

Checkendon Parish Council

The minutes of the meeting of Checkendon Parish Council held of 12th September 2006.

1. Present

Mr. M. Wickens, Mrs D. Stanworth, Mrs F. Chancellor and Mr. Corbishley
Also present Cllr. D. Nimmo Smith (part time)

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr D. Griggs, Mr A. Bennett, and Cllr. J. Thomson

3. Confirmation of the minutes of 4th July 2006

These minutes were agreed and signed by the vice chairman.

4. Matters Arising from minutes

a. Update on affordable housing

Suzanne Willers had been replaced by Anna Kennedy as ORCC Rural Housing Enabler however no progress had been made in securing a site. Clerk had said that there seemed little point in organising an update of the Housing Survey (taken in 2003) unless a site could be found.

b. Village Shop

Sue and Peter Brown had been unhappy at the parish council's decision to not support change of use from village shop and post office to domestic. Clerk had written to the owners stating why they could not support such a move and thanking them for their years of service to the village. The future remained uncertain as to when it would close. Clerk had talked with Jane Barker ORCC Village Community Shop development officer who would talk with the owners.

c. Threat to Bus Service 142 Checkendon to Reading

The future level of service would be decided on at a Cabinet Member Decisions Transport meeting on 6th October 06.

d. North Grove Wood Bridal Path

Liz Grant thought she owned first 100m of land from Woodcote end and would check her deeds. She would then contact Mr Griggs and walk route before clerk sends petition to Woodland Trust.

5. Report by Cllr. D. Nimmo Smith

Cllr. Nimmo Smith raised the following:

- Concern had been raised prior to the meeting with Councillor Nimmo Smith about safety issues on the A4074 following the latest fatal accident and in particular the right hand turn to Checkendon on Reading to Wallingford direction. Despite the short notice Cllr. Nimmo Smith had ascertained that the current experimental measures for the turn off to Woodcote would be made permanent in October and traffic islands would be provided in the hatched area in the centre of the road to prevent vehicles using this area from overtaking. OCC had apologised for not consulting Checkendon PC. Councillors expressed their concern that these measures would not necessarily

be sufficient. FC wondered how long they would last and asked if figures were available on different types of remedial action and how effective they were. TC asked that a speed camera be used at this stretch given the one placed at The Fox was ineffective and could be moved to this stretch of road. MW felt something was required to break up this stretch of straight road be it hatching and white lines as at Nuffield A 4103. Full plans that had been revised following a safety audit review will be sent to DNS and PC.

- DNS would look into why potholes in Lovesgrove Lane had been marked in June and no action taken. Markings were now wearing off.
- OCC were actively trying to recruit retained fire fighters in Goring and Henley
- OCC would be carrying out a review of road signs in an attempt to declutter the countryside. This would take several years.

6. Sports Club Report

The cricket team finished 4th in Division II of the Berkshire League.

Rotherfield U16 and U17 football teams would be using Checkendon Recreation Ground pitches on Sunday afternoons this season.

The Pavilion roof would be attended to asap.

7. Playground Report

The report book was signed.

Rospa report had been received. The following had been brought to their attention:

Balance Beam – some rotten posts

Tyre Swings – tyre fittings to chain very loose surfacing needs attention

Cradle Swings – both seats require replacement as hard metal edge exposed with corrosion evident. This had been looked at by Chairman and TC and regular playground inspector for pc. They felt that although new seats should be ordered because of this observation that the old seat was not an immediate danger as it was at chest height only and would continue in operation until new seats were delivered and fixed. A parent whose child was using the swing at the time also felt there was no risk to her child and was happy for her to use this piece of equipment.

Junior Swings – trip hazard build up area

Large Multi Play – Fit vertical infills to horizontal guard rails replace missing uprights to guard rails

Cantilever Swing – The tyre that children had fixed on the cantilever swing had been removed prior to the report being received.

All work would be programmed into maintenance programme.

8. Footpath Report

A report via a Stoke Row councillor about an attack by a dog on Ch34/15 would be referred by her to OCC footpath officer.

New definitive map from OCC had been received. Currently with MW/FC it was hoped it could be displayed for the village and visitors to the village in a noticeboard on “The Forge” by kind permission of Mr Corbishley once rebuilding work was completed.

9. Village Hall Report

Harvest Lunch would take place on 23rd September and Live Music to Undercover on 14th October.

10. Correspondence

1. ORCC Best Kept Village Competition – 3rd place for small village
2. ORCC Oxfordshire Village of the Year Competition – 1st place South Oxfordshire small village section,=.
3. SODC – Consultation on Draft Planning Enforcement Policy – MW to reply if required.
4. SODC – Parish Forum 5.10.06 MW/DG to attend if available

11. Finance

a. Cheques for payment

The following cheques were agreed for payment:

1st August 2006

0748 RJ Witney Electrical Contractor
Electrical check Checkendon Village Hall
£633.60

6th September 06

0749 Mark Langrick
Plans for toilet for disabled people at village hall
£510.00

12th September 2006

0750 ORCC
Annual subscription
£20.00

0751 RJS (IA) Ltd
Internal Audit
£168.82

0752 Playsafe Ltd
Rospa Inspection
£88.13

0753 C. Dunk
Clerk's salary petty cash
£432.27

b. Cheques received

VAT refund £133.87
OCC Grass Cutting £1178.00

c. Internal Audit

TC to review risk analysis

d. External Audit

This would take place 20th October 2006.

12. Planning

The following application had been received since the last meeting:

The Old School House Hook End

Erection 1st floor extension

PC No strong views

SODC Granted

P06/E0775 14, Emmens Close

2 storey side extension to form family room with ensuite bedroom over

PC No strong views

SODC Granted

P06/E0774 Post Office Stores

Change of use to residential

PC recommended for refusal

SODC Refused

P06/E0829 Neals Shaw Neals Lane

Change of use from agricultural to garden – erection of tennis court

PC No strong views

P06/E0039 Amendment 4, Hammonds End Bradley Street – M Wickens declared an interest and took no further part in the discussion

Alterations to garage

PC No strong views

P06/E0889LB/E0888 4 Horseshoes PH

Demolition of redundant chimney stack and external wc – remove internal wall to form disabled wc – internal alterations

PC to consider

The following decisions had been received

P06/E0486 Whitewood Heath End Hook End

Change of use of storage/light industrial to dwelling

SODC Refused

P06/E0505 4, Hammonds End

Deletion of lantern light to kitchen roof and 2 velux windows added

SODC Granted

P06/E0651 Wyfold Meadows Farm

Erection of 4 bay garage with storage over

Withdrawn

13. Any Other Business

a. New Printer

This had now been purchased.

b. Village Sign refurbishment

Mr Corbishley would undertake.

c. Refurbishment of Best Kept Village Sign

Contractor would be sought to re letter.

d. Driver for Surgery Minibus

Mrs Chancellor would undertake OCC minibus test and contact Stoke Row School to arrange.

e. Local Beat Officer

PC Ian Roy is no longer able to carry on as beat Officer on health grounds and has moved posts. PC Keith Brockington has volunteered to take on extra duties and attend Pc meetings to keep a police presence at pc meetings.

14. Next Meeting

Next Meeting Tuesday 7th November at 7.45pm.