of the statement opposing the Order that he and the vice-Chairman would be presenting at the Public Inquiry on 22 January.

2/08 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Phillips and Tombling, OCC Cllr. Howell, and SODC Cllr Cross.

3/08 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Wilson declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 6, vehicular access over Copson Lane to Church Farm Barns.

4/08 Minutes of Meeting on 3rd December 2007

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 3rd December 2007 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

5/08 Matters Arising

146/07 Community Hall fridge/freezer. The Clerk reported that the county council had proposed to box in the equipment in an attempt to soundproof them. Councillors and residents expressed scepticism of this proposal. It was agreed that the county be informed that this proposal was unacceptable, and be asked to relocate it elsewhere in the school. **Action: Clerk**

146/07 Crazy Bear S106 agreement. The Clerk reported that SODC had advised that enforcement action was to be taken in respect of the non-compliance with the S106 planning agreement and other planning conditions. The Chairman suggested that residents might write direct to the Principal Enforcement Officer at SODC in order to apprise them of the latest position.

146/07 Crazy Bear Licence Variation Application The Clerk had written to SODC pointing out that the decision to grant the licence variation was unlawful and requesting that it be set aside and a new application submitted by the owners. SODC had replied that they were seeking legal advice on the matter which in their view was ambiguous, but that the time for appeal against the granting of the licence had expired. It was agreed that the Clerk reply to the effect that as there had clearly been a breach of procedure the decision must be reviewed. Copies of the SODC letter were made available and it was suggested that any resident aggrieved by the decision should write a letter of complaint. **Action: Clerk**

Signed.....Chairman, Date.....

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146/07 Grass Cutting Mr Mark Williams of BCB the present grass cutting contractor, addressed the meeting on the problems experienced in 2007. The unusually wet weather during 2007 had resulted in rapid grass growth at the same time as difficult ground conditions for heavy mowing equipment. This meant that only the rotary mowers could be used and that grass cuttings clumped into an unsightly mess. He advised that more frequent mowing by either the rotary or gang mower would produce smaller quantities of grass cuttings, that removing grass cuttings would be expensive, and that the gang mower could be used in addition to the normal cuts when cricket matches were planned. Hopefully the unusual weather of 2007 will not reoccur in 2008, and the normal pattern of grass cutting would suffice, but the parish may have to consider more frequent cutting. Mr Williams agreed to quote for the additional gang mower cut on the cricket field, and asked the council to advise him quickly of its plans for 2008 as he was approaching the time when resources would not enable BCB to take on any more regular work

The Clerk reported that he had received a quotation from Scion who were the previous grass cutting contractors, but these were not competitive. He had queried the very high figure of £288 per cut for a rotary mower, but the lower quote of £111 per cut for the cylinder (gang) mower was about £20 more than that of BCB.

146/07 Pavilion The Chairman reported Cllr Phillips had recently met with representatives of Chalgrove FC and expressed concern over the poor state of the pavilion after their use. He had advised them that the parish was minded not to renew the hiring arrangement for the 2008/9 season.

146/07 Parish website The Chairman reported that the website was now available for general parish use. The parish council will publish agenda, minutes and the parish magazine notes on the website.

146/07 Copson Lane BOAT Order 2007 Public Inquiry The Chairman and vice-Chairman were preparing a statement that they would deliver at the public inquiry at Abingdon on 22 January 2008.

155/07 Dial-a-Ride Cllr Nann reported that this service no longer existed.

6/08 Vehicular Access to Church Farm Barns

The Chairman, having declared a prejudicial interest in this matter, left the meeting. The Clerk reported that the valuation officer's report was delivered before Christmas as promised, and that all councillors now had copies. In view of Cllr Phillips absence it was agreed to defer consideration of the report until the next meeting.

7/08 Parish Plan

The Chairman reported that he had discussed this matter with other councillors and suggested that in view of the number of issues facing the council at this time this be deferred for the time being. This was agreed.

8/08 Playground Inspection Reports

Cllr Phillips had submitted these to the Chairman; no problems required immediate attention were identified.

Signed.....Chairman, Date.....

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9/08 Trees on Council-owned land

Cllr Peers briefed the council on the report of the inspection submitted by Sylva Consultancy. Three trees (1no. ash near The Manor, and 2no. willows behind the bus shelter) required surgery to reduce their size. It was agreed that Cllr Peers (a) obtain two quotations for this work to be carried out before the nesting season, and (b) contact BBONT for advice on bats. **Action: Cllr Peers**

10/08 County Councillor's Report

OCC Cllr John Howell had submitted a written report.

