

The Parish Council of St. Helen Without

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 26th September 2016 at 7.30pm Shippon Church Hall

Present: Cllrs. M. Russell (in the Chair), G. Fitzgerald, M. Gilbert, C. Priestley, M. Page, C. Parkin, V. Talbot, K. Houlden

In attendance: Mr Derek Kelso (MOD), Anna Clarke (Clerk)

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr C. Parkin

2. Declarations of Personal or Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None

3. Matters raised by

a) members of the public

PCSO Rich Osborn

PCSO Osborn reported that he was currently working with 4 Parish Councils. The office at Wootton Community Centre will be closing soon along with Botley and Sutton Courtenay due to budget cuts. Policing will radically change over the next 18 months but PCSO numbers will remain the same with PCOS being given more powers and taking a more responsive, less proactive approach. Cllr Talbot questioned if, with all the new housing development generating more rates, would that lead to an increase in PCSOs? PCSO Osborn responded that this would be a question for the Chief Constable but that police numbers are actually ok but use is made of natural wastage when someone retires, they are not replaced.

Parking at Dry Sandford School - Cllr Gilbert expressed concern at the volume of parking at Dry Sandford School at drop off and pick up, which often creates dangerous situations for school kids crossing the roads. For e.g. parking on the corner makes it very difficult for cars coming around Church Lane to see the parked vehicles. The lack of pavement and safe crossing close to the school compound the issue. Consideration has been given to opening up the playing field for parking, however it would be a costly exercise for which there is currently no funding available. Cllr Fitzgerald noted that there had also been discussion at the school around staggered drop offs, although, this would probably only work at drop off. The school is increasing in numbers, which will exacerbate the issue. PCSO Osborn and his colleague will be visiting schools to create a presence at salient times, in order to deter dangerous parking.

There are currently a few issues in Wootton being dealt with, including someone using a crow scarer at inconsiderate hours. This is not actually a crime, but an environmental issue. The Police look at solving issues with an holistic approach, bringing in all relevant agents.

Parking on Pavements – PCSO Osborn reported that this is not illegal and therefore not enforceable unless the car is in an area with parking restrictions. If someone is obstructed, then it is necessary to find a constable who will take a statement and be prepared to go to court.

Mr Kelso reported that there will be issues on Elm Tree when the Gozzards Ford road reopens with parking from the building work taking place.

Speed Indicator Device (SID) - It was agreed that a speed gun would be the preferable option as there are already VAS signs in situ and that it could initially be used once a week for a month.

The Clerk to follow up with Marcham about the possibility of joint purchase of a speed gun and membership of Speed Watch.

AC

b) Attending Councillors

None in attendance

c) MOD

The camp gates by Costcutter are being kept open to help traffic flow during the period of road closure, (Gozzards Ford Road, between Barrow Road and the Marcham Road).

Bonfire Night event is being held on the airfield on the 6th November.

Motor Events - Cllr Fitzgerald reported that a member of the public had questioned the volume of motor events on the airfield as the original agreement was for 14 motor events a year and this appeared to be on the increase. Mr Kelso responded that the technology around motor racing had much evolved since the agreement was put in place many years ago and that all the events are strictly licenced.

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 22nd August 2016

The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chair.

The Parish Council of St. Helen Without

The Manor Preparatory School Planning Application

The Chair received an email from Richard and Catherine Webber requesting that the speech Catherine gave to the Vale Planning Committee be incorporated in full, into the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 26th September 2016, along with this statement;

‘Catherine did NOT mean that she was supporting the application, but merely stated what she saw as the planning reality - something she *should* be doing as a Member of the Planning Committee’

