

## RAMSDEN PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2008 at 8.00pm in Ramsden Memorial Hall

**Members Present:** Mr Clive Cowen (CC), Mrs Holly Deans (HD) (Chairman), Tony Shuker (TS) and Mrs Sarah Wiggins (SW)

**Others Present:** The Clerk and two Parishioners

Item	Subject	Action
52.	<b>Apologies</b> Mrs Sally Miller (SM), Cllr Simon Hoare	
53.	<b>No members of the public</b> wished to participate in the meeting.	
54.	<b>Declaration of interests with regard to items on the agenda</b> There were no interests relevant to the business of the meeting. Guidance had been received from the Standards Board on what a 'close associate' is for the purposes of the Code of Conduct.	
55.	<b>Approval of minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on Wed 16<sup>th</sup> July 2008</b> The minutes were approved and signed as a true record of the meeting.	
56.	<b>Matters of report arising, not elsewhere on the agenda</b> The hedge had been cut and new fencing put up by landowners on one section of Little Lane. The Holifields had cleared the hedge on another section, and this was helping the path to dry out. The quote for putting down hardcore had been accepted.	
57.	<b>No Report</b> had been received from Councillor Simon Hoare (Cllr SH)	
58.	<b>Highways and Footpaths</b>	
	a) Flooding Corrections to some details in Version 1 of the Flood Defence Report were sent to WODC on 18 <sup>th</sup> July but have not yet been incorporated. HD would try to attend the Flooding Roadshow on 18 <sup>th</sup> September. The Flood Protection Fair on 9 <sup>th</sup> October was already advertised on notice board and website, and would be put in the Newsletter. In the last heavy rain, water ponded in The Grange's paddock and against the wall but, thanks to the anti-flooding measures carried out by residents in Lower End, no problems occurred there. The PC resolved to convene an extraordinary meeting with Laurence King, inviting those directly affected by flooding last July to come and discuss the measures outlined in the Flood Defence Report with him.	<b>Clerk</b>
	b) Speeding Steve Wood (Team leader, Speed Management Strategy) had reported back. Of the vehicles (12) checked during monitoring at peak time on Akeman Street, and on two occasions on the High Street, (26 vehicles into village from Witney Rd; 27 out on the last occasion) not one had been over 30mph. It was felt that possibly the posters were helping, and that it was time to change them round. A letter would be sent to OH asking for a traffic officer to visit and check out the technical possibility of having a larger pavement area outside the Royal Oak as in the Millennium proposals.	<b>Clerk</b>
	c) Pavement re-surfacing Mr Malcolm Lewis had put in a request to get the pavement outside his house resurfaced to slope towards the road, not towards his house. The traffic officer would be asked to inspect and take appropriate action.	<b>Clerk</b>

d) Cotswold Voluntary Warden

The Cotswolds Conservation Board was offering the possibility of a Voluntary Warden to work alongside the PC. More information would be sought and discussion was deferred to the next PC meeting.

Clerk  
HD

## 59. Planning

a) No applications had been received from West Oxfordshire District Council.

08/0774/P/FP DOE Appeal ref:08/2081975/NWF Erection of shed (retrospective) at Heath House Nursery.

An appeal had been lodged. Considerable inadequacies in the plans submitted remained unresolved. The PC would write to the appeal inspector. The repeated appeals against planning decisions were costly to taxpayers.

Clerk

b) Decisions received from West Oxfordshire District Council

08/0611/P/FP extension to garage at The Paddock, Mount Skippett. Granted.

08/0774/P/FP Erection of shed at Heath House Nursery. Refused.

08/0920/P/FP Temporary retention of existing building for use as agricultural workers dwelling. Refused.

c) Affordable Housing

Cottsway had purchased the land in Akeman Street and obtained Planning Approval for their development of five dwellings. In October 2008 they would be signing a build contract with Leadbitter Construction, with the intention of site works commencing in December 2008 and being completed in June 2009. Copies of the signed and sealed documents had been received by the PC. Cottsway had sent a letter to people who had registered their interest as a potential occupier of one of these houses with a response slip to confirm their continued interest.

d) Effective Responses to Planning Applications Training Course

It was agreed that the Clerk should attend this training course on 15th October.