- Council Tax – The county council expected to increase council tax by 3.875%.
- Gravel – The county may be asked to take more gravel extraction.
- Bus Subsidies – the subsidies on buses in the Henley and Wallingford areas are being reviewed.
- Traffic – The new 40mph limit on the B480 between the two villages is going ahead, and the safety measures on the B4015 should be in place by April.

It was agreed to write to the OCC Highways thanking them for the trimming of the footpath between the villages. **Action: Clerk**

11/08 District Councillor's Report

Cllr Nann reported that she understood from SODC that the government's response to the Public Inquiry into the draft South East Plan will be published shortly. SODC will use their website to co-ordinate a campaign against the expected proposed housing development that it believes would damage the green belt around Oxford.

12/08 Planning

(i) The following applications were considered:

P07/W1432 & 1433/LB The Mill House, Mill Lane Demolition of existing porch and erection of oak framed structure. Internal and external alterations to existing first floor bathroom extension and addition of pitched roof. **Recommendation: Approve**

(ii) The following comments were made on planning applications since the last meeting:

P07/W1353 Alterations to existing horticultural building, Land East of Stadhampton:

Comment: Recommend Approval

(iii) The following planning decisions have been made by SODC:

P07/W1267 Extensions to Cameley Cottage. Refused as too large.

P07/W1271 Change of use of land adjacent to Gable End – permitted.

(iv) The council considered the proposal by SODC to change the basis for the automatic referral of planning applications to the SODC Planning Committee, and instructed the Clerk to respond objecting to the change, which it felt would further reduce the voice of the parish on planning matters and therefore should be resisted. **Action: Clerk**

Signed.....Chairman, Date.....

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13/08 Treasurer's Report

(a) The following payments were approved

Cheque No.	Payee	Details	Total	VAT
1134	Berinsfield Community Business	Grass cutting November	99.03	14.75
1135	Royal British Legion	Two wreaths – Remembrance Day	25.50	
1136	SODC	Uncontested election fees 2007	115.00	
		Emptying dog waste bins Oct- March	80.86	12.04
1137	Southern Electric	Pavilion electricity to 20/12/07	29.65	1.40
1138	Thames Water	Pavilion Water to 10/12/07	19.81	
1139	M Bates	Village maintenance – Dec 07	84.00	
1140	Sylva Consultancy	Trees inspection	235.00	35.00
1141*	Skyline Promotions	Fireworks Display (S137)	1,762.50	262.50

(* Cheque to be released only on receipt of donation from Fireworks Committee)

(b) Balances 31/12/07 Current a/c £2,904; deposit a/c £3,000

14/08 SODC Core Strategy – Issues & Options Consultation Paper

Cllr Peers briefed the council on this paper. He agreed to complete the questionnaire on behalf of the council and encouraged parishioners to do the same as the views of the people were important to SODC. It was agreed to ask Graham Barr to put this on the website. **Action: Cllr Peers**

15/08 Correspondence

The Clerk circulated the correspondence file, and highlighted the following:

Mr & Mrs Putnam, The Old Vicarage permission requested for laying new services under village green and for car parking during works: Agreed

Dr J & Mrs C Keenan Crazy Bear marquee still there; and damage to oaks allegedly caused by willow branch: Clerk to advise that they refer the claim to the council's insurers.

Mrs J Peet Crazy Bear marquee still there; it was understood The Crazy Bear has 12 months during which to remove the marquee. It was understood that they intend to appeal the planning refusal, and it was not expected to be removed for some time at least.

Allianz Alleged tree damage at The Stables, Mill Lane - request by council's insurers for details of councillors' occupations in order to rebut claims by the claimants that the council had sufficient expertise to realise the potential damage the trees in question could have caused. Some present and former councillors present at the meeting were uncomfortable with the disclosure of their occupations which they felt was irrelevant to the discharge of their responsibilities as councillors. It was agreed that the Clerk supply an alphabetical list of occupations not identified with individual councillors. Action: Clerk

16/08 Other Urgent Business

Cllr Nann reported that it is being proposed that the Fire service control centre be relocated to a regional one based at Portsmouth.

17/08 Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting be held on Monday 4th February 2008 at the Community Hall.

Signed.....Chairman, Date.....