



Great Shefford Parish Council

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL: Mrs Kim Lloyd
 16 Nodmore, Chaddleworth
 Berkshire RG20 7ES
 Tel No.: 07867 310121
 greatsheffordpc@hotmail.com

	<p>The minutes of the Great Shefford Parish Council on Thursday 7 April 2016.</p>	<p>Present Cllr J Carter (Chairman) Cllr S Ackrill (Vice Chairman) Cllr J Winfield Cllr G Knass Parish Clerk K Lloyd</p>	
	<p>2 members of the public present.</p>		
<p>1)</p>	<p>Apologies - Cllr G Parsons, Cllr R Howe, Cllr M Carter</p>		
<p>2)</p>	<p>Declarations of Interest on Agenda items – None</p>		
	<p>Brian Roberts from FCRM Advisor Partnership and Strategic Overview Team for Berkshire and Buckinghamshire attended the meeting to give a talk.</p> <p>Brian produced two maps, one showing the ground water flooding and one showing fluvial flooding. Brian said his role with the Environment Agency is to assess and review possible flood alleviation schemes throughout West Berkshire. Brian came to the PC meeting to discuss some of the flood risk issues around Great Shefford and how we could reduce the risk to properties.</p> <p>Brian said through the Flood Forum, we have been discussing a number of options to alleviate flood risk to the properties along the Wantage Road (A338) adjacent to the watercourse referred to as Great Shefford Stream. Following the initial assessment of various schemes, it appears all the options have a low benefit-cost ratio. This means it would be difficult to justify the schemes being allocated any funding via national or local sources.</p> <p>Brian said they have been working on a 'desktop study' to get the full picture of what can be done and how much funding is required. Also to look at how many properties to protect and find the most viable scheme. This then leads to a Benefit Ratio showing the number of properties that would benefit, which then eventually concludes to a business case of what 'can be done' and 'can't be done' and what granted aid is available.</p> <p>Brian said it is now at the Appraisal stage and once all facts and figures are investigated and delivered this will move onto the business case showing what the best options are. This will be completed by the end of the financial year 2017 or before. On the 17th May the Lambourn Valley Flood Forum will meet in the Great Shefford village hall</p> <p>Cllr J Winfield asked if there was a checklist to work too giving a better timescale of stages and why this was taken so long. Surely the utilities have been liaised with already on what pipes are located where etc. Cllr G Knass also said why this is taken so long, and said we are at the same stage as we were this time last year. How do we know in 12 months' time we will be no further forward.</p> <p>Brian answered, its due to the number of flooding schemes they are working on. Every scheme is worked on at the same time, they run alongside each other and a lot of work has been done on Great Shefford already but it takes time to pull all of the information together. Cllr J Carter asked if we had a name of someone who we could liaise with and could we have a monthly update report. Brian said this is something they could do and will look at, and yes we now have been assigned a case officer called Mel Ward.</p> <p>Cllr J Carter also felt disappointed with being nowhere forward.</p>		