Catherine Webber’s Speech to Planning Committee on 17th August 2016

- a) This hybrid application by the Manor prep school has caused a lot of unhappiness among the residents of Shippon largely, I would argue, for poor liaison reasons between the village and the school. Both sides have reasonable arguments. The Manor, which is an outstanding school, needs to expand for strong commercial reasons, but inevitably this means that there will be some adverse affects on the village, mainly from increased traffic, noise, lighting. Shippon is washed with the Green belt which has up until now protected it from any new build of this type. Now, with the argument that the Manor application is acceptable, as it is a "special case" which fits the NPPF guide lines, I would like to ask the officers to give a clear statement for all those who are sceptical about this conclusion, on whether there are any grounds now for refusing this application for Green Belt reasons.
- b) Secondly, there has been conflicting advice from the Vale as to whether commercial reasons for expansion is a material consideration. Again, can the officers give a clear and concise ruling and explanation on this please?
- c) Thirdly increased transport. The Manor should be congratulated for trying to address this problem with such measures as putting on extra bussing to limit the number of cars coming to the school, but inevitably there will be some impact on already very busy roads. Barrow road is almost gridlocked at peak flow times with coaches and cars rat running dangerously via small roads like Elm road through the housing estate, to find another exit onto Faringdon road. Although the officers have said that this application will have an " acceptable " impact on these already very busy roads, I would like to ask all county councillors to lead the way on encouraging all independent schools, whose traffic has the biggest impact at peak times on roads in Shippon and those parts of Abingdon with schools, to find ways to reduce the traffic.
- d) Lastly, those residents who back onto the school grounds will be most adversely affected by the positioning of the new sports facilities. Clearly the school has tried to reduce this impact by reducing the hours and days when the sports facilities will be let out to the community, and some lighting has been changed, but if the school would look at alternative sites such that the less used running track backs onto the residents and the other sports pitches and courts be sited behind the sports hall, far away from any residents, as has been suggested by the chairman of the parish council, I would suggest that much of the unhappiness would be dissipated.
- e) So, in conclusion, I fear I see no strong material reasons why this application shouldn't go through, but I would urge that the Manor actively fosters a closer relationship with the village by having a much better line of communication with the residents in future.

f) Highways matters

The VAS is on order and will include Bluetooth. The Clerk to add to the PC’s insurance policy when the VAS arrives.

AC

Cllr Russell put in a complaint to Highways that the Parish Council had not been notified of recent road closures. Cllr Russell was assured that we would be included on the list of notifications.

Review Speed Limit at Honeybottom Lane

To determine whether the proposal is consistent with Department for Transport guidelines, it will be necessary to carry out speed surveys. Cllr Fitzgerald to consider the best places to install the 2 speed devices.

GF

g) Transport including No 4 Bus

There will a Community Meeting with Oxford Bus Company on 11th October, 7.15 for 7.30p.m. at W&DS Community Centre. Cllr Houlden reported that the early evening bus from Abingdon to Oxford was often delayed due to road works in Oxford and the electronic system suddenly displayed “refer to timetable” rather than give the anticipated arrival time as a result of the delay.

h) Hitch copse Cothill, Footpath Closures

There will shortly be a meeting taking place with Marcham PC, Nick Cross and Oxon CC.

i) Abingdon Town Council Neighbourhood Plan

The Parish Council of St. Helen Without

The Clerk to write to ATC and the Vale stating that the patch of land currently included in their Neighbourhood Plan is part of St Helen Without Parish and we would request that it be removed from their plan. AC

The Clerk to follow up with Wootton on progress with their Neighbourhood plan. AC

j) Overhanging Vegetation

All areas have been dealt with apart from around the post box.

There is overhanging vegetation at the top of Church Lane near the Nissan field. If 2 cars are passing, they need to slow down significantly in order to do so. Cllr Fitzgerald to speak to those responsible for the upkeep. GF

k) Parking on Pavements

Earlier in the year, Mr Johnson stated that he had secured premises in Radley and would be moving his cars there; this has not yet happened. Cllr Talbot has made numerous attempts to get an update from Mr Johnson and will try again to contact him. VT

l) Adult Exercise Equipment

The Clerk to look at the cost of a sign to say it should be used at one's own risk. AC

m) Enforcement – no updates

n) Oxfordshire Together

Mr Kelso confirmed that the MOD are not able to help with grass cutting at this point in time. The Parish Council will continue to report problematic Visibility Splays to County in line with their statutory duty.

