

Checkendon Parish Council

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Checkendon Parish Council held of 2nd May 2006.

1. Present

Mr D. Griggs, Mr. M. Wickens, Mrs F. Chancellor, Mr A. Bennett, and Mr. Corbishley

Also present Cllr. D. Nimmo Smith (part time)

Helen Scallard SODC Housing (part time)

James Merritt and Mark Martin English Church Housing (part time)

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr. J. Thomson, and Mrs D. Stanworth

3. Election of Chairman for 2006/2007

Mr D. Griggs was proposed as Chairman by Mr M. Wickens seconded by Mr. A. Bennett and with no other nominations was elected unopposed. Mr Griggs signed the Declaration of Office.

4. Election of Vice Chairman for 2006/2007

Mr. M. Wickens was proposed as Vice Chairman by Mr. D. Griggs, seconded by Mr. T. Corbishley and with no other nominations was elected unopposed. Mr. Wickens signed the Declaration of Office.

5. Responsibilities of Councillors for 2006/07

- a. Planning – Mr Corbishley and Mr Wickens
- b. Public Transport Representative – Mr Michael Weller
- c. Playground – Mr Corbishley and Mr Griggs
2 weekly checks – Mr G. Williams
- d. Responsible Financial Officer – Mrs C. Dunk
- e. Highways – Mrs F. Chancellor
- f. Footpaths – Mr. A. Bennett
- g. Checkendon School – Mr M. Wickens
- h. Village Hall – Mrs D. Stanworth
- g. Age Link Co-ordinator – Mrs M. Weller

6. Presentation on Balfours' Fields by SODC and English Church Housing

The 5 bungalows at Balfours' Fields have a covenant attached stating they could only be let to those aged 60+ or tenancy continued if a dependant under that age wished to continue to live there after the death of an occupier.

Ms Scallard stated that SODC would be interested in taking the properties over and transferring them to Soha from English Church Housing but only if the covenant was lifted. They would still remain with priority going to local e.g. Checkendon people. Ms Scallard referred to a recent survey details to be forwarded to parish council which stated in 211 responses from people on Housing Needs register aged 50+ 1 named Checkendon as 2nd choice destination, 1 named it as 3rd choice and 2 named it as 5th. The choice destination for those in this age group was the market towns.

English Church Housing would continue to manage the properties if another housing association was not interested in taking it over. However no one had shown an interest with 60+ covenant and it did not fit into their portfolio of properties. They were also merging with the Riverside Group who were not a registered charity.

Ms Scallard stated that the preserved right to buy e.g. tenants who were already in properties before the housing stock transfer in July 1997 would by law have to be maintained and therefore if such a tenant obtained a transfer if the covenant was lifted they could in theory buy that property. With English Church Housing this is not possible.

Rent which was set at “target rent” by the government would be the same whichever body managed the property.

7. Confirmation of the minutes of 7th March 2006

These minutes were agreed and signed by the chairman.

8. Matters Arising from minutes

a. Update on affordable housing

No progress had been made – the owner of the parcel of land in Whitehall Lane had been contacted and their power of attorney was still giving the matter consideration.

b. Vehicle Activated Sign

OCC had promised this sign would be activated by 16th May 2006.

c. Removal of marking “Bus Stop” outside School

Clerk had met with OCC Malcolm Bowler who would programme this to be removed when contractor was in area.

9. Report by Cllr. D. Nimmo Smith

Cllr. Nimmo Smith raised the following:

- He was a member of the Townlands Steering Group and would be happy to represent the needs of the parish. Councillors accepted and thanked Cllr. Nimmo Smith for this offer.
- The out patient, minor injuries and consulting rooms would remain. The beds under threat were the convalescent care beds which prevented bed blocking at main treatment hospitals.
- Following from the Annual Electors Meeting Cllr. Nimmo Smith reported that he is chasing OCC for feedback on 20MPH zone pilot projects. He warned councillors that police did not have the authority to enforce any zone.
- He was also asking OCC to do an evaluation of the feasibility of putting in a footpath from Nuthatch to the village.
- Cllr, Nimmo Smith along with Mr Griggs had attended Thames Valley Neighbourhood Policing Review. However there still seemed to be the problem of availability of manpower for policing villages.