	<p>Cllr S Ackrill said last October in the Flood Forum there was nothing to report but thought when Brian asked to come to a PC meeting that some new information would be heard. Originally a March meeting was requested but it was discussed that if you attended the April PC meeting than newer information would be presented. Cllr S Ackrill also can't believe it could take up to a year to complete. Cllr J Carter asked if we done our own appraisal would this help speed the process up. Brian said all information helps. Cllr S Ackrill said there was some drone footage of the flood and did they have it. Brian said they did not and asked for this data to be forwarded onto them. Brian and his colleague left the meeting at 7.35pm. PC discussed and felt disappointed with the lack of information given. Cllr S Ackrill said he would again email Cllr Richard Benyon MP.</p>																									
3)	<p>Planning</p> <p>16/00427/House -Oak Deane, Church Street - Mr and Mrs McCartney - Single storey rear extension. 16/00539/House -7 Blakeney Fields – Mr and Mrs Healy – side extension over existing garage to form bedroom and en-suite bathroom. Loft conversion to form study.</p> <p>Cllr J Carter and Cllr G Parsons both visited sites and reported no concerns on both applications, the clerk was asked to support both applications.</p>																									
4)	<p>Minutes –The minutes of the meeting of the 3 March 2016 were proposed for adoption by Cllr J Winfield and seconded by Cllr Steve Ackrill. Cllr J Carter signed the minutes.</p>																									
5a)	<p>Finance – Bank account on 12th March 2016</p> <table> <tr> <td>Current Account</td> <td>£12,858.66</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Recreation Ground</td> <td>£10,221.59</td> </tr> </table>	Current Account	£12,858.66	Recreation Ground	£10,221.59																					
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b)	<p>Cheques to approve and sign</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>100246</td> <td>K.Lloyd Parish Clerk</td> <td>£465.04</td> </tr> <tr> <td>100247</td> <td>Nigel Goldstraw</td> <td>£30.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>100248</td> <td>West Berkshire District Council – 2015/16 Barnes bus service 82.</td> <td>£365.59</td> </tr> <tr> <td>100249</td> <td>West Berkshire District Council – dog bins empty</td> <td>£97.66</td> </tr> <tr> <td>100250</td> <td>Carter Jonas – GSAS rent</td> <td>£250.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>100251</td> <td>Box of blue – Website Domain</td> <td>£102.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>100252</td> <td>FCC Recycling (UK) Ltd</td> <td>£23.02</td> </tr> <tr> <td>100253</td> <td>BALC subscription</td> <td>£221.08</td> </tr> </table> <p>The clerk said the VAT claim had been received of £360.88.</p>	100246	K.Lloyd Parish Clerk	£465.04	100247	Nigel Goldstraw	£30.00	100248	West Berkshire District Council – 2015/16 Barnes bus service 82.	£365.59	100249	West Berkshire District Council – dog bins empty	£97.66	100250	Carter Jonas – GSAS rent	£250.00	100251	Box of blue – Website Domain	£102.00	100252	FCC Recycling (UK) Ltd	£23.02	100253	BALC subscription	£221.08	Clerk
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6)	<p>Councillor questions and reports</p> <p>Defibrillator Training: Cllr J Winfield said on behalf of everyone -A big thank you to Sue Benn and the team of the GSDG in all their hard work in sourcing and co-ordinating the training at Redwatch Newbury fire station for the defibrillator CPR training. The positive feedback has shown that the course is very worthwhile.</p> <p>There had been 4 training sessions with 8 firemen. Which have all proved to be very good sessions listening to the feedback, Cllr Winfield felt everyone should go on the course.</p> <p>Shefford Woodlands Red Phone Box: Cllr J Winfield asked PC if £20-25 could be spent on cleaning materials for the phone box ready for the defibrillator to be installed. Nigel Goldstraw had been asked to carry out the works on the phone box, but was waiting for a couple of rain-free days to carry out the cleaning. Cllr J Winfield asked the clerk if Sue Benn had been in touch about the free red paint for the box, the clerk said she had not had time to look into this yet.</p> <p>The article in the NWN ref. Litter: Cllr S Ackrill mentioned the article in the Newbury Weekly News and the GS parish newsletter concerning the state of litter in the village.</p> <p>Cllr S Ackrill was annoyed that the parish council was mentioned in the article in a negative content. Cllr S Ackrill said the resident in question that write the article hides behind his keyboard referred to as a</p>	Clerk																								

	<p>'Keyboard Warrior' has never been seen at one of the organised village litter picks in previous years but is always quick to comment.</p> <p>Cllr J Winfield went on to say that organising litter picks is a lot of preparation as high visibility jackets must be worn, and permission is sought from WBC, people are covered under the PC insurance. The problem with the area that was mentioned in the article (top of Hungerford Hill) is a fast road of 50mph and would be found dangerous to co-ordinate a litter pick in this area. Everyone agreed.</p> <p>The clerk had already contacted WBC and was waiting for a reply from their investigation.</p>	Clerk
7)	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>GSDG The clerk said she had received a email from Jane Turton on behalf of the GSDG who said they had decided not to resubmit an application to the BHF as Jane was in the process of applying for several grants.</p> <p>Parish Plan Bank Account. The clerk said she had an email from Henry in reference to being an authorised signatory on the Parish Plan bank account. Henry said he did not want to be a signatory anymore, so Linda and Jane made the necessary arrangements of removing him and both were happy to remain as authorised signatories as long as PC was happy only having two signatories, PC all agreed two signatories were fine and thanked Linda Bowden and Jane Turton.</p> <p>Playground Item values The clerk said she had received a stock valuation for the playground items from the play inspection company who inspects our playground annual. The items had a significant increase in value to what was on the original historic asset register. Following the guidelines of the Practitioners Guide the historic asset register cannot be altered but on seeking advice the clerk found we could run two lists, one being for insurance purposes. The clerk asked council if they were happy for her to increase the items value on the insurance policy when up for renewal. The PC all agreed.</p>	Clerk
8)	<p>Matters for future consideration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SIDS • Community Garden & Bench (Discussion on how to spend £1404 which has to be used towards improvement to public open space in the village) <p style="text-align: center;">Parish Council meeting closed at 8pm.</p>	
	<p style="text-align: center;">8pm –Annual Meeting of the Parish.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chairman Report</p> <p>A warm welcome to the 2016 “Annual meeting of the Parish”.</p> <p>My name is Jim Carter and I am the current chairman of Great Shefford Parish council. I’d like to begin the review by thanking my fellow councillors on the behalf of the village for their efforts. I am especially and personally grateful for their support over the past few months whilst I was absent due to business commitments overseas.</p> <p>I will run through the team, which is at full strength at the moment.</p> <p>Kim Lloyd is our Parish Clerk and does most of the work! She is salaried by the Parish Council to carry out our administrative tasks and to generally keep us in order.</p> <p>Steve Ackrill is the Vice Chairman and without Steve I would be lost at times. Steve represents us on the Valley Flood committee and the EMT.</p> <p>Janice Winfield, represents Shefford Woodlands and is a long serving member of the team. Janice has organised the annual litter pick for the past 8 years.</p>	

Gareth Knass. What an asset to the PC this man is. He is superb at writing complex letters to the various council departments we have to deal with as well as being an ace at securing grants for us. Gareth also attends the flood forum.

