

Checkendon Parish Council

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Checkendon Parish Council held of 12th May 2008.

The meeting began with a minutes silence in tribute to Cliff Blackburn a former member of the Parish Council, Treasurer to the Village Hall Management Committee, representative of the Village Quiz team, fixture secretary of Checkendon Cricket team, and for many years a cricket player for Checkendon and friend to many, who died suddenly on 6th May 2008.

1. Present

Mr D. Griggs, Mr. M. Wickens, Mr. Corbishley, Mr. A. Bennett, Mrs D. Stanworth
Also present Cllr. D. Nimmo Smith, and Cllr. M. Newland (part time)

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Miss K. Palmer-Stevens

3. Election of Chairman for 2008/09

Mr Doug Griggs was proposed by Mr Wickens, seconded by Mr Corbishley and duly elected to the post of Chairman for 2008/09.

4. Election of Vice Chairman

Mr Matthew Wickens was proposed by Mr Corbishley, seconded by Mrs Stanworth and duly elected to the post of Vice Chairman for 2008/09.

5. Responsibilities for Councillors for 2008/09

- a. Planning – Mr Corbishley and Mr Wickens
- b. Public Transport Representative – Mr Michael Weller
- c. Playground – Mr Corbishley, Mr Griggs, with Mr Bennett helping with maintenance
2 weekly checks – Mr G. Williams
- d. Responsible Financial Officer – Mrs C. Dunk
- e. Highways – Mr D. Griggs
- f. Footpaths – Mr. A. Bennett
- g. Checkendon School – Miss K. Palmer-Stevens
- h. Village Hall – Mrs D. Stanworth
- i. Local Age Concern Link Co-ordinator – Mrs M. Weller
- j. Recreation Ground - Mr. M. Wickens

6. Confirmation of the minutes of 3rd March 2008

These minutes were agreed and signed by the chairman.

7. Matters Arising from minutes

a. Church Floor

The letter to the dioceses was currently being reviewed by Mr Corbishley.

b. Copper Beech on Village Green

SODC had agreed to only 10-15% crown reduction and to raise crown by 2.5m, plus removal of all dead wood. Parish Council agreed to the quotation for £570.00 and contractor would commence work as soon as they were able to fit into their schedule.

c. Tree Felling at Bellmans

SODC had finally contacted the owner of the property who had stated the work was necessary on safety grounds.

d. Post on small triangle at turning to Hammonds Lane

Cllr. Nimmo Smith would look at this and bring to attention of Highways.

8. Report by Councillor David Nimmo Smith

Councillor Nimmo Smith reported that the review of OCC Bus Services for Checkendon had left a service with a similar timetable although the 142 would now be operated by Reading Buses. A meeting with stakeholders to discuss the future of Townlands would be held on 13th May 08. Mr Griggs would represent Checkendon Parish Council. Thames Valley Police 3 year draft strategy would shortly be published with public consultation between 23.6.08 and 21.7.08.

The combined heat/power for waste treatment facilities were out to tender with contracts being let for facilities at Sutton Courtney and Yardley in Spring 2009 and the plants running by 2012.

9. Report by Councillor M. Newland

Cllr. Newland reported that Wallingford Pool and paddling area were now open. The Leisure Centre at Gillotts had re-opened with new facilities. The “365 Alive” initiative from the fire brigade aimed to make people aware of the dangers from BBQ’s and camp fires.

Recycling facilities for Tetra packs were now available at SODC Offices at Crowmarsh and Kings Road car park Henley. Oakley Wood waste centre would shortly be refurbished improving the drop off points for waste and reducing the queues by improving access.

10. Sports Club Report

Mr Wickens paid tribute to Cliff Blackburn who had started playing cricket in 1973 for Checkendon and it was through the game that he moved to the village. He had been fixture secretary since 1978 and his sudden death had left a big hole in the Sports Club.

South Stoke had managed to win their final game of the season and avoid relegation. They hoped to field 1 or 2 teams for the next season.

The Cricket Club needed to spend money on side screens and the pavilion and they would put their request for funding to the parish council once this had been prioritised.

The Pre- school would be using the field for their fete on 5th July 08. Mr Wickens stated that they held their own insurance for the event.

Rotherfield Peppard football club were happy that the mini goals they left when leaving Checkendon’s ground be put to general use.

11. Playground Report

The report book was signed.

The playground had attracted heavy usage during the recent hot weather. The notices on the gates required cleaning which Mr Corbishley would attend to. The whole playground required treating with preservative in the autumn and Mr Corbishley proposed a working party of parents of users to carry out the work. Bark would be topped up. Clerk to write to Carol Cox to thank Cox's for donating the bark.

12. Footpath Report

Alan Futter from Chiltern Society's circular walk for less abled people in Checkendon was nearing completion. It was proposed that members of the Parish Council attend a launch photo opportunity on 23rd June at 10am.

