

The Parish Council of St. Helen Without

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 31st March 2014
at the Community Centre, Dalton Barracks at 7.30 p.m.**

Present: Cllrs. G. Fitzgerald (in the Chair), M. Gilbert, K. Houlden, C. Parkin, B. Rogers, and V. Talbot

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

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs M. Bailey, C Priestley and M. Taylor and from Mr John Higgs

2. Declarations of Personal or Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None

The Chairman said that there had been comments made about hearsay from people criticizing the Parish Council on planning issues. Hearsay should be avoided. Councilors should feel free to express their views and should aim to be tolerant about everyone else's views.

3. Matters raised by a) members of the public

None

b) attending Councillors and MOD

District Cllr Catherine Webber said that the Dalton Barracks international day had been excellent with the representatives of 14 nations speaking about their culture. The event would have benefitted from more publicity. The Dalton Barracks Pre-School is likely to get its grant. The problem of refuse bins not being put back in the right place had been resolved. The next surgery would be held at the Prince of Wales pub on 12th April from 12 to 1.30pm. Cllr Richard Webber had indicated that the Community Governance Review would be considered by a committee of 4 and the message from the Parish Council supporting the status quo appears to have been heard. There was still benefit in briefing residents with a leaflet drop. The Liberal Democratic group on the Council had expressed concern about the Local Plan 2031 Part 1, particularly on the principle of nibbling away at the Green Belt. It was considered that the VWHDC had not carried out a full review. There was a need for housing and for new employment but cutting and Green Belt and building on agricultural land was the thin end of the wedge. The speed limit changes at Drayton/Milton Road were going ahead. Cllr Webber had written in support of the Parish Council's bid for changes in the speed limits and had confirmed that the need for enforcement would not be used as a means of refusal. He had also raised the question of funding with Dalton Barracks.

Mr Higgs had sent comments to the meeting. The Station Commander was originally planning to host a reception in the Officers' Mess on Thu 1 May for local guests, but this has been postponed due to a conflict with a function hosted by the Lord Lieutenant in Edward Brooks Barracks in late April. The Dalton Bks reception is now likely to slip to late June. Other points are covered in Paragraph 6 below.

4. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 24th February 2014

The minutes of the meeting of 24th February were approved and signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters arising from the Minutes

a) The Jubilee bench

Mr Higgs visited 7 RIFLES in Edward Brooks Barracks and received assurances that the bench will be installed in April.

b) Bus shelter: Sandleigh Road

The bus stop has been moved from Sandleigh Road to Besselsleigh Road. The repairs had been ordered; there were suggestions that further damage may have been caused by vandalism.

c) Community website and newsletter

Work on the website was continuing. Cllr Rogers said that she would be calling another meeting. Additional items had been collected including from the Friends of Shippon. Mr Ian Bristow had carried out some improvements but was waiting for Mrs Sue Srawley to adjust the banner on the home page and arrange the new URL. The Appleton website was a good example of what could be done.

JH

BR

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d) Speeding and speed limits

Comments had been sent to OCC before the 21st March deadline. Cllr Richard Webber and John Higgs had also sent supporting comments.

e) Community Governance Review

Letters to residents were being prepared. It was resolved to print 200 copies of the letter to residents who would be affected by the changes.

KH/GE-B

f) Shippon Plan developments

The two properties in Elm Tree Walk had been fully supported by the Parish Council with a justification.

g) St Helen Without PC newsletter

Contributions were still awaited for the newsletter. It was resolved that it could issue after the AGM.

GE-B

h) The VWHDC Local Plan Part 1

It was resolved that the following comment should be sent to the VWHDC before the 4th April deadline -

“St Helen Without Parish Council has considered the proposal in the Vale of White Horse District Council Local Plan 2031 Part 1 to build up to 200 houses in the North-West Abingdon on Thames site part of which is in the parish and has no objection provided the appropriate infrastructure measures are put in place including the improvement of the No 4 bus service.

St Helen Without Parish Council does have concerns about the Green Belt Review and the proposal to release a number of green field sites from the Green Belt and the methodology used. In this context, the National Planning Policy Framework and the Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2011 adopted in 2006 GS3, allows for limited infilling as exceptions for development in villages in the Green Belt. Shippon is a named village with a brown line defining the village area. The Shippon Plan recommended the development of two farmyards in the village but these have been excluded from consideration in the current exercise.”

GE-B

i) Tree planting Cholswell Road

Cllr Talbot was in favour of planting more trees and had received information from the Woodland Trust. Various packages were available including one for 30 small trees and 105 medium trees. It was understood that Dalton Barracks would be able to provide the labour and cover the future maintenance on MOD land. Mr Higgs had indicated that he was trying to organise a site visit by the MOD's Forester to discuss the proposal and advise what was appropriate. Concerns have been expressed on spending Parish Council funds on a project on MOD land. It was considered that the question of funding should be voted on when a detailed proposal was available. Cllr Houlden proposed that Cllr Talbot be authorised to prepare a detailed proposal. This was seconded by Cllr Rogers and approved unanimously.

JH/VT

6. Matters raised by members of the Council

Cllr Parkin said that there had been recent thefts in the village including two planters and a canoe.

Cllr Talbot said that the stone on top of the well was missing. The stone walls had not been repaired in Elm Tree Walk and Barrow Road. It was resolved that this would be raised with Mr Green.

