



## Great Shefford Parish Council

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Minutes of the Meeting of Great Shefford Parish Council held on Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> March 2014 at 7.40pm		Present Cllr Benn(Chair), Cllr Ackrill, Cllr Carter Cllr Parsons, Cllr Whiting, Cllr Knass, Cllr Winfield and parish Clerk S Ackrill
	2 members of the Public were present	Action
1)	<b>Apologies: none</b>	
2)	<b>Declarations of Interest on Agenda items</b> -Cllr Carter declared a Financial Interest regarding any future development on The Old Football Field Spring Meadows, Cllrs Knass and Benn declared Interest as they both live very close to the development.	
3)	<b>Open Forum</b> – Pot holes and general road surface issues in The Mead, Dog Fouling a real problem, Lorries cutting up the grass verges.	
4)	<b>Planning</b> – 14/00194/OUT – Land at Shefford Valley Stud – this was withdrawn today 14/00110/house – Ford House Wantage Road – single storey side extension first floor extension above existing garage and associated works – Cllrs Carter and Ackrill had visited this property – there had been an objection but this was hopefully now resolved with the amended plans- Tree Officer at WBC had raised objections - councillors all in agreement not qualified or required to comment on the Tree issues - therefore agreed to support the application taking into consideration the Tree Officers comments.	Clerk
5)	<b>Minutes</b> – the minutes of the meeting from the 6 <sup>th</sup> February 2014 were approved for adoption and proposed Cllr Whiting and seconded Cllr Knass signed by Cllr Benn	
6)	<b>Finance</b> – Cheques 100125 Benash Farms £200.00 100126 W N Goldstraw £13.74 100127 FCC Recycling £10.75 Douglas Tonks and Clerk Fees £423.38 100128 Steve Ackrill £46.80 100129 w n Goldstraw £21.20  No litter picking invoice as Cllr Ackrill hasn't been able to attend to it this month. Cllr Knass proposed that Cllr Ackrill's trip to Gloucester to collect another	Cllr Ackrill

	<p>pump on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February, be claimed for agreed .45p per mile – all in favour</p> <p><b>Current Account</b> £17621.30 <b>Playground Account</b> £14509.59</p> <p><b>Risk Safety Checks due on Benches and Bus Shelter</b> - Cllr Carter had checked the Benches and Shelter and there were no issues to cause concern</p> <p>Clerk has prepared the figures for the VAT claim and will send off in next few days.</p>	Clerk
7)	<p><b>Website</b> – launch now cancelled due to the recent village events and the success of the face book page – the website is still a required facility and Cllr Carter is going to try and link them together – it was recognised that many would use the website rather than Facebook as site would be used for documents such as minutes and event posters etc</p>	<b>Cllrs Carter/ Parsons</b>
8)	<p><b>SHLAA</b> –(Cllrs Benn, Knass and Carter left the meeting) remaining council members discussed the letter received from Gareth Knass voicing concerns in connection to any possible development of the Old Football Field in Spring Meadows. Following a very long discussion it was agreed that the village recognised the need in West Berkshire for development and therefore would have no objection in theory to some development but a list of concerns and considerations including footpaths, site traffic, water runoff, car parking, open spaces, wildlife and street lighting would be forwarded to the Planning Policy team by the deadline tomorrow. (Cllrs Benn, Knass and Carter returned to the meeting)</p>	<b>clerk</b>
9)	<p><b>Flooding Forum and Emergency Management team</b> –</p> <p>Cllr Benn thanked everyone who had offered support, commitment and hard work throughout what has been a difficult time for so many of our residents. Cllr Benn went on in particular to mention Cllr Steve Ackrill who worked tirelessly for everyone whose homes were under threat from the ground water – pump maintenance and re fills, sourcing more pumps, electricians, transport for the additional pumps was so appreciated by many in the villages some whose homes are still at risk now without these pumps. His role as Emergency Liaison Contact for WBC/Emergency Services had been an invaluable resource to getting action for many home owners. Many residents who formed 24 hour pump watches lead by Ray Plowman need to be commended too - this work is still on going. Those residents who came forward who are not directly affected by the water have been such an invaluable support to those who were and they cannot be praised or thanked enough.</p> <p>Linda Bowden too had taken on the role of Wantage Road Team Leader just a few weeks previously; Linda also worked tirelessly for 2 weeks calling on vulnerable residents, updating others, passing on information</p>	<b>Cllr Knass</b>

