

RAMSDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 18th March 2009 at 8.00pm in Ramsden Memorial Hall

Members Present: Mr Clive Cowen (CC), Mrs Holly Deans (HD), Mrs Sally Miller(SM),
Mrs Sarah Wiggins (SW)

Others Present: Cllr Simon Hoare (SH), 2 Parishioners and the Clerk

Item	Subject	Action
126.	Apologies Mr Tony Shuker (TS) away from area.	
127.	Declaration of interests with regard to items on the agenda No interests were declared.	
128.	Public participation session It was agreed to bring forward Item 9a. The Tennis Court Committee (TCC) notes had been circulated to Cllrs and were summarised. Mrs Paula Biggs (PB) stressed the importance of the TCC and the PFC working together. HD confirmed that the PC had not received a formal request to erect a pavilion and that much discussion would be needed were such permission sought. The drainage issue had to be resolved before any works could take place and full co-operation on this was essential. The next PFC meeting was scheduled for 3 rd April. It was agreed that: - the PFC should be encouraged to pursue grants for drainage as a first priority - drainage works should take account of the location of proposed developments such the new play features and the potential second tennis court - there should be a tri-partite meeting between one representative of the TCC, PFC and PC, chaired by the Parish Councillor, to determine a way forward on drainage issues, including funding and grants - PC income was almost entirely from the precept. Should the PC be asked to make a grant towards a second tennis court, villagers would need to be consulted on their willingness to pay an increase in the precept to enable this.	Clerk
129.	Approval of minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wed 18th February 2009 and of the information on Village Amenities and Facilities The minutes were approved and signed as a true record of the meeting. The information was approved for publication.	
130.	Matters of report arising, not elsewhere on the agenda a) Little Lane Photographs of the path repairs in progress were shown to the PC. b) Dog waste bin for Jordans Close area The note in the Newsletter seemed to have had little effect. Further consideration would be given to the position of the bin. c) Thames Water consultation feedback The feedback documents had been checked to make sure that the PC's comments had been noted. Work on the new booster main was progressing.	
131.	Report from Councillor Simon Hoare Potholes in Akeman Street had been logged for attention, road cleaning outside the AH development had been done. WODC's budget had been compiled. Sharing a CEO with Cotswold District Council (CDC) seemed successful and had been extended for a further 6-months trial. There were political, demographic and geographic similarities between the two Councils and economies of scale were of mutual benefit. There had been 4 redundancies. It was hoped to start a doorstep tetrapak recycling collection.	

132. Flooding Update

Responses from Laurence King (WODC) added to the monitoring chart were discussed.

Resolved:

To set up a meeting with representatives of OH, the PC and the parishioner (if willing) who suggested changing the camber of the road in part of Lower End.

Clerk

(SH left the meeting at this point).

133. Planning

a) Applications had been received from West Oxfordshire District Council

08/0920/P/FP and 09/2094416/NWF

Heath House Nursery

Witney Road

Ramsden Heath

Appeal. Retention of existing extended

Appellant: Mr R. Power

building for use as agricultural workers

Objections.

dwelling for a temporary period of three

years {retrospective}

Clerk

A draft letter of objection was considered. There was grave concern over the waste of time and money spent on repeated appeals. The PC's letter to the Appeal Office would be copied to Mr Ian Morrow (Head of Planning, WODC) to request action on this.

Clerk

b) Decisions received from West Oxfordshire District Council

i. APP/D3125/A/08/2081975 Heath House Nursery, Erection of shed (retrospective).

Appeal dismissed. The need for a tool shed did not outweigh the conflict with the objectives of national and local policy regarding the protection of the character and landscape of the countryside and appeared contrary to Policies NE1, NE4 and BE2 of the West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2011.

ii. 09/0059/P/LB Wood burning stove with flue at Brize's Lodge. Granted.

c) Affordable Housing Update

An update from Leadbitters read - good progress. There was much interest in the properties and a note about this would be sent to Cottesway. Correspondence received from one applicant pursuing the part-buy option would be acknowledged. Applicants were selected by the Housing Association according to strict criteria; the PC had no say in the matter.

Clerk

d) Conservation Area Application

The map and documents were inspected and approved. The application would be submitted to Mr Richard Wheeler at WODC.

Clerk

134. Committees

a) To receive and discuss minutes from Ramsden Tennis Court Committee

(See public participation session)

The PC looked forward to good co-operation between the TCC and PFC.

b) Playing Field Committee Update

(See public participation session) The next PFC meeting clashed with a prior engagement so HD would be unable to attend. A request would be made to inspect the maintenance book in April.

Clerk

c) Memorial Hall (MH) upstairs meeting room development: to consider making Mr Geoff Haigh an agent of the Parish Council

Advice had been received from Jan Gosset at OALC. Clarity was needed regarding roles of management / custodian trustees. The PC supported the MH Committee's (MHC) intention to make Mr Haigh an agent of the MHC for the purpose of completing the development of the upper room. A reminder about VAT rules would be sent.

Clerk

135. Financial matters

a) Financial Summary

The financial summary contra budget and the bank reconciliation were discussed. The

projected surplus of around £1800 on the year was mainly due to unbudgeted income from the cemetery and an outstanding invoice for repairs to Little Lane.

b) Annual Grant to PFC

After payment for grass-cutting, the safety inspection and a grant of £300 paid into the PFP Fund, there was a balance of £4 left in the annual budget for the PF. It was agreed to transfer this to the PFPF Fund and to send a letter to the PFC outlining this. Insurance for the PF/PFC was also paid by the PC.

Clerk

c) Controlled Waste agreement for 2009/2010

The agreement for the free weekly bin collection from the Cemetery was approved.

Clerk

d) Grass cutting in 2009, information requested by WODC

HD had compiled the information and sent it to WODC.

Kev Grant & Son had forwarded a copy of his public liability certificate.

e) Donation to Church for use of meeting room

No invoices were received for using the Church Room around six times since 2005. The PC agreed to make a donation of £50 to church funds as a Section 137 payment.

Clerk

f) Subscription to CPRE

Deferred to April.

g) Accounts for Payment

The log of hours worked by the Clerk in 2008/9 was considered and payment agreed for 9.5 extra hours. It was resolved to pay the following accounts: Clerk salary, expenses (Mar) & extra hours, £396.22; KopyRite (Newsletter) £40; Transfer to PFP Fund £4; donation to St. James' Church (s 137) £50.

136. Highways : deformed road surface at top of Wilcote Lane

The potholes in Wilcote Lane would be reported to Oxfordshire Highways (OH) with full details. There was a request for passing places in Akeman Street. This was more critical because of the new regular bus service using that route in and out of the village and would be referred to OH.

Clerk

137. Consultation on Local Development Framework Core Strategy So Far

This was discussed briefly. Comments due by 6th April. SM would respond for the PC.

SM

138. Any Other Business

The PC was not interested in grants for bus shelters; the expense was still too high.

Clerk

Cotswold Talking Walks would be publicised in the Newsletter and on the noticeboard.

SW

The meeting closed at 10.30pm

Dates of Next Meetings: Wednesday 15th April, 8pm. Wednesday 20th May Annual Council Meeting at 7pm and Annual Parish Meeting at 8pm

All