



Great Shefford Parish Council

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL: Mrs Kim Lloyd
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Minutes from Thursday 1 February 2018

Present: Cllr S Ackrill (Chairman) Cllr G Knass, Cllr S McCarthy, Cllr B Williams, Cllr P Storey, Cllr E Bell and the Clerk K Lloyd.

- 1) **Apologies** None
- 2) **Co-option of new Councillor** - Elizabeth Bell was welcomed by the Chairman. Elizabeth signed and dated the Declaration of Acceptance of Office witnessed by the Clerk.
- 3) **Declarations of Interest** – on agenda items – None
- 4) **Open Forum** (time limit at Chairman’s discretion)
- 5) **Planning** –The Clerk reported the following planning applications were granted.
 (17/03264 & 17/03326) Wickfield House two applications
 (17/03241)10 Spring Meadows
- 6) **Minutes** 11 January 2018- to be agreed and signed – Cllr Knass proposed and Cllr Williams seconded the minutes to be a correct representation of the meeting. Cllr Ackrill signed the minutes.

7) Finance

a) Bank Accounts on 12 January 2018

Great Shefford Parish Council	£17,978.71
Recreation Ground Account	£10,221.59

b) Cheques to be approved in this meeting.

S/O	K.Lloyd Parish Clerk Standing Order -First payment on 25.02.2018	£555.00
100358	K.Lloyd – payment for Ink.	£15.99
100359	Great Shefford Village Hall hire (PC Sept – Dec + 1x Lambourn Valley Flood Forum mtg)	£100.00

8) Barclays Simple Service Authority form signatory

Cllr Ackrill and Cllr Storey signed the form already completed by the Clerk. The Clerk will go to Barclays to give identification and address verification and forward the form to Barclays. Await confirmation from Barclays.

Clerk

9) Northfield Farm Allotment Site Rent Review increase

The Clerk reported a memorandum was received from Carter Jonas the agents for Benash Farm who is the landlord for Northfield Farm Allotment site proposing a revised annual rental of £300

an increase of £50. Cllr Williams PC representative for GSAS had forwarded the email to the GSAS committee who had informed PC their AGM was on 7th March. Cllr Williams and the Clerk received confirmation that GSAS was aware of the increase and no further comments were made. Cllr Ackrill signed the Memorandum of Rent Review, the Clerk will send back to Carter Jonas for the Landlords signature.

Clerk

10) **Annual Parish Meeting update (APM)**

The Clerk sent an email to all local community groups. The Clerk reported the following groups would like to attend the APM:

Trindledown would like a stand and are willing to give a talk if wanted.

GSAS would like a stand but no speaker; they would like 2 table display boards.

4Legs Radio would like to attend and give a talk.

The Book Club would like a stand but no speaker.

Great Shefford under 5s would like a stand and could give a talk if wanted.

The Clerk reported the Neighbourhood Policing representative Chris Ward could attend to give a talk on local crime. The Clerk contacted North Wessex Downs to ask if they could give a presentation on The Story of the North Wessex Downs but they have no representative for our area but would find out if anyone else could attend.

After discussion it was agreed to go ahead with the APM. A maximum of 5 minutes was agreed for those wanting to give a talk. It was agreed to start at 7.30 to 9.30pm. The Clerk asked if the Councillors could meet in the hall at 7pm to help set the tables and chairs up.

Following discussions, The School, the Swan, Social Club and Butts Brewery will also be contacted by the Clerk to ask if they would like to attend. The Clerk said she would contact the local community groups again that had already been contacted to try and encourage them to attend. The Clerk will put together a notice advertising the meeting and ask for a page in the parish newsletter.

If any local groups would like to attend, please contact the Clerk.

Clerk

11) **Flood Alleviation Scheme**

Cllr Ackrill reported the Fund raising committee met on 25th February and all was progressing well.

A Quiz will take place on the 10th March at the Village Hall /Social Club; tickets are £10 per person and are on sale in the village shop. The ticket cost also includes hot food on the night. would like to make a donation. Martin Smith will be the Quiz Master on the evening.

There will be 6 people max per team. Cllr Ackrill said they were hoping to make lots of money towards the Flood Scheme and hoped the village would support the event.

Cllr Ackrill was also very pleased to report following the last meeting Charity Status was given which will allow all personal donations to be gift aided and make future grant applications easier.

12) **Parish Plan**

Following the discussion in the last PC meeting concerning the parish plan following an email received for parish plan grant funding applications awarding up to a maximum of £5,000. Cllr Knass reviewed the parish plan and circulated a spreadsheet showing updates on the parish plan. Cllr Knass asked the Councillors to review and update if applicable. The Spreadsheet will be kept on file and used as a reference guide for updating the Parish Plan.

Action E18 of the Parish Plan states 'to ensure flood protection measures are adequate'.

Cllr Knass spoke to Jo Naylor the Principle Policy Officer in WBC concerning the Parish Plan Grant application and asked if WBC would extend the grant timescale for funds to be spent because stated in the criteria ideally the grant should be spent within one-calendar year. Jo Naylor did not confirm but said to submit the grant application and discussions would than take place.