	<p>as we got it, sorting sandbags. Thank you too.</p> <p>Cllr Ackrill replied and said it had been an amazing team effort and although many have lost their homes the community spirit was amazing and the village had been a good place to be during such a horrendous and unprecedented national event.</p> <p>To date: 14 internally flooded properties, 3 still pumping, 11 with ongoing sewerage issues. The Village Emergency team (led by Cllr Benn) have kept an incident log all the way through, Cllr Knass has created a Flood Report, containing the incident log, the Clerk and Linda Bowden arranged 2 local photographers to take pictures of the water and sewerage issues all the way along from the Swan to Henley Farm, also arranging for a remote control drone to fly along the valley recording the water as it travels down towards the village. This has also provided us with Aerial photos – some of which are being placed into the document which will be used in talks with WBC and the Environment Agency in our quest to take action against this sort of event causing so much devastation to our community again. (thank you to Malcolm, Matthew and Alex) We have a meeting with WBC Engineer next week and a Hydrologist is also booked. The Flood Document will be given to the Engineer before the meeting. A flow meter has been requested several times but to date nothing has progressed with this. We have commenced dialogue with the Environment Agency about our options and wish to assure everyone affected that we will do all in our power to seek a resolution. The clerk has started a log of all communications with all organisations concerned recording what we ask for and when and the replies we get. In order our efforts are recorded for the future reference.</p> <p><b>Sewerage Issues</b> – these are still a concern, Piers Storey who is Team Leader for The Mead has a meeting with Thames Water tomorrow (Friday) and will report back to the team and we will then discuss what else can be done. Raw Sewage is still flowing into the River Lambourn. Portalos – it was agreed not to let these go yet – it’s unclear exactly how many residents are using them.</p> <p>Our best wishes to Bryan Williams for a speedy recovery.</p>	
10)	<p><b>Recreation Ground</b> – we have another £1000 grant from the Vibrant Villages group – it was decided to move forward with the Tiger Mulch option and the clerk was asked to get quotes taking out the sum for removal of the bark as Cllr Ackrill can cut this by at least £1200</p> <p>Update – Cllr Ackrill would update on the figures at the next meeting</p>	
11)	<p><b>Parish Assembly</b> - It was agreed to hold an open event to discuss recent flooding issues and the Refresh of The Parish Plan – we will commence at 6.30pm for refreshments and request the club to open from 8.30pm. Aiming for the meeting to finish at 9.00pm.</p> <p>Clerk will do some posters Cllr Benn was given a budget of £25.00 for</p>	<p><b>Clerk</b> <b>Cllr Benn</b> <b>Cllr</b> <b>Carter</b></p>

	purchase of light refreshment proposed by Cllr Winfield and seconded by Cllr Whiting. Cllr Carter will also laminate some posters to be placed around the village.	
12)	<p><b>Cllr Questions</b></p> <p><b>Cllr Carter</b> - Liz Saunders is looking into the background of those whose names are on our War Memorial and needs an official organisation to apply to the Imperial War Museum through - all councillors happy for Liz to apply under the Parish Council.</p>	
13)	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>RAF Welford - Lancaster Memorial Services 31<sup>st</sup> march – Cllr Carter would like to attend need to supply security details to Cllr Benn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- BALC Newsletter available</li> <li>- CAB – leaflet with details on how to help with any flood related issues (will out some in shop and on website)</li> <li>- Call to Action – Follow up meeting – 20<sup>th</sup> March Donnington Valley Hotel 7-9pm – Cllr Winfield will be attending any issues – to raise please let Cllr Winfield know.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Cllr Benn</b> <b>Cllr Carter</b></p>
14)	<p><b>Matters for future consideration</b></p> <p>The Mead – Clerk will report potholes and road surface to Streetcare And also request a visit by the Dog Warden for the area.</p>	<b>Clerk</b>
16)	<p><b>Date of next meeting – No Parish Council meeting in April – Parish Assembly 10<sup>th</sup> April 6.30pm. 1<sup>st</sup> May AGM at 7.40pm</b></p>	

Signed and date
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