GF

7. Finance

a) Accounts for payment

| Payee | Purpose | Total | VAT |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------|--------|
| George Edmonds-Brown | Salary March 2014 | £249.64 | |
| George Edmonds-Brown | Expenses March 2014 | £44.55 | |
| George Edmonds-Brown | Salary April 2014 | £249.64 | |
| George Edmonds-Brown | Expenses April 2014 | £44.55 | |
| Post Office Ltd | HMRC PAYE | £570.09 | |
| OALC | Subscription 2014 | £337.39 | £56.23 |

It was resolved that the above payments should be made.

b)NALC; Consultation on Transparency Code for Parish and Town Councils

It was resolved that the Parish Council would prefer to retain the normal audit process even though income does on occasions fall below the £25,000 threshold.

GE-B

c) Applications for grants

None

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8. Planning

a) Decision Notices

| | |
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| Ref: | P14/V0085/HH |
| Date | 23.1.2014 |
| Description: | Conversion of existing bungalow to a two storey dwelling (chalet bungalow) including two-storey rear extension, re-roofing and internal alterations. |
| Address | 25 Sandleigh Road, Wootton OX13 6DP |
| St Helen Without PC's comments | Object due to overdevelopment of the site which represents an increase of over 40% in volume; also likely to cause parking problems. |
| Decision | Permit 11.3.2014 |
| Ref: | P14/V0098/HH |
| Date | 27.1.2014 |
| Description: | Raising of the roof to facilitate first floor accommodation single storey rear extension |
| Address | 86 Lashford Lane, Dry Sandford OX13 6EB |
| St Helen Without PC's comments | No objection |
| Decision | Permit 12.3.2014 |
| Ref: | P14/V0035/HH |
| Date | 4.2.2014 |
| Description: | Rear flat roof single storey extension |
| Address | 40 Gozzards Ford, Abingdon OX13 6JH |
| St Helen Without PC's comments | No objection provided it does not exceed the GS3 increase in volume |
| Decision | Permit 24.3.2014 |

It was resolved to note the Planning Authority's decisions

b) Applications dealt with between meetings

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|--------------------------------|---|
| Ref: | P14/V0263/HH |
| Date | 14.2.2014 (recd 20 February) |
| Description: | Retrospective change of use of land from agricultural to mixed purposes for storage of vehicles/plant and equipment in connection with concrete plumbing business and relocation of store sheds |
| Address | White House Farm, Dry Sandford, Abingdon OX13 6JR |
| Deadline | No objections |
| Ref: | P14/V338/HH |
| Date | 25.2.2014 |
| Description: | Propose 2 no dwellings and works there to |
| Address | Land adjacent to Elm Tree Walk, Shippon, Oxon |
| St Helen Without PC's comments | <p><i>The Parish Council of St Helen Without Fully Support this application for the following reasons.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. The National Planning Policy Framework and the Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2011 adopted in 2006 GS3, allows for limited infilling as exceptions for development in villages in the Green Belt. Shippon is a named village with a brown line defining the village area and the site is within this area.</i> <p><i>This proposal is not considered to be detrimental to the openness of the Green Belt. There is already housing development on 3 sides of the site and the frontage abounds the road of Elm Tree Walk.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>2. The applicant has agreed to the changes requested by the Parish Council which will maintain the rural appearance of this section of Elm Tree Walk.</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a) There will be no road widening, the road will remain the same width as at present.</i> <i>b) The verge will remain as at present and not turned into a footpath.</i> <i>c) The stone walls will be retained in their present positions.</i> <p><i>This narrow section of Elm Tree Walk provides a considerable reduction in the speed of traffic along this road.</i></p> <i>3. The Vale's policy has restricted all development within the village to infilling of</i> |

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| <p><i>1 or 2 houses and therefore a considerable number of precedents over the years have been set. i.e. Carlton House, former Stonewall, former Catholic Church, 80 Barrow Road.</i></p> <p><i>4. Shippon is a sustainable village which could accommodate further appropriate development.</i></p> |
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It was resolved to confirm the Planning Committee's action

c) 62 Barrow Road

Planning Enforcement had sent an enforcement notice to the property owner requiring them to replace the windows which infringed the rules on listed buildings.

9. Sandleigh Road Recreation Ground

a) Inspection report;

Cllr Talbot carried out the March inspection. The new bench would benefit from being treated with teak oil. The sputnik and seats are showing signs of wear and sharp edges. The swing seat is beginning to split.

GE-B

10. Correspondence

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

South and Vale

Public Consultation; Local Plan 2031 Part 1
Town & Parish Forum 2014 – 17th June 2014

Other

Clerks & Council Direct – March 2014

NALC update February 2014

NALC 2014 Events; What next for Localism

Dalton Barracks response on speed limits

NALC; Consultation on Transparency Code for Parish and Town Councils

NALC; would your council like a Twitter or Facebook account

OALC Courses

National Playing Fields Association Conference

National Conference, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, 4th June – for anyone interested in the provision & management of local fields – inspirational ideas for developing facilities and usage, funding sources and other support

Notes on Parish Transport Representatives Meeting

OCC budget: £2m from a budget of £4m needs to be saved on subsidised bus services by 2018. No strategy in place to achieve this. The 2015 Bus Service Review to start in the summer

OCC Advertisement on speeding

CPRE; feedback on larger villages meeting

No easy answers and developer-led approach will continue. High risk of speculative applications remains.

Much of the housing is due in the first 5 years, but threat of “landbanking”

The A34 through Oxon is already one of the slowest and least reliable of the strategic route network – much of it will need to be rebuilt between now and 2020

Cllr Matthew Barber – Oxford Garden City

Not considered a valid alternative to the Vale's Local Plan – housing delivery update. Much of it is sited on the flood plain/ Unlikely to be built, if it went ahead, in the next 5 years

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 12th May 2014 at Dry Sandford Primary School, to be preceded at 7pm by the Annual Parish Meeting.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.50 pm

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