



Great Shefford Parish Council

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	<p>The minutes of the Great Shefford Extraordinary Parish Council meeting on Thursday 21 April 2016.</p>	<p>Present Cllr J Carter (Chairman) Cllr S Ackrill (Vice Chairman) Cllr J Winfield Cllr G Parsons Cllr G Knass Cllr M Carter Parish Clerk K Lloyd</p>	
	<p>Around 62 members of the public present and Gordon Lundie, Lambourn Valley Ward Member</p>		
<p>1)</p>	<p>Apologies -Cllr R Howe, Cllr Graham Jones, Alex Drysdale of WBC Highways.</p>		
<p>2)</p>	<p>Declarations of Interest on Agenda items – None</p>		
<p>3)</p>	<p>To discuss the proposal from Highways at West Berkshire Council that double yellow lines are introduced at the junctions of The Mead and Fetti Place.</p> <p><u>Welcome and format of the evening from the Chairman.</u></p> <p>Good evening and welcome to this extraordinary meeting of the Great Shefford Parish Council. It is encouraging to see so many of you here this evening and thank you for taking the time to attend. Tonight we are going to discuss the proposed parking restrictions at the entrance of the Mead and Fetti Place; this is the sole topic of discussion this evening. We are aware that there has been public discussion through social media and email, regarding the pot holes in the A338 and speeding but these are not topics we will cover this evening and if you have any questions on these or other subjects then please bring these to the 12th May meeting. The format of the meeting tonight is in two parts. The first is an open forum where questions or statements may be given to help your Parish Council in discussion regarding this topic. The second part is the Parish Council debate. The timetable for this evenings meeting is to allow around 20 to 30 minutes for your questions and then the Council debate. With so many of you here it is important that we conduct the meeting as efficiently as possible. Can I ask that you put your questions to the Council as briefly and succinctly as you can, and please avoid entering into any form of discussion. I shall place a time limit of 4 minutes per question or statement. With the topic quite clear can I ask that if your question or view has already been made by another that you do not repeat it so we can keep the meeting moving along. Once we have completed the open forum the Council will debate the proposal. During this period we cannot accept any further questions. After the meeting the Club will be open for refreshments if you wish to stay on for a while. I'd like to provide a brief outline of the timeline of events. In March of last year.</p> <p>Councillor Matthew Whiting brought to the Great Shefford Parish Councils attention that he had been approached by a resident in respect of the traffic in the Mead, and I quote</p>		

	<p>from the minutes: <i>Cllr Whiting has received complaints about the amount of traffic around the mead especially at school times. Also the grass verges were becoming slippery through vehicles parking on the verges at busy times.</i> GSPC wrote to West Berks highways who responded suggesting parking restrictions at the entrance to the Mead, however this would take some time to formalise. There was no mention of Fetti Place in the reply. It should be noted that GSPC cannot recall or find mention in subsequent minutes that the reply was discussed. Indeed it appears that West Berks highways were using an email address that was no longer valid and it is quite possible that GSPC never received the response. GSPC were advised on the 7th April that parking restrictions were being considered for The Mead and Fetti Place which has brought about this meeting. If you wish to review past meeting minutes then you will find these published on the Great Shefford website.</p> <p>We will now take questions, the open forum will not be minuted but councillors may take notes. All questions should be raised through me and please state your name and where you are from.</p>	
	<p>Open Forum was not minuted but the following points were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 896 objection signatures presented. • Neighbours incl. elderly resident bungalows in Fetti Place object. • A338 to slow traffic down in other ways, parking restriction will mean more parking along A338 becoming dangerous. • Downs School Bus, parking around the Mead to wait for bus, bus stop needs to be moved. • Speed humps in the Mead proposed. • Closure of shop and post office if parking restrictions are put in place. • Felt parking around Mead and Fetti Place is well managed. 	
	<p>Parish councillors debate following open Forum – 8.10pm.</p> <p>Cllr G Parsons said double yellow lines will cause traffic to park on the A338 making it dangerous and hazardous. The problem will only be moved from the Mead /Fetti Place onto the A338. Cllr J Carter agreed and said people are clearly sensible about where they park. The photograph taken by Mr Drysdale of Highways WBC unfortunately had been taken when it was busy and it has been taken out of content. Cllr J Winfield said people will still park on the yellow lines and will still use the shop. Cllr J Carter said he agreed and over time a percentage of people will park on the yellow lines. Cllr S Ackrill said we have two issues here, some people were ok about the yellow lines at the Mead junction but the yellow lines at Fetti Place he and felt everyone were against as drivers speed is low and it should not be a problem. On the Mead the WBC highways are enforcing what the law is anyway. 10 metres of not parking near a junction. Alex took a picture of 3 vehicles that shouldn't be parked there. If yellow lines were placed in both areas the problem would move to the A338. Cllr J Carter said the Fetti Place lines are unjustified. Cllr J Winfield said vehicles don't park on the edge of Fetti Place anyway. Cllr G Knass said WBC Highways was asked for more information on the safety aspect relating to the proposals of why the parking restrictions have been proposed as we/I am not an expert in road safety but unfortunately Mr Drysdale at Highways WBC did not give a lot of feedback. Apart from national standards of parking at a junction there is no detailed reasoning. What would happen if people stopped parking on the Mead and Fetti Place</p>	

	<p>and what would happen if parking begun on the A338. Safety is important and WBC needs to take this into consideration. Cllr J Carter said there has been 15 objection letters to Mr Drysdale that the clerk has been copied into. There looks to be around 60 people in this hall of objections. If the parking restrictions went ahead it would leave 4 parking spaces on the shop forecourt and perhaps 2 to 3 cars opposite the shop, people have got to park in Fetti Place. Nobody wants anyone hurt and if the shop becomes flats the garage would be a very dangerous area to park. Do we vote for no lines at all in first instance? Cllr S Ackrill said PC never mentioned Fetti Place to Highways, it will move the problem to A338. Cllr G Parsons agreed.</p> <p>All councillors voted in favour to NO yellow lines put in place in The Mead and Fetti Place in the first request to Highways WBC.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Closed 8.30pm.</p>	
	<p><u>Date of the Next Meeting</u> This will be the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on Thursday 12 May 2016 at 7.40pm ALL ARE WELCOME.</p>	