Clerk

e) Conservation Area Documents - no progress to report.

## 60. Committees

a) To receive minutes or submissions from Voluntary Committees

Copies of the August and September meeting minutes were received from the Memorial Hall (MH) Committee. The Fête sub-committee and PCC were proposing to make a request for the High Street to be closed to through traffic from 12:00 noon to 18:00 on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2009, with a barrier (with access for emergency vehicles and residents) opposite the Memorial Hall and a similar barrier at Upper Farm beyond the car park.

The PC agreed to support this proposal, but wished to inquire about the strategy for traffic coming from Witney into Lower End and needing to access the car park. Information about the road closure should be included in the fête publicity and posters.

Clerk

The PC agreed to make arrangements to have the Parish Notice board varnished.

HD

A response was awaited from Allianz Insurance clarifying the insurance position for volunteers who were also members of Voluntary Committees.

## 61. Financial matters

a) Financial summary

Cash flow was satisfactory. Income from the cemetery had been high, so a withdrawal from the Interest account was not necessary. The PC's reserves had not increased in line with inflation over the past few years. It was agreed that it would be prudent to hold a larger contingency fund to cover emergencies such as weakness in the churchyard wall.

b) Bank account for PFC and TCC projects

All the formalities were complete and the Clerk awaited confirmation that these accounts were open.

c) Accounts for Payment

It was resolved to pay the following accounts: Memorial Hall (hire) £21; OPFA (sub) £30; SLCC (sub) £80; Clerk (Salary & expenses) £269.10; OALC (Training) £23.50.

**Clerk**

**62. Correspondence and Consultations**

a) Shaping Futures (Draft Sustainable Community Strategy For West Oxfordshire)

HD agreed to respond on behalf of the PC with particular reference to regular refuse collections.

**HD**

b) Oxfordshire 2030 consultation

The Oxfordshire Partnership had established strategic objectives for a Sustainable Community Strategy for Oxfordshire for the next 20 years and was consulting on the draft strategy and delivery plan.

In the environment and climate change section the PC wished to comment on adding incentives for encouraging sustainability in house extensions or alterations.

**Clerk**

c) Octobus Dial-a-Ride Consultation

The current contract ends 31.3.09. At present no one in the village is eligible and wanting to use the service. The PC supported continuing the service – in a limited form (e.g. one day a week) if necessary.

**Clerk**

d) Emergency Plan

Three Parish Councils in West Oxfordshire have Parish Emergency Plans and all PCs were invited to consider developing one. It was agreed to investigate having an emergency supply of sandbags at the MH., and that information on planning for a pandemic flu outbreak should be obtained and stored in the filing cabinet.

**Clerk**

d) Soldiers of Oxfordshire Exhibition

Details would be referred to Mr John Hook.

**HD**

f) Chief Inspector Jack Malhi had written to introduce himself as the new Local Police Authority Commander West Oxfordshire.

Other information and correspondence received was tabled.

**63. Any Other Business**

1. Free Electric Blanket Testing - Details to go in the Newsletter and on the website.

2. Thames Water Consultation: 'Our plans for water - what will you get and how much will it cost?' - Draft business plan for 2010 to 2015. Members of the public are invited to comment, details would be put on the website. The PC wished to comment on the urgent need for an increase in the supplies to Ramsden reservoir.

3. Planning for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in the SE.

Consultation on 4 possible options for allocating spaces – the PC chose option B, that all the new camping spaces required up to 2016 should be created in the same general areas where Gypsies and Travellers currently live.

4. Proposed changes to the South East plan, Regional Spatial Strategy

To be reviewed at the next meeting.

**Clerk**

The meeting closed at 9.35pm

**Dates of Next Meetings:**

Wednesdays 15<sup>th</sup> October and 19<sup>th</sup> November in Ramsden Memorial Hall

**All**