



## Great Shefford Parish Council

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL: Mrs K Lloyd  
 16 Nodmore, Chaddleworth  
 Berkshire RG20 7ES  
 E-mail: [greatsheffordpc@hotmail.com](mailto:greatsheffordpc@hotmail.com)

Minutes of the Meeting of  Great Shefford Parish Council on Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> April 2017 at 7.00pm		Present: Cllr S Ackrill (Chairman) Cllr G Knass Cllr B Williams Cllr S McCarthy Clerk K. Lloyd	Action																												
1)	<b>Apologies:</b> None																														
2)	<b>Declarations of Interest on Agenda items</b> - none																														
3)	<b>Open Forum</b> - no items were raised in the forum																														
4)	<p><b>Planning – 17/00340/LBC Great Shefford House.</b> Demolition of existing single storey modern extension to the rear of the house and replacement with new single storey extension, internal alterations to the ground floor of the house, removal of existing tennis court and block retaining wall to be replaced with new swimming pool and pool house. Construction of new timber framed garage, Removal of modern section of garden wall and construction of terrace.</p> <p>Cllr Knass had visited site, after full discussion it was agreed that no objections was made to the application.</p> <p><b>17/00502/CERTP 10 Spring Meadows.</b> Move the front fence out towards the permitted distance from the pavement.</p> <p>No objections were also agreed to the application.</p>	Clerk																													
5)	<b>Minutes</b> of the 2 March 2017 were proposed for adoption by Cllr McCarthy and seconded by Cllr Williams, they were duly signed by Cllr Ackrill.																														
6)	<p>Finance</p> <p>a) Bank Accounts on 10 March 2017</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Great Shefford Parish Council</td> <td>£14,658.91</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Recreation Ground Account</td> <td>£10,221.59</td> </tr> </table> <p>b) Cheques to approve and sign</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>100304</td> <td>K.Lloyd Parish Clerk £554.98 + Stamps 14.28</td> <td>£569.26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>100305</td> <td>West Berkshire District Council (dog waste bins)</td> <td>£97.68</td> </tr> <tr> <td>100306</td> <td>Carter Jonas – GSAS rent</td> <td>£250.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>100307</td> <td>Box of blue – Website Domain</td> <td>£108.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>100308</td> <td>Autela Payroll Services (Jan, Feb, Mar)</td> <td>£30.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>100309</td> <td>FCC Recycling Ltd (March payment)</td> <td>36.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>100310</td> <td>FCC Recycling Ltd (February payment)</td> <td>24.40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DD</td> <td>SSE – to be collected by direct debit on or after 14 April</td> <td>79.33</td> </tr> </table>	Great Shefford Parish Council	£14,658.91	Recreation Ground Account	£10,221.59	100304	K.Lloyd Parish Clerk £554.98 + Stamps 14.28	£569.26	100305	West Berkshire District Council (dog waste bins)	£97.68	100306	Carter Jonas – GSAS rent	£250.00	100307	Box of blue – Website Domain	£108.00	100308	Autela Payroll Services (Jan, Feb, Mar)	£30.00	100309	FCC Recycling Ltd (March payment)	36.60	100310	FCC Recycling Ltd (February payment)	24.40	DD	SSE – to be collected by direct debit on or after 14 April	79.33		
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6	<p><b>Wantage Bus Service</b></p> <p>Cllr Ackrill attended a meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> March. The Lambourn PC Chairman, a PC member from East Garston and members of the bus committee attended to discuss the accounts produced from the bus committee. The parishes requested the accounts following the request from the bus committee asking for parish contributions. Great Shefford was asked to contribute £745.00 for the year 2017. This was the same amount paid last year. The statement of accounts was presented to the parishes but did not explain the full financial history. The bus committee had a reserve account of £14,000 that could be used towards future payments for the bus.</p> <p>Following last year's agreement and payment towards the Wantage bus It was agreed this amount would be subject to review in future years. The bus runs 51 weeks a year. The average attendance is 35-38 people with a breakdown of Great Shefford 11%, East Garston 7% and Lambourn 82%.</p> <p>Cllr Ackrill proposed GS donate £100.00 as a token as it was discussed that they use the reserve fund towards Barnes Coaches payments. After full discussion Cllr Williams seconded Cllr Ackrill proposal and all agreed to donate £100.00 for this financial year. The Clerk was asked to request an invoice for this amount from the bus committee.</p>	Clerk
13	<p><b>Cllr Questions and reports</b></p> <p>Cllr Knass asked the Clerk if PC had a dog fouling sign following an email to the clerk from Cllr Knass. A local resident had requested one from Cllr Knass. The Clerk had ordered one from WBC and will chase up.</p>	Clerk
14	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>The Clerk asked if any amendments were required on the model documents and Terms of Reference documents. All documents had been emailed to councillors previously. No amendments were required and are ready for adoption in the May meeting.</p> <p>The Clerk reported Barclays had sent a confirmation letter that the authorised signatory had been completed and a 'Simple Servicing Authority Form' had been sent to the Clerk to authorise the Clerk to speak with Barclays on all matters, as the Clerk cannot be a authorised signatory this is the only way for a Clerk to be authorised to speak to Barclays on Parish Council business. (Cllr Ackrill has had to deal with all matters in the past being an authorised signatory, the Clerk thanked Cllr Ackrill for his help in communications with Barclays)</p> <p>The Clerk passed to Cllr Ackrill and Cllr Williams their Community Speed Watch Cards for operation of the SID that they both recently got trained on.</p> <p>The Clerk reported she had received an email from a resident concerning car parking outside the recreation ground park and dogs within the park which often go hand in hand. After a discussion it was said that notices were already in place to say no dogs in the park and it was difficult to stop cars parking on the grass outside the recreation ground as this was owned by Paul Carter so PC have no say in who parks there.</p>	
15	<p><b>Matters for future consideration from open forum. - none</b></p>	
16	<p><b>Date of Next Annual Parish Council Meeting – Thursday 4 May 2017 at 7.40pm</b></p>	

