

# The Parish Council of St. Helen Without

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 7.30pm  
at the Dry Sandford Primary School

**Present:** Cllrs. G. Fitzgerald (in the Chair), M. Bailey, M. Gilbert, K. Houlden, J Lowe, C. Parkin, C Priestley and V. Talbot

**In attendance:** George Edmonds-Brown (Clerk), County Councillor Richard Webber and District Cllr Catherine Webber.

## 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Brenda Rogers and Madeleine Russell and Mr John Higgs

## 2. Declarations of Personal or Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Cllr Gilbert declared an interest in Site 23 listed for removal from the Green Belt in the Green Belt Review.

## 3. Matters raised by a) members of the public

None

### b) attending Councillors and MOD

District Cllr Catherine Webber updated the Council on the fire at the offices of South Oxfordshire District Council. The property had been fully insured. Finance Department was now up and running. Planning Department had hard copies of recent applications and the rest backed up electronically. Some pre-1985 applications had been lost. Much of the property was not recoverable and there would be a three year rebuild. Services had been outsourced to other offices in Abingdon and Milton Park. County Cllr Richard Webber said that most of the activity in the County Council had been focussed on the budget.

Recent comments by the Chairman about suggestions for unitary councils looked unlikely to proceed and were beset with political problems. The merging of SODC and VWHDC had saved £50 million. County Cllr Webber agreed to inform the Parish Council as soon as information on the options for the subsidy for the No 4 bus were passed to county councillors on the 12<sup>th</sup> March prior to the County Council meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> March.

RW/GE-B

County Cllr Webber responded to the criticisms about the arrangements at Tilsley Park by explaining that it had been losing £300,000 to £400,000 a year and it was necessary to find a partner. Abingdon School was prepared to put capital into the project, take on the maintenance and guarantee public access. Abingdon School had in fact originally gifted the land.

## 4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2014

Following minor amendments the minutes of the meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> December were approved and signed by the Chairman.

## 5. Matters arising from the Minutes

### a) The Jubilee bench

Cllr Lowe said that the problem had been with installing the concrete plinth. The new defence contractor had agreed to install it as a gesture of goodwill and it should be completed by the end of January.

JL

### b) Community website and newsletter

The Community Centre Board was still obtaining quotes for printing the newsletter including collating. This would not be completed in time for the February newsletter.

### c) Transport including No 4 Bus

The Clerk had attended the OCC Transport Representatives' Meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> January. The main point was that the subsidy review will go to the County Council on 19<sup>th</sup> March and County Councillors will be informed of options one week before. Parish Councils can make further representations at the meeting. The transport budget had suffered a further £0.5 million of cuts.

### d) Road Safety; Barrow Road and Cholswell Road

Mr Lee Turner had offered to meet councillors on site during the week of 26<sup>th</sup> January to include a representative from Dalton Barracks. Councillors were asked to let the Clerk know when they would be free to attend.

GE-B

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### e) Highways matters

Some of the leaves on Church Lane had been removed but some remained. Biffa had promised to clear the leaves as quickly as possible.

### f) The VWHDC Local Plan (including Green Belt Review)

The Parish Council's comments had been submitted to the VWHDC and they would now be considered by the Independent Inspector.

### g) The Cothill Pit

The Parish Council has submitted a response to the planning application for seasonal holiday accommodation in the land adjoining Hitchcopse Farm, Cothill Road supporting Marcham Parish Council's objection to the proposal principally on the green belt and that it runs contrary to the Local Plan 2031 Part 1.

### h) Daffodils

The supplier will be sending an invoice addressed to the Parish Council so that VAT could be reclaimed on the bulbs used by the Council. It was resolved that Cllr Talbot should be refunded £179.81 representing the proportion of the bulbs used by the Council ( $1300 \div 1700 \times £235.14 = £179.81$ )

## 6. Matters raised by members of the Council

Cllr Houlden said that he had reported a case of fly tipping and Biffa had dealt with it quickly and effectively.

Cllr Houlden said that the conversion of Wootton Post Office had now been carried out.

Cllr Fitzgerald said there had been complaints about speeding in Church Lane. There was no easy solution and it was resolved to discuss the issue with Mr Lee Turner when he carries out a site visit at Cholswell Road/Barrow Road.

GE-B/GF

## 7. Finance

### a) Payments made between meetings

Post Office Ltd (HMRC)	PAYE September – December 2014	£512.10	
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### b) Accounts for payment

Payee	Purpose	Total	VAT
George Edmonds-Brown	Salary January 2015	£277.44	
George Edmonds-Brown	Expenses January 2015	£44.85	
Vicki Talbot	Daffodils	£179.81	£29.97
Dry Sandford Primary School	Room rental – 19.1.2015	£10.00	
RJS (IA) Ltd	Part replacement cheque No 1234 of 23.6.2014 Internal Audit fee	£180.00	
Geoff Fitzgerald	Replacement cheque No 1251 Framing 616 squad award	£40.10	

It was resolved that the payment made between meetings should be noted and that the above payments should be made.