6. Finance and Administrative Matters

a) **Accounts for payment**

| Payee | Purpose | Total | VAT |
|----------------|----------------------|---------|-----|
| PCC of Shippon | Room rental | £16 | |
| Parish Clerk | Salary August | £332.44 | |
| Parish Clerk | Expenses August | £44 | |
| ST Maintenance | Bin emptying August | £20 | |
| BGG | Grass cutting August | £120 | £20 |
| BDO | Annual Audit | £120 | £20 |

b)The Clerk reported that we had received the annual audit return from BDO, the external auditor, and it had been passed without comment.

c) **Applications for Grants**

Dalton Barracks to attend the meeting or provide some further information for their £750 Youth Club grant.

7. Matters raised by members of the Council

Wall, Church Lane - Cllr Houlden reported that the wall and entrances appear to be in the same place as previously.

Jubilee Bench – Cllrs Houlden and Gilbert reported that the Jubilee bench has now been installed at Sandleigh Rd Recreation Ground.

Manor Preparatory School Planning Application – Cllr Russell has written to the Manor to suggest forming a Liaison group.

Planning - Cllr Gilbert raised concern that the wooden chalet built on Landsdowne Road will be the start of a bigger development but that the Parish Council is unable to comment due to it being a permitted development.

Vortal – Vortal will be attending the next Parish Council meeting on October.

Sovereign – The Clerk to invite them to the December meeting to discuss the potential exception site. **AC**

Rememberance Day Wreaths – it was agreed that the Clerk would order 2 wreaths and include a donation totalling £75. AC

Finance Sub Committee Meeting – the Clerk to arrange the Finance Sub Committee meeting for December. AC

The Parish Council of St. Helen Without

8.Planning

a) Decision Notices

b) Applications dealt with between meetings

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|--------------------------------|---|
| Ref: | P16/V1088/FUL |
| Date | 12 th May 2016 |
| Description | Hybrid Application comprising a detailed application for a sports hall, AstroTurf pitch and pavilion, relocated netball and tennis courts, new canopy to lower school building, car park extension to rear and rearranged access, car park and drop off at front of school; an outline application for erection of a swimming pool, two classroom buildings and extension to dining room (all matters reserved except access). |
| Address | The Manor Preparatory School, Faringdon Road, Shippon, OX13 6LN |
| St Helen Without PC's comments | <p>St Helen Without Parish Council strongly objects for the following reasons:-</p> <p><u>1. Oxford Green Belt</u></p> <p>The development's incursion into the Oxford Green Belt. This is based on 3 key arguments that coincide with the Vale of the White Horse District Council's Local Plan 2031, Part 1: and their Local Plan 2011.</p> <p>A. This development would compromise Core Policy 13: The Oxford Green Belt and GS3, to protect the openness and permanence of the Oxford Green Belt;</p> <p>B. The intent to develop on a non-strategic site, i.e. it lies outside the stated settlements, as indicated in the Adopted Policies Map, that allow for development.</p> <p>C. There are no special circumstances that allow for the development of indoor recreational facilities, i.e. a new sports hall and a new swimming pool, nor the addition of one new classroom building in the Green Belt.</p> <p><u>2. Traffic and Road Safety</u></p> <p>The Transport Assessment prepared by Glanville Associates on behalf of Manor School calculates that the completion of all phases of the development will result in an additional 48 vehicle trips per school peak hour. This calculation, however, seems to ignore the fact that the school is currently 30 pupils short of its capacity (372 compared with a capacity of 402). Using Glanville's own 'surveyed modal split' the potential is for an additional 74 vehicle trips per school peak hour. Plus the additional traffic generated by the external usage of the sports facilities. The highway impact is therefore considered to be severe in the context of the National Planning Policy Framework</p> <p>Within the context of Shippon and, in particular that part of the Faringdon Road between Barrow Road and the proposed new access point to the school site, the potential number of additional vehicles will impact upon the already severe congestion caused in Elm Tree Walk, Old Faringdon Road and Barrow Road particularly at the junction of the latter with Faringdon Road. The provision of an uncontrolled pedestrian crossing point between the new school access and Barrow Road further heightens SHWPC's concerns about the road safety issues on this stretch of road. Of particular concern is the restricted sight line for vehicles turning right out of Barrow Road into Faringdon Road.</p> <p>SHWPC urges consideration of a thorough evaluation of the traffic management and road safety issues raised by this application for the local road network.</p> <p><u>3. Lighting</u></p> <p>The plans propose a total of 26 floodlights over the area of the Astro turf hockey pitch, the 3 netball courts and the car parking ranging from 6 metres to 10 metres in height and fencing of 3 metres. This will generate serious light pollution particularly in the winter months when usage could be for 14 hours per day, 7 days per week and no foliage will be present to mitigate the effects. This contravenes the Local Plan 2011 of Policy GS3 and Policy DC9, as it will harm the openness and visual amenity of the Green Belt and will create a visual intrusion over a considerable part of the Village.</p> <p>These proposals are excessive for a primary school and are the creation of a sports business.</p> |
| Decision | No Decision Issued |
| Ref: | P16/V1790/HH |
| Date | 20 th July |
| Description | Rear, side and front extensions. |