## **The 'Annual Meeting of the Parish' commenced at 8pm.**

The Chariman opened the Annual Meeting of the Parish.

Good evening and welcome to this year's Annual Meeting of the Parish.

I will give you a brief rundown of the Parish Council year; I will start by introducing the Councillors to you,

Sharen MCarthy, Gareth Knass, Piers Storey, Bryan Williams and myself Steve Ackrill and last but not least our Clerk Kim Lloyd who does her best to keep us in order. We have lost several councillors during the course of the year, Glenn Parsons left in June, Jim Carter in July, Mike Carter in September, Rose Howe in January, and finally Janice left last month.

We would like to thank all of the above for their service to the council over the years; Janice probably needs a special mention for serving on the council for 10 years.

We have kept the precept the same again this year at £16,000 which equates to £38.75 per band D property of your council tax being attributable to the PC spending within the village. Our budgeted spend this year is slightly up at just over £20,000, we usually air on the side of caution when setting the budget and usually manage to come in under budget with our actual expenditure.

We have recently started using a payroll company for Kim's Salary this is mainly due to Pension auto enrolment, Kim used to sort her own payroll saving the village money, which we very grateful for but the introduction of auto-enrolment has just made this too complicated.

We don't normally have many residents attend the monthly meetings but we have manage to fill the hall on 2 occasions in the last year,

The proposal to install double yellow lines in the Mead and Fetti Place created a lot of attention and a large petition. Following a meeting with WBC and PC and The Post Master a compromise was agreed upon with the line at the entrance to the Mead being installed but not in Fetti Place. All concerned were happy with the outcome as the lines installed are only enforcing the Highway Code concerning Parking next to a junction.

The application to convert the Wessex Saw Mill to a knacker's yard reared its head again in December again resulting in a full Village Hall. We objected again to this proposal and it was turned down by WBC. With the site having now been purchased by Mr Saunders personally I can't help but feel we have not seen the last of this application but time will tell.

As normal the PC have visited numerous planning applications throughout the year.