Cllr Knass completed the parish plan grant application and emailed a copy of the application to PC and asked the Councillors to review and make any comments necessary. Cllr Ackrill made a couple of amendments to the application. All agreed the application was sufficient and to send to WBC. PC thanked Cllr Knass for his efforts in reviewing the Parish Plan and submitting the application on behalf of the Flood Alleviation Scheme. **Cllr Knass**

Cllr Knass also mentioned this year's Community Members Bid application awarding up to £5,000 per member. All agreed that a request for a Community Members Bid will also be submitted towards funding for the Flood Alleviation Scheme. Cllr Ackrill said he would speak with the District Councillors to ask if they would submit a bid on GSPC behalf.

Cllr Ackrill

13) Cllr Questions and reports

Cllr Knass had received a complaint from a resident concerning cars parking on the grass green at Hawthorne Way. After discussion the Clerk was asked to write a letter to the residents within the area. **Clerk**

Cllr Ackrill reported he visited The Bridge House on Wantage Road to inspect the manhole following an email sent to the Clerk from the resident reporting a pool of water forming around a manhole cover after heavy rainfall. Cllr Ackrill reported there is most likely a partial blockage in the pipe as it takes water from the road drains into the river, probably a partial blockage between this manhole and the river. The Clerk was asked to contact WBC highways. **Clerk**

Cllr Ackrill reported the fence at 2 Millers field was leaning again and asked the Clerk to notify the agents. **Clerk**

Cllr Ackrill asked the Clerk to contact Nigel Goldstraw to mend the damaged railings on Barmans Path at the bottom of Hungerford Hill next to the Swan. **Clerk**

14) Clerk Correspondence

Activity Trail

The Clerk had emailed a quote received today from Chris Morris of CJM Services for the Activity Trail in the recreation ground. The quote was £8,475. This was more than originally thought for the replacement. The Clerk is obtaining further quotes. **Clerk**

Hug Ditch

The Clerk had received an email from the Archaeological Officer at WBC concerning Hug Ditch Court. It was reported it does not have any statutory protection near Shefford Park Farm i.e. not a scheduled monument. WBC has an online reporting form for heritage issues which includes a map if anyone would like to provide more detail.

www.westberks.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=31896 The Archaeology team said they would liaise with planning colleagues to find out more.

Christmas Tree

A resident had asked that the Christmas Tree was planted far enough back on the green so not to obstruct the line of sight to the left of Millers Field.

Imitation Speed Camera

The Clerk received an email from WBC concerning the imitation speed enforcement camera stating WBC cannot be held liable or accepts any responsibility for its existence or for any such complaints or claims that may arise from its presence.

Shoots

The Clerk raised the comments made from a resident following their attendance in the open forum of the last PC meeting. Following their comments the Clerk was asked to contact the shoot organiser for shooting dates to be published in the parish newsletter.

The shoot organiser replied and said it is not practical to give dates of shoots. He felt this was a private matter between the person complaining and the land owners. He made the suggestion that the person in question is directed to correspond with him directly on any matter regarding shoots in the future. Contact details were given to the resident and he was asked to contact directly to discuss the matter.

The shoot organiser also said *“their shoot Captain is an Anti-Terrorist Firearms Policeman; he is a qualified Police Firearms Instructor and Range Master. So I’m sure you can imagine that safety is taken very seriously. Whilst there is a BASC code of practice around rights of way, this cannot always be followed to the letter, it is voluntary. We are very aware that there are three rights of way that cross the ground where we shoot and another two that border it. Walkers are respected, they are mentioned every shoot day in the safety brief before we begin and shooting is suspended when they are spotted accessing the ground. Communications between the beating line and the guns are facilitated by mobile phones and two way radio. Shooting over and in the vicinity of a footpath (or road) is perfectly common.*

The resident had replied to the clerk and said he felt he could not contact the shoot organiser as tried to discuss the matter in the past and still felt this was a PC matter.

The points made by the resident in numerous emails that followed were discussed in the meeting as follows.

Great Shefford Marshes - the resident proposed that PC make it a community value asset. After discussion it was agreed Great Shefford Marshes is private land and is not designated and never had public access.

The resident asked if S106 monies could be obtained from unused accounts in other communities and used to enhance our footpaths. This is not an option as S106 money cannot be shared to other communities and has to be spent in the parish it is given too, any unused S106 money is returned to the developer after a certain amount of time.

The resident proposed WBC to make the track from the Church to Blackwater a designated footpath, after full discussion this was not agreed to follow up.

The question asking if there was a map showing footpaths. Cllr Ackrill said there is a map shown on the notice board on the Village hall.

The matter was discussed thoroughly by all councillors, and all agreed this is a personal dispute between the resident and the shoot. It was felt there is nothing more PC could do especially when the resident would not communicate with the shoot organiser.

Matter Closed. - The Clerk will write to the resident.

Clerk

15) Matters for future consideration- None

Close of meeting 9.30pm
Next meeting Thursday 1 March 2018