The Parish Council of St. Helen Without

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|--------------------------------|--|
| Address | 38 & 40 Gozzards Ford, Abingdon |
| St Helen Without PC's comments | No objections but SHW PC asked for it to be noted that there was a large increase in floor area overall. |
| Decision | 23 rd September 2016 |

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| Ref: | P16/V2258/ FUL |
| Date | 7 th September 2016 |
| Description | Proposed new chalet style 2 bedroom dwelling in the existing garden (re-submission of P16/V1221/FUL) |
| Address | 68 Besselsleigh Road, Wootton, OX13 6DX |
| St Helen Without PC's comments | No objections |
| Decision | 2 nd November 2016 |

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|--------------------------------|--|
| Ref: | P16/V2126/LPD |
| Date | 13 th September 2016 |
| Description | Erection of a single storey timber framed build to the rear of the garden. |
| Address | 9 Landsdowne Road, Dry Sandford |
| St Helen Without PC's comments | Permitted Development |
| Decision | 8 th November 2016 |

9 Sandleigh Road Recreation Ground

The Clerk to follow up on possibility of repairs.

The Inspection roster for 2016/17 is below: Any requests for amendments should be sent to the Clerk.

All

AC

| 2016 | | 2017 | |
|-----------|-----------------------|----------|---------------------|
| September | Cllr Geoff Fitzgerald | November | Cllr Martin Gilbert |
| October | Cllr Michael Page | December | Cllr Vicki Talbot |

Cllr Russell went through the correspondence and it was resolved to note it and his comments.

11. Correspondence

Oxfordshire County Council

- OALC August update
- OALC Neighbourhood Planning Bill
- Open Event Prospective County Councillor's
- New Liaison Team at County

VofWHDC

- Vale News from Cllr Matthew Barber September
- Changes to Recycling

Other

- CFO Newsletter & AGM
- CFO Placemaking Conference
- OCVA newsletters
- Sport, Amenities, Landscaping Trade Exhibition
- Oxford Greenbelt Network AGM
- Came & Co Newsletter
- Oxford Playing Field Association Newsletter & AGM
- Vortal

a) Cllrs reports and items for future agendas

Nothing raised

b) Date of next meeting

It was confirmed that the Parish Meeting would be held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 31st October 2016 at Dry Sandford Primary School.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.25 p.m.

Signed.....Date.....