



Great Shefford Parish Council

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL: Mrs Sandi Ackrill,
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Minutes of the Meeting of Great Shefford Parish Council Held on Thursday 5th December 2013		Present Cllr Benn (Chair) Cllr Carter, Cllr Parsons, Cllr Carter, Cllr Knass, Cllr Winfield , Clerk Sandi Ackrill Cllr Ackrill arrived during item 8 at 9.15pm
	Also present 2 members of the Public	Action
1)	Apologies: Cllr Ackrill will be late (attending school meeting)	
2)	Declarations of Interest on Agenda items - None Dispensation for Precept Discussion – The council has granted itself dispensation to discuss the village precept at January meeting as all councillors would have an interest.	
3)	Councillor Vacancy – we have received an application from Matthew Whiting – Matthew’s application had been circulated around the councillors – following discussion it was agreed to co-opt Matthew onto the council proposed by Cllr Parsons and seconded by Cllr Carter. Clerk will write to Matthew and invite to the Carols and to our next meeting to formally Sign his Declaration.	Clerk
4)	Open Forum – A list of items was produced by one residents and discussion followed and it was agreed a lot of the items on the list had been previously discussed and would not be re addressed.	
5)	Planning – there were no new plans to discuss this meeting – the clerk read out some case officer and Appeal decisions: Breach Copse Shefford Woodlands – garage extension Granted Hillside Cottage Boundary wall and side Pedestrian Access – Granted Appeal Decision - 1 Northfield Farm Cottages – Change of Use of first floor above the garage to residential use - Allowed	
6)	Minutes – the minutes from the meeting held on 7 th November 2013 were agreed and proposed for adoption by Cllr Carter and seconded by Cllr Knass signed by Cllr Benn	
7)	Finance: Cheques 100109 S & S Ackrill £45.00 Litter Picking 100110 FCC Recycling £21.50 100111 West Berkshire Council £5000.00 (Swan bridge maintenance And footpath extension) Bank Accounts	

	Recreation Ground Account - £14,509.59 Current Account £19,688.05	
8)	<p>Budget Discussion –</p> <p>It was agreed as we have under spend in the maintenance budget to carry out the work as recommended in the recent Tree Safety Inspection, which needed to be completed in the next 1-2 years. This totalled £290 and was proposed by Cllr Benn and seconded by Cllr Winfield this will come out of this financial year. The budget for next year was lowered to £250.00 for maintenance. Litter picking was increased slightly as the wheelie bin fortnightly collection had gone up since our last budget this will now be £950.00.</p> <p>We have not used the S137 emergency provision this year but we will allow for the same again this at £2000 although this unspent money will be taken off what is requested in January. Clerk salary there had not been a pay rise for a few years whilst the clerk was happy to continue the councillors all agreed it should be increased slightly in order there is not a big jump when an increase is required. Therefore it was proposed by Cllr Carter to increase by 2% and this was seconded by Cllr Parsons therefore the clerk will now be on 8 hours at £10.14 before tax. Hall Hire the Hall committee have agreed a trial at £20 per meeting instead of £30 for 6 months and it will then be reviewed therefore the other months were budgeted at the £30.00 rate adhoc planning meetings @ £5.00 a budget of £310.00. Legal/ Audit this again came in below budget so was reduced to £300 for next year. Churchyard maintenance was kept at £750 split between both churches although no request had been received to date for a contribution. It was agreed to budget £750 towards the running costs for the Wantage Bus as this service will not run next year without contributions from all parishes in Lambourn valley it serves. <i>(Cllr Ackrill arrived during the discussion regarding the Wantage Bus Contribution)</i></p> <p>Many other items were discussed but kept the same as this year – a full copy of the proposed budget will be available from the Clerk – the precept will be set next month after the clerk has worked out what will be left in the account at the end of the financial year in order we only request the difference.</p>	
9)	Website – Cllr Carter reported the launch had had to be cancelled and would be rescheduled for January.	
10)	Flooding Forum – next proposed meeting is the 23 rd January 2 members of our Emergency group met with WBC and reviewed the bridge and water in Station Road. A small team helped to clear Station Road ready for possible rise in water level.	
11)	<p>Recreation Ground</p> <p>a) Clerk has requested another 3 quotes for safety surfacing for the toddler area - we are awaiting these</p> <p>b) Grants – Cllr Knass has secured a £5,000 parish plan grant for us to put towards the project. Clerk is liaising with District Councillor Jones about</p>	Clerk

	<p>the possibility of a Members Bid on our behalf although as we already have funding from WBC we are unlikely to be able to request a large sum – we are hopeful that some funds will be approved – Clerk will continue to liaise with Councillor Jones.</p> <p>Thanks to Cllr Knass for his hard work with the grant paperwork</p>	
12)	<p>Christmas Cllr Ackrill – will hopefully collect the tree on Saturday and Cllr Knass and Carter will assist on Sunday morning to put it on the green. Carols 6pm Thursday 19th and afterwards in the Swan – all welcome bring torches.</p>	
13)	<p>Cllr Questions – there were no questions</p>	
14)	<p>Correspondence –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annual Parish Report from WBC regarding S106 funds – Clerk has queried one application where no funds have been received - District Conference – March 2014 - Penny post newsletter - Xmas Refuse Collection dates – will go on Website - Call to Action NHS Questionnaire – on website - CCB Action for all – Newsletter - Telephone call from resident in The Mead asking what was done to the drains a few years back – Clerk has spoken to WBC and responded - Police Public Meeting – 18th December 7pm Newbury Town Hall Regarding roles of local Police - Police update – damage to two fields along the Wantage Road black 4x4. Attempted theft of Motorbike from shed along Church Street 	
15)	<p>Matters for Future Consideration – it was suggested that the possibility of a football field in the village should be mentioned in the update of the Parish Plan and also that the resident who brought the matter to the council should write an article in the newsletter asking for help and support as it was a huge undertaking to maintain etc. No venue for a field had been offered either.</p>	
16)	<p>Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 9th January 2014 7.40pm</p>	

Meeting Closed 9.45pm