### c) Applications for grants

None

## 8. Planning

### a) Decision Notices

None

### b) Applications dealt with between meetings

Ref:	P14/V2264/LB
Date	3.12.2014
Description:	Replace existing front upvc windows with single glazed windows
Address	62 Barrow Road, Shippon OX13 6JQ
St Helen Without PC's comments	No objection as long as the Listed Building Department of the Vale has approved this.

Ref:	P14/V2667/FUL
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Date	5.12.2014
Description:	Replacement of out of date Astroturf with new 3G pitch and 3 new 5 a side Astroturf pitches
Address	Tilsley Park, Dunmore Road, Abingdon OX14 1PU (neighbouring plot to the Parish)
St Helen Without PC's comments	No objections as long as the Vale of the White Horse DC ensure adequate landscaping is undertaken to reduce the visual impact and preserve the openness of the Green Belt, Core Policy 13 of the Local Plan 2031, Part 1 [Nov 2014].

Ref:	P14/V2781/LB
Date	16.12.2014
Description:	Revised proposals for new stair and window details, as an amendment to P13/V1079/LB ( <i>PC had no objections to this</i> )
Address	Church Farm House, 68 Church Lane, Dry Sandford OX13 6JP
Deadline	18 January 2015

It was resolved to confirm the Planning Committee's action

### 9. Sandleigh Road Recreation Ground

#### a) Inspection report; December Cllr Houlden/ January Cllr Russell/ February Cllr Fitzgerald

Cllr Russell had carried out the January inspection and sent a report. She had noted the work that needs to be carried out under the refurbishment. There were muddy patches on the main footpath following the heavy rain. The benches were alright but the one in play area has several rusty patches on the seat which could cut hands of small children. At the North West corner of the play area there was a small muddy trench which needs filling. It was noted that the Leylandi trees to the left of the entrance had not been removed. However it had been agreed at a previous meeting that the trees could remain provided they were cut back to the height of the fence.

#### b) Refurbishment of play area

A second estimate had been requested from HAGS-SMP. They had indicated that as they would have to go to Wicksteed for the part they are unlikely to be able to offer a better quote. However, they had promised to visit when next in area but have not done so. It was resolved to accept the Wicksteed quote.

GE-B

#### c) Plum Tree

A reminder had been sent to BGG Garden & Tree Care seeking a quote for the removal of the tree which overhangs the garden of Mr Clark, 27 Lashford Lane. The Chairman offered to look at the tree to see if it can be easily cut down using his chain saw.

GF/GE-B

### 10. Correspondence

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

#### Oxfordshire County Council

Parish Transport Representatives Meeting – 16<sup>th</sup> January

Community Emergency Plans - reminder

#### Other

Launch of Rural Services Network for 2015

OALC Update – December 2014

- a. *Parish Transport Rep – 3 meetings a year*
- b. *Invitation for views on the draft Big Plan: Oxfordshire's Learning Disability Strategy 2015-2018, running until 9<sup>th</sup> Feb 2015*
- c. *High Sherriff's awards*
- d. *Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board (OSCB)*
  - i. *Local Parish councils should have in place 'A Safeguarding Children Policy' and procedure for raising a concern or making a referral to*

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*children's social care; and, a basic level of understanding by members and the know-how to contact their designated safeguarding lead within the district council.*

- ii. *More info: [www.oscb.org.uk](http://www.oscb.org.uk)*
- e. *GO Active, Get Healthy – research project with Oxford Brookes to support inactive adults (involved in <30 minutes of physical activity per week). £30 paid to referrer per participant.*
- f. *Wild Oxfordshire – free talks to parish councils interested in conserving or enhancing their local biodiversity*
- g. *Oxford Strategic Partnership – open event, 27<sup>th</sup> Feb, Oxford Town Hall – about work and progress towards their vision of Oxford as a world class city for everyone.*
- h. *TOE2 grants for energy efficiency*
- i. *Quality Council Scheme replaced by new Local Council Award Scheme, from 6<sup>th</sup> Jan*

ORCC Update December  
LCR Winter 2014

*Local Council Awards – providing a framework for improved performance and continuous development*

RSN Parish Rural Sounding Board Survey  
Peter Bowell – e-mail on No 4 Bus  
ADTTS Newsletter  
Clerks and Councils Direct – January 2015

### **11. Cllrs reports and items for future agendas**

None

### **12. Date of next meeting**

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held 7.30pm on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2015 as the Dalton Barracks Community Centre is not available the venue to be advised

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30 pm

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