

RAMSDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting to be held on Wednesday 19th November at 8.00pm in Ramsden Memorial Hall

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

Others Present: Councillor Simon Hoare (SH), the Clerk and 1 Parishioner

Item	Subject	Action
81.	Apologies Tony Shuker (unwell).	
82.	Public participation session None.	
83.	Declaration of interests with regard to items on the agenda None to declare.	
84.	Approval of minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wed 15th October and of the Extraordinary Meeting on Wed 29th October 2008 Both sets of minutes were approved and signed as a true record of the meetings.	
85.	Matters of report arising, not elsewhere on the agenda a) Emergency Plan speaker at OALC SW would attend the meeting on 24 th November on behalf of the PC. b) Confirmation of Accident Insurance cover extension Allianz had received the relevant medical document and issued a new cover document. All Cllrs now had Accident insurance cover while carrying out PC duties. c) NHS consultation on Working with Local Communities SM had attended the Primary Care Trust (PCT) meeting. The PCT had very commendable plans but considerable doubts were expressed by those attending as to whether the PCT really had adequate resources to deliver them.	
86.	Report from Councillor Simon Hoare The Oxfordshire PCT planned to create centres of excellence for treatment, with Witney Community Hospital as one of these. WODC was making representations that these should be additional beds, not at the expense of other community hospitals. The PCT needed to understand the rural nature of the community and the transport difficulties. WODC's frozen assets in Iceland were on fixed term deposits. Comments from advisers were awaited. All other investments were covered by guarantees, and all figures were in the public domain. Advice had been followed WODC was looking to diversify the portfolio.	
87.	Flooding – to consider action points from previous meeting Peter Saugman and Michael Barnes, co-ordinating plans for the Wilcote Lane area, had not sent a report as action was delayed because of the water-logged ground. The PC found it very difficult to prioritise what was most beneficial, as these were also engineering decisions. Two main sources of excess water were from the B4022 and HillTop Garden Centre, and work there was important. Funding advice had been received from OALC. The PC is not a drainage authority and does not have the statutory powers to do or to fund drainage work. The only possible funding would derive from Schedule 137, and would be limited to £5.86 x number of electors, reduced proportionally by the amount the PC believed to be commensurate with the perceived benefit – and even then it would be inappropriate to use this for work on private land. The PC was therefore unable to make any meaningful financial contribution to flood defence work. Responsibility lay with WODC and the Highway Authority, residents and riparian owners. Asking WODC for matching funding would lead to complicated problems with liability for maintenance of shared projects. The events of July 07 were not an everyday occurrence, and must not be regarded as the norm. <u>Resolved:</u> - To ask WODC via Laurence King (LK) to continue the level of maintenance and ditch clearance in operation since July 07. - To forward the financial advice from OALC to LK for his comments. - To consider matters further at the January meeting.	

Clerk

would remain unchanged.

c) Annual Review of Clerk's salary (the Clerk left the meeting for this item)

Resolved:

That the Clerk's salary should be increased to SCP 20 with effect from 1st April 2009.

d) To consider use of s. 137 funds for Flood defence work on private land
Considered under item 87.

e) To agree the Budget and set the Precept for 2009/10

The budget was discussed. It was resolved to set the precept at £8,600 for 2009/2010.

Clerk

f) Allotments – to consider administrative changes

The PC is precluded under the Local Government Act 1972 from accepting trusteeship of a charity / charitable fund that is for the benefit of the poor.

g) To change the Bank Signatories for the MHEP Fund and the PFP Fund

Resolved:

- To delete Sally Miller as a signatory on the MHEP Fund and Tony Shuker as a signatory on the PFP Fund (prejudicial interests as spouses of Voluntary Committee members).

- That the signatories on the MHEP Fund should be changed to: Tony Shuker, Holly Deans and Clive Cowen.

**CC
HD
Clerk**

- That the signatories on the PFP Fund should be changed to: Sally Miller, Sarah Wiggins and Holly Deans.

h) Accounts for Payment

It was resolved to pay the following accounts: Kevin Grant (mowing) £1,660; KopyRite (Newsletter) £120; Witney Acoustics (Cupboard delivery) £10; Clerk (Salary & expenses Nov) £309.79; R. Holifield (footpath repairs) £294; Royal British Legion (wreath) £16.50 – as a schedule 137 donation; Clerk (Salary Dec dated 17/12/08) £274.02.

Clerk

Mr R Holifield's quotation for phase two of repair work on Little Lane of £298 was accepted.

91. Freedom of Information Act – to consider and approve the Guide

Further work was needed on the guide, so approval was deferred to January.

Clerk

92. Highways and Transport

a) Pavement works

The work done outside Butlers Cottage had been excellent.

b) Route of Thames Water (TW) Main through Finstock

TW had confirmed they were not intending to lay a main through Ramsden this time.

d) Speeding

Correspondence had been received from Michael Barnes concerning speeding in Lower End. It was highly unlikely that OH would be willing to do further speed checking in Ramsden. A different speed watch sign would be put on a different lamppost.

**Clerk
CC**

e) Local buses

Timetables were being prepared, but the PC had no details at present.

93. Consultations

i. Code of conduct consultation

A Code of Conduct for council employees was being introduced. The PC felt that if the code were to apply to Parish Clerks, there could be significant practical problems with prejudicial interests for small PC's where the Clerk lived locally and was the only employee, that needed addressing. It was also agreed to query whether a previous criminal conviction should always be seen as a breach of the code and bar to employment, or taken on an individual case basis.

Clerk

ii. sending minutes to SLCC

A request for the minutes had been received from a journalist at The Clerk magazine. Minutes were freely available on the website.

94. Any Other Business – for information only

Lord Rotherwick would attend on 18 Feb to keep the lines of communication open.

The meeting closed at 11pm.

Dates of Next Meetings:

Wednesdays 21st January, 18th February and 18th March 2009 in Ramsden Memorial Hall at 8pm. No meeting in December.

All