C11 to the north of Checkendon Court – a walker had expressed concern at the barbed wire attached to the top of the field side fence as the path is barely a metre wide in places and has holly bushes on the other side.

C12 from Lovesgrove Lane to Checkendon Court, several of the stiles require attention.

C23 the stile a few metres NE of the intersection with bridleway C22 had become rickety and needs stabilising. All these matters referred to OCC footpath Officer.

13. Village Hall Report

Both Mr Griggs and Mrs Stanworth spoke of the immeasurable contribution Cliff Blackburn had made to the Village Hall Management Committee as Treasurer, going above and beyond his duty quietly and efficiently. He had started the 100 Club to benefit village hall funds.

Mr Corbishley had agreed to step into the position of treasurer and would arrange for account signatures to be changed.

The grant application for the disabled entrance and toilet had been successful and work would be carried out in the summer holidays.

100 Club winners April No 26 and No 2 - May No 78 and No 65

The bluebell walk had been a great success with the flowers at their peak. The Carnival band production had only broke even and a rethink would be needed for any future theatre productions.

14. Correspondence

1. SODC –Open Space and Sport and recreation Study. Mr Wickens to comment as appropriate
2. TVP – crime figures Jan –March 08 – 1 burglary dwelling 2 burglary non dwelling 1 criminal damage, 3 thefts, 1 other.

3. OCC review of Bus Services- Service 145 Woodcote to Henley on Thames to be operated by White Coaches with revised timetable with additional midday journey Woodcote to Henley.

142 Service checkendon –Woodcote- Pangbourne-Reading to be operated by Reading Buses replacing Thames Travel - Timetable to remain unchanged but first morning peak journey to run 10 minutes earlier.

4. SODC – referral of planning applications to planning committee – council unanimously agreed not to alter current system.

15. Finance

a. Cheques for payment

The following cheques were agreed for payment:

12.5.08

0812 Centrewire

Stiles for circular less abled walk

£1,196.15

Although this is not in the budget the full cost will be covered by TOE Grant

0813 Allianz Insurance plc

Annual premium

£683.42

0814 Chiltern Society

Annual subscription

£25.00

0815 OALC

Annual subscription

£125.85

0816 ORCC

Annual subscription

£20.00

0817 CAB Henley

Donation

£50.00

0818 CAB Didcot

Donation

£50.00

0819 Woodcote Volunteers

Donation

£40.00

0820 Stoke Row School Surgery Bus

Donation

£200.00

0821 Checkendon PCC
Upkeep of church yard
£500.00

0822 South and Vale Carers
Donation
£20.00

0823 Age Concern
Donation
£40.00

0824 C Dunk
Clerk's salary petty cash
£346.96

b. Cheques received
SODC precept £4,000.00

c. Register of Risks

This was updated, agreed by all councillors and signed by the Chairman.

16. Planning

The following application had been received since the last meeting:

P08/E0105 The Cottage Exlade Amendment 1

Erection of part two storey, part single storey side extension

Parish council no strong views

SODC Granted

P06/E1287/LB and 1288 Old Rectory Amendment

Conversion of split dwelling to 1 unit

Parish Council No strong views

P08/E0400 10a Emmens Close

Single storey rear extension

Parish Council No strong views

The following decisions have been received:

P08/E0041 Hollyshaw Coxhill

Single storey side/rear extension

SODC Granted

P08/E00141 Hartslock Whitehall Lane

Raise roof to provide first floor accommodation. Ground floor extension and new garage

SODC Granted

P08/E0110/LD Larchdown Farm

Insertion of partition at 1st floor level of garage building to be used as ancillary accommodation

SODC refusal of Certificate of Lawful Use
This application is now going to appeal

P08/E0197 Swallowcliffe Uxmore Road

Construction of 2 storey side extension 1st floor rear extension single storey rear extension and new porch

SODC Granted

P08/E0227 Lovesgroves - Lovesgroves Lane

Demolition of existing greenhouse construction of new double garage and greenhouse

SODC Granted

P08/E0095/RET Lovesgroves - Lovesgroves Lane

2 dormer windows to roof of rear garden elevation

SODC Granted

P08/E0236 Greengate Whitehall Lane

Demolition of outbuildings new timber garden room/workshop

SODC Granted

P08/E0240 The Old Cottage Whitehall lane

Single rear extension and re-roofing of office

SODC Granted

17. Any other business

a. Road defects

Ditch by No.1 Parkside requires clearing as flooding in rain. Clerk to send defect card.

b. Cars speeding in Whitehall Lane

This had been brought to the attention of CPSO Kathy Brooks.

c. Memorial to Cliff Blackburn

Councillors decided they would defer making a decision on this until July.

18. Next meeting

Monday 7th July 08 at 7.45pm Village Hall