Rose Howe joined the council this year; Rose is chairman of the Country Fayre committee and has done a super job in continuing to evolve the Fayre with her team of volunteers.

Finally we have Glenn Parsons and Mike Carter who could not be with us this evening. Glenn sits as the Council representative on the Allotment Society. Mike has no subcommittee duties currently but it is great to see a younger member of the community on the council.

One last thank you is to Nigel Goldstraw who carries out a lot of the maintenance for us around the village that is so important in keeping the place up together.

In respect of sub committees, the Parish Council has interest in the Country Fayre, The Allotment Society, The Parish Magazine and the Website.

The most important aspect of the Parish Council is running the annual budget and setting the precept, or to be specific, the amount that we as individuals pay for the upkeep of the Parish. I think this is an area where we are strong, and I'm pleased to say that the precept remains at £16,000, which equates to £39.43 per Band D household.

Over the past 12 months there have been a number of key moments, some of which are still work in progress.

Having just completed the new bus shelter in Church Street the bi-annual safety inspection revealed that the shelter next to the Swan would need attention. A more detailed inspection revealed that the timbers were rotting through and the weight of the roof was threatening to bring it down. We had to take rather drastic measures in condemning the structure and immediately put in place a plan for a replacement.

Last summer the new shelter was completed and we are very happy with the result. We managed to secure £1750 of grant funding resulting in little impact on our budget, and more importantly, no impact on the precept.

The number 82 bus service from Lambourn to Wantage came under the funding axe recently, with West Berks withdrawing the 50% contribution normally made towards the service. Great Shefford, in conjunction with Lambourn and East Garston Parish councils have joined forces to replace this funding and keep the bus service running.

The Village Hall committee under the guidance of Jane Turton recently secured grant funding as a result of the original Parish plan. This included £1380 for the defibrillators and £2100 for a new notice board.

Restricted use funds of £1400 have been made available to us for the use of improving public spaces and there is current investigative work around creating a Community Garden within the recreation ground.

High speed Broadband (or not so high speed from my recent experiences) has come to village at last. Having worked in telecommunications for 20 years I know that network performance will continue to improve, I just hope it happens soon!

The annual litter pick did not go ahead in November this year, but in light of recent correspondence I am sure this coming November there will be a mass influx of volunteers to help out. I have to agree that the litter situation along Hungerford Hill is a problem and the Parish Council have written recently to West Berks about this.

Questions have also been asked around the “unofficial” lay-by that has appeared on the bends at the top of Hungerford Hill. Highways have confirmed that they are aware of its existence but as there have been no adverse reports as a result, and it has been in use for some time, they do not feel they need to act.

Planning applications have been steady over the past 12 months, with little controversy except perhaps for the storage facilities for the youth club proposed for installation at the Village Hall. Your Parish Council members found themselves in the unenviable situation of trying to preserve the existence of the youth club whilst taking into consideration the objections from the residents in the vicinity of the village hall.

Two big ticket items are the Country Fayre and the recent campaign to raise funds for defibrillators for Great Shefford and Shefford Woodlands.

At the last Council meeting there were enough funds available for two defibrillators, with valuable contributions from the Country Fayre (£1700), fund raising activities such as the Quiz night (which was oversubscribed and raised almost £800) in addition to a further £800 in donations. Training in the use of the Defibrillators has already taken place and we must thank the members of the Great Shefford Defib Group and Kim for her assistance and advice along the way.

The fact that £1700 was donated by the Country Fayre speaks volumes for its success and continued efforts to evolve the event. Last year was a superb community event and clearly well attended. The Fayre Committee should take much credit for their hard work that has paid off so well.

Our final “event” for the calendar year is the Carol singing around the Christmas Tree followed by a visit to the Swan. This year we sang for 45 minutes, which I think must be a record (there may be a pun in there somewhere). The evening is certainly enriched by John Townend, and for those who have been before will know that the highlight of the evening is singing Where Shepherds watch their flocks by night to the tune of supercalafragilistic, followed of course by a trip to the Swan.

That concludes the report for 2015/16 and now we open up the meeting to your questions.

From the open forum the discussion topics were on speeding and litter.

The Annual Meeting of the Parish closed at 8.30pm.

22)

Date of the Next Meeting

This will be the **Annual Meeting of the Parish Council** on

Thursday 12 May 2016 at 7.40pm

ALL ARE WELCOME.