



Great Shefford Parish Council

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

Minutes from Thursday 7 September 2017

Present: Cllr S Ackrill (Chairman) Cllr G Knass, Cllr B Williams, Cllr S McCarthy, Cllr P Storey, Clerk K. Lloyd and 6 members of the public.

- 1) **Apologies**
- 2) **Declarations of Interest** – on agenda items
- 3) **Open Forum**
- 4) **Planning** – 17/02044/FULD – John Liddiard Farms, Change of agricultural land to residential, new dwelling, garage and amenity space.
 After full discussion, PC had no objections to the application.
- 5) **Minutes** 6 July 2017- to be agreed and signed – Cllr Storey proposed and Cllr McCarthy seconded the minutes to be a correct representation of the meeting. Cllr Ackrill signed the minutes.

6) Finance

a) Bank Accounts on 11 August 2017

Great Shefford Parish Council	£25,139.75
Recreation Ground Account	£10,221.59

b) Cheques to Approve

100327	K.Lloyd Parish Clerk £554.98 x 2 –Aug/Sept	£1,109.96
100328	Autela Payroll Services	£38.40
100329	FCC Recyding (UK) Ltd (August)	£24.40
100330	S and S Management Services Ltd (July and Aug)	£828.00
100331	Mr B Williams – (Strim the Newbury Rd footpath)	£100.00
100332	GS Village Hall - rent	£60.00
100333	FCC Recyding – (September)	£24.40
100334	GS Village Hall – (donation from CIL payment for repair to VH roof)	£1000.00
100335	Came and Co Insurance	£1206.26

- 7) **PC Insurance Renewal** – The Clerk had previously emailed three quotes to Parish Council. After discussion it was decided to go with the cheapest insurance company Ecclesiastical that Came and Co brokers recommended due to the Clerk reporting it was the only one that insured Defibrillators up to £5,000. The other two quotes did not include Defibrillators and were more expensive. It was also agreed by all to enter a 3 year binding agreement with Ecclesiastical as the annual premium can be reduced by a further 5%, giving a premium of £1,206.26. The Clerk

confirmed this is index linked. Cllr Ackrill proposed and Cllr Knass seconded and all agreed.

Clerk

- 8) **Dogs allowed in the Recreation Park** – The Clerk had previously emailed Parish Council 6 objection letters against allowing dogs in the Park. Following on from the letters, **Cllr Ackrill** highlighted the point that Parish Council has a responsibility to follow the Councils Financial Regulations and Standing Orders. If something is proposed from a parishioner/s, Parish Council is responsible to carry out a debate. One comment made in one of the letters to Parish Council was “they hope PC use their common sense” a comment like this is not very helpful as Parish Council are responsible to carry out a duty to the Parish and when a proposal is raised Parish Council will investigate, debate and reach a decision in the best interests of the Parish. The park takes 50% of the budget; a lot of money is spent in the park which as highlighted is only used for people with children. This money is spent from the annual precept, from the council tax we pay, therefore Parish Council are required to give consideration to all the parishioners that do not use the park but contribute towards the park from their council tax. The Parish Council is here to represent the interests of the whole community.

Cllr Piers felt perhaps the Parish could think of what else the recreation park could offer to invite parishioners to the park who do not have children, gym apparatus that is seen in a lot of parks now could be a good idea but obviously this would be costly. Cllr Piers felt there was enough walking for dogs around the village and felt the park should be left as it is allowing no dog's in the park. Also with consideration of the cost of fencing to zone areas is another major factor to leave the park as it stands.

Cllr McCarthy felt not a lot of people use it for the money spent on the park and thought consideration should be made to what else the park could offer.

Cllr Knass said there was no support of letters showing support for dogs in the park, the concern of dog fouling would be a problem and children not liking dogs, fencing could control this but to costly. Cllr Knass said to leave it as it is, allowing no dogs.

Cllr Williams – agreed with Cllr Knass.

Cllr Ackrill said he had previously emailed Parish Council the cost of fencing which was very costly and felt this option of fencing off the play equipment areas is not practical or financially viable.

After full discussion it was agreed to leave the recreation park as it is, allowing no dogs into the park but thoughts from the parish are invited as to what could be done to open the park up to others.

- 9) **Flood Alleviation Scheme / SSE Grant Application** Cllr Ackrill reported a scheme is in place that is being worked on. The option agreed in principle to the solution to the flooding is a closed pipe to the filling station and then continued with an open ditch. Boreholes will be created along the land to the east of the Wantage road to assess the ground water levels this winter. The cost of the scheme is to be around £1.4 million. The Parish contribution towards the project is £80,000 (as agreed from Environmental Agency).

Cllr Ackrill said he had already submitted a grant application (with the help from Cllr Knass) to SSE (Scottish and Southern Electricity) from the Resilient Communities fund asking for the maximum grant offer of £20,000. This grant has been submitted in the name of Parish Council but once a bank account has been set up, which is being worked on, it will be called 'The Great Shefford Flood Alleviation Association' once the bank account reaches £5,000, charity status can be applied for and gift aid can be claimed. As already approved the CIL payment (Community Infrastructure Levy) of £6,695 will be deposited into the account. The next grant application to be worked on will be the Greenham Common fund via the good exchange.

On **26th September at Brookside, Wantage Road, (venue tbc dependant on numbers)** will be the first fund raising committee meeting, **please contact Steve Ackrill on 07721 440200 to confirm your attendance.**

On **9th November** in the **Great Shefford Village hall at 6-8pm** an open evening to provide a presentation for the new flood alleviation scheme. This is also an opportunity to discuss fund raising ideas.

10) Cllr Questions and reports

Cllr Ackrill reported he is attending a meeting with Environmental Agency and the land agents to discuss the sinking of boreholes for the need to monitor ground water levels this winter.

Cllr Storey said he had read the email from the Clerk concerned about the procedure for the data protection act coming into action in May 2018. Cllr Storey said he had emailed a procedure that the Clerk could add to a Parish Council policy. The Clerk said she would have the new policy ready for the next meeting to be approved and signed off.

Clerk

Cllr Knass asked if a Councillor Vacancy Notice could be put and remained on the notice board, the Clerk said she would put a notice up but may need to remove it when the noticeboard is full, however one will be added to the Village Hall noticeboard.

11) Clerk Correspondence

The Clerk reported the external playground inspection will take place in October.

The Clerk asked Cllr Storey if he had answered the email from WBC concerning the matter of planting trees in the Mead, the exact location was requested so WBC could reach a decision.

Cllr Piers

The Clerk reported £200.00 cheque had been received from the 'Great Shefford Defibrillator Group' for the supply of electricity to the Defibrillators for the next 10 years. The Clerk will bank the cheque in the PC account and show this by designating the money on the cash flow spreadsheet.

Clerk

12) Matters for future consideration – None

Close of meeting – 9.00pm

Next meeting Thursday 5 October 2017
