

Minutes of the Meeting of Great Shefford Parish Council held on Thursday 7th February 2013

Present: Cllr S Benn Cllr S Ackrill, Cllr J Carter, Cllr J Winfield and Clerk Sandi Ackrill

Also present 2 members of the public

- 1) **Apologies:** Cllr Knass
- 2) **Declarations of Interest** on agenda items – there were none
- 3) **Open Forum** - One member of the Public raised a footpath question to the Councillors.
- 4) **Councillor Vacancy** – West Berkshire had informed the clerk that the council were free to co-opt an applicant. We have received one letter of application – following discussion Cllr Ackrill proposed Glenn Parsons be elected to the parish Council and this was seconded by Cllr Benn. Glenn was not able to be at this meeting and had sent his apologies. Clerk will let Glenn know he has been co-opted and arrange for his declaration to be signed at the next meeting. **Clerk**

Cllr Ackrill then informed the council that Mark Andrews had also tendered his resignation too – therefore another vacancy notice would be placed on the notice board. **Clerk**

Cllr Ackrill asked the clerk to write to Mark and thank him for all he has done for the village. **Clerk**

- 5) **Election of Chairman** - Cllr Ackrill announced he had decided not to stand for chairman and proposed that Cllr Benn be elected as the new Chairperson Cllr Winfield seconded this. Cllr Benn signed her declaration of Office for Chairman.

Cllr Benn was then invited to take over the Chairmanship of the Meeting.

- 6) **Minutes** of the meeting of the 10th January were approved and proposed for adoption by Cllr Winfield and seconded by Cllr Carter – duly signed by Cllr Benn.

7) Finance Report

61	WBC (Superfast Broadband)	£1595.00
62	SSE Contracting	£19.70 (VAT omitted from previous invoice)
63	Citizens Advice Bureau	£50.00
64	S&S Ackrill (Litter)	£45.00

Bank Accounts

Current	£19439.01
Recreation Gd	£14509.59
Playground	£0

- b) **Precept /Housing benefit Grant discussion** – Cllr Ackrill explained that since the last meeting we have received clarification that WBC are offering a grant to the parish to compensate for those on Council Tax Benefit however since agreeing the precept of £17,500 at the last meeting the invoice for the first section of the Superfast broadband project has been received as they are similar amounts the councillors decided to leave the precept as agreed in January. Clerk to let WBC know. **Clerk**

- c) **Parish Plan grant request** – letter has been received from the Chairman of the Village Hall who would like to apply for a grant from WBC Parish Plan Funding Grant Fund towards a new Cooker and fridge

for the Kitchen Area. Cllr Knass had confirmed to Jane Turton that the application would come under item A13 of our Village Plan. Following discussion the councillors were all in favour of the application and fully supported Jane Turton and the committee.

d) **Auditor** – The clerk asked the councillors if they were happy to ask last years auditor Sue Cottrell to once again complete our audit all were happy – councillors advised the clerk to make the arrangements for the Audit – and check the price with Sue. **Clerk**

e) **Bank Signatures** it was agreed that Cllr Carter would take the place of Viv Williams as a signatory for Barclays and the clerk had obtained the relevant forms Cllrs Carter Benn and Ackrill would complete the form which Cllr Carter will take into the bank with his ID. **Cllr Carter**

f) **Risk Assessment Checks** – Bus Shelter and Bench safety checks were due – Cllr Carter agreed to inspect them and report back at the next meeting. **Cllr Carter**

8) **Bus Shelter** – Cllr Ackrill has taken over this project (as acting Chairman) following Mark Andrews's resignation he has now obtained three quotes and provided the details for all those present to inspect and then discuss. The nearby residents in Cecil place had either been visited or written to and the only comments were that the Bus Shelter would be best placed at the Willow tree end of the layby – this is the obvious place for the shelter anyway as its where the Bus would end up when pulling in. WBC had called today to confirm once we had made our decision that they would be prepared to see about putting the sockets in the ground when they replaced the Curb stones as part of the Newbury Road footpath continuation. The councillors were very appreciative of this gesture. Following a long discussion Cllr Carter proposed the expenditure of £6270 on a Cropston Shelter from Little Thorpe this was seconded by Cllr Winfield and all were in favour. Cllr Benn will measure the pavement to gauge the width of the roof and let the clerk know in order she can place the order. Cllr Ackrill will call Clive Toombs at WBC to discuss the chosen supplier and the installation of the sockets.