Speeding though the village is still a contentious issue which frequently appears on our agenda. Bryan and I were recently trained in the use of the SID machine (smiley face or a frown); this was quite an interesting evening as I was not aware that the machines do actually log vehicle speeds as well as giving a visual indication. TVP do not feel that speeding within Great Shefford is enough of a

problem to warrant further action. A traffic survey was carried out opposite the Mead in February last year over 5.2 days resulting in the speed of 15,659 cars being logged with an average speed of 29.4 mph, worryingly 47.5% of cars were exceeding the speed limit but as I'm sure you are aware the rule of thumb for prosecution is 10% +2mph meaning nothing would be done below 35mph. For TVP to think the situation is worth taking further they are looking at 5% of vehicles exceeding the limit by +15mph. Of the 15,659 cars over 5.2 days, 39 cars were breaking the limit by 15 mph (1.3%), whilst this is still too many it is just not considered enough of a problem. We as a PC are continuing to work on this issue but I feel this will be ongoing ...

Gareth and I from the PC along with Nick Voysey represent the village on the Lambourn Valley Flood Forum. We are still working on a permanent solution to the flooding situation within the village. This is proving to be a painfully slow process mainly due to the fact that the Great Shefford Stream is classified as Main River meaning that the EA are involved. The EA have employed consultants to carry out studies within the village to come up with the best option to protect the village. This has taken, in our opinion far too long. Numerous meetings have taken place along the way and the EA were to have come up with their preferred option by the end of the 16/17 financial year. We are hoping we have done enough to persuade them that there is only one option to protect the village that being the continuation of the ditch on the East of the A338. We have a meeting planned for the 26<sup>th</sup> of this month to receive the findings of the EA consultants. We are hoping they will come up with the right choice, but even if this is the case we still have an uphill struggle to find the funding and actually get the ditch dug. As far as the EA are concerned Flood Defence Works are all worked out on a "cost per property basis ". Whilst our village is important to us we do not come off that well when the cost required is compared with the number of properties involved. But rest assured we will continue the fight until we get the ditch that we need.

The Fayre took place as normal in July; I could not attend last year as I was on a camping trip with the local YFC group (being 1 of the responsible adults!!!) But from the reports / pictures I believe it was a great success.

Charles Parry from Templars farm kindly donated a fantastic Christmas tree to the village again this year. We have given up trying to use solar powered lights as they are just not that successful. So we opted for mains power Bryan and I dug a cable into the ground from the tree, through the garden of 2 Millers Field and into my Garage. The 2 sets of lights were kindly donated by GLN Transfers and the Country Fayre Committee. The oldest set did however give up the ghost half way through the time they were up so if there is any person / business that would care to donate another set for this year we would certainly appreciate it.

We again hosted our annual Carols around the Tree and managed to sing for around 45 minutes, Thanks must go to John Townend for leading the singing. This was Johns last "Carols around the Tree" as he is sadly retiring and leaving the village.

Sadly I must report the new (ish) Bus Shelter was vandalised recently, one of the panes of Glass was broken by what the Police think was a ball bearing. This is quite disappointing, as the replacement has cost £450, we are claiming on the PC insurance for this but it has still cost the village our £250 excess.

We held our annual litter pick in March this year to coincide with a national event, the equipment was collected / returned to /from WBC by Sharen but the event was not that well supported , luckily the litter was not that bad so it did not take the few of us that attended very long.

This just leaves me to say that we are here as your Councillors, we serve as volunteers we will always do our best to help but as I've mentioned before we don't have magic wands. If you need to contact the PC you can either call any of us directly or Contact Kim via the PC email. I would like to mention that whilst some of the councillors do use Facebook personally we will not respond to any requests to the PC made over social media.

I would like to finish by thanking my fellow councillors for their support and especially to thank Kim for her ongoing support throughout the year.

**Cllr Ackrill than introduced Insp Warren Mckeown our Neighbourhood Inspector**

Warren read out the crime stats for West Berkshire, he said Great Shefford had a low crime rate and overall West Berkshire area had a 6-7% increase on crime over the last year which was lower than other areas.

The other points that were raised during the Annual Meeting of the Parish were 'Speeding' and 'what would be the outcome of the Swan Public house?'

Close