Cllrs Ackrill / Benn and Clerk

9) **Allotments** – Cllr Benn reported that there was one empty plot, the next meeting was on the 12 Feb and the AGM is the 10th April.

10) **Planning /case officer Reports** - there were no applications to discuss

11) **Parish Assembly** (information Evening) – following discussion with the Brownies it had been agreed that the evening could start at 7pm with set up from 6pm Sue Holt has agreed she will seek parental permission for the Brownies to host the evening as part of their badge. Several local groups and organisations have now applied for Stands on the evening of the 18th April including Neighbourhood Watch, Police, Toddler group, Under-fives, craft group, Allotments, District Councillors, Rural Housing enabling officer (residents can register their interest for local housing) It was also agreed that a free prize draw with £20 M&S Voucher would be held on the night. Still open for other organisations to join in and it was suggested we ask the Bell Ringers to perform during the evening and see if Shefford Young Farmers would like to come along too. The Parish Council will be there for residents to talk to. Cllr Benn will do an article for the Parish News **Clerk**

12) **Country Fayre – Sunday 21st July**

Village Walk Monday 6th May meet at the Village Hall 2pm

All arrangements on track with the Fayre- several stands booked, Dog Agility, Gun dogs and the Owls are all booked.

13) **Village Emergency Group report** – The Trailer which held the pump was stolen a few weeks ago and was replaced by a pump with a damaged pipe – we were called on Friday evening to try and fix the pipe as an interim measure as water was pouring down the Wantage Road, before WBC could arrange for the pipe to be changed. We plan to switch the pump off soon (hopefully Tuesday) during the day to see how quickly the levels rose to ascertain whether it would be possible to turn off overnight yet in order local residents are given a break from the noise. Representatives have attended an open meeting in Lambourn where Thames Water were questioned regarding the Tankers and Sewage System. We have agreed to set up a group along the Valley to push forward for these repairs Cllrs Benn, Knass and resident Fiona Walsh will represent the village and a meeting was being organised. Another meeting on Wednesday held in Lambourn before their PC meeting and attended by Nick Carter the Chief Exec at WBC which Cllr Benn attended, discussed the damage to the roads especially along Newbury Road. Nick Carter advised he would ask WBC Highways to attend the site and assess the situation. Cllr Ackrill reported he had also had a report/complaint that along with the damage to the roads and the disruption that rubbish was being left at the site where the Tankers were placing the waste and flood water also the resident would like to know why the tankers were emptying here and not taking up to the treatment works these tankers were a deep concern and source of anger. Cllr Ackrill had called Thames Water to ask these questions and was awaiting a response. At the meeting in Lambourn Mr Carter also said he would draw up a plan regarding the Sewers and said he would not back Thames Waters timescales. Cllr Benn will draft a letter to Thames Water and copy in N Carter. **Cllr Benn**

14) **Councillor Questions** – none

15) **Correspondence**

CCB Oil Club – grants of £20 available to join the oil club until March 31st – this club works using collective purchase power of its members to negotiate better deals from Oil Distribution companies. The Club now at 200 members with some reporting a 10% saving on their orders – Please contact gemma.pearce@ccb.org.uk Community Council for Berkshire 01189612000. Leaflets in the Shop.

Barnes Coach 82 Bus Service – WBC are considering stopping their funding to this service in May. We understand that District Councillor G Jones is pursuing this on behalf of Lambourn, East Garston and Great Shefford we are awaiting further details but some form of contribution from each village may help to secure the service? Next Agenda
Clerk

Highways and Transport Newbury Road Footpath – the work to join up the footpath with the Bus Shelter and maintenance and repair works to the Swan bridge alongside a additional Bus boarder being constructed in the Church Road lay-by will commence on the 25th February and last for just over 1 week. Temporary Traffic lights will be operational.

16) **Matters for Future Consideration**

Footpaths – item raised in the Open forum was discussed briefly and deemed to be a private matter for neighbours/residents to resolve.

Bus Shelter – update

Wantage Bus Service

Thames Waters Tankers/Roads/Sewers

17) **Date of Next Meeting** 7th March 2013 at 7.40pm