10. Report by Councillor Jules Thomson

Copy of report circulated to all councillors.

11. Sports Club Report

Quote for £875.00 had been received for repairs to pavilion roof, overhang and guttering. Councillors agreed to pay for the repairs.

School fete would not now take place on 24th June although new date ad still to be agreed.

12. Playground Report

The report book was signed.

Disabled gate was now self closing however due to the continued nuisance of bikes being taken into the area and ridden on equipment and surfacing damaging items and causing additional expense the gate would now have to be locked with the key held by Tim Corbishley, Doug Griggs and Malcolm Russ.

Further vandalism with boards being ripped off had taken place over Easter leaving nails exposed and obvious potential damage to young children playing. These had been made safe and the repairs programmed in for the following week.

New chippings had been placed. The rope had been damaged and Mr Corbishley had replacement. Work was required to the support to the Tower and Mr Russ would be asked to do this asap.

13. Footpath Report

The footpath to north of equestrian centre had been walked by Mr Bennett and Jenny Greenbury from the equestrian centre and there did not appear to be any problems.

Jenny Greenbury reported that the Woodland Trust had prohibited horses on a permissive path going through North Grove. She was asked to write formally to parish council with more details.

14. Village Hall Report

Bluebell Walk would take place on 7th May and Plant Sale on 20th May.

Councillors agreed to reimburse village hall committee for £360.00 for redecoration of public toilet.

15. Correspondence

1. SODC – Workshop to discuss Youth Strategy 16.5.06 – no councillors available to attend.
2. SODC – Housing Site Allocation Development Plan – MW to reply as necessary

16. Finance

a. Cheques for payment

The following cheques were agreed for payment:

28th March 2006

0722 Checkendon Village Hall
Rent for parish council meetings
£127.80

0723 – Not issued

1st April 06

0724 Chiltern Society
Annual Subscription
£25.00

0725 ORCC
Best Kept Village Entry Fee
£20.00

20th April 06

0726 Norman Cox and Partners
Playground repairs
£63.45

2nd May 06

0727 Allianz Cornhill
Annual Premium
£608.37

0728 M. Weller
Litter picking and PTR expenses
£56.50

0729 T. Dunk
Post Painting general repairs cleansing around village
£100.00

0730 C. Dunk
Parts and materials for above work
£23.26

0731 Checkendon PCC
Donation
£250.00

0732 South and Vale Carers
Donation
£30.00

0733 Woodcote Volunteers
Donation
£40.00

0734 CAB Henley
Donation
£50.00

0735 CAB Didcot
Donation
£50.00

0736 Stoke Row Surgery Bus
Donation
£200.00

0737 Age Concern
Donation
£40.00

0738 D. Griggs
Reimbursement for litter pickers and lock
£13.05

0739 Village Hall Committee
Reimbursement for decoration of village public toilet
£360.00

Mr Wickens declared an interest and took no part in the discussions of this donation

0740 Young Town Planners
Checkendon School Day
£410.00

17. Planning

The following application had been received since the last meeting:

P006/E0183 14, Emmens Close
Side and rear 2 storey extension
Parish Council No strong Views

P06/E0347LD Denefield Farm Neals Lane Wyfold
Use of former stables block for residential dwelling
Parish Council no information to add

The following decisions had been received:

P06/E0039 4 Hammonds End
2 storey and single storey extension new garage block
SODC Granted

P06/E0136 Cedarwood Cottage Deers lane
Erection of new garage
SODC Granted

P06/E0043 Wyfold Meadows Farm
Erection of detached garage with exterior stairs to upper storage area
SODC Granted

18. Any Other Business

a. Best Kept Village Competition

Mr Griggs had purchased 4 litter pickers. The whole village was asked to make a special effort during the judging period 29th April to 14th May and 27th May to 11th June.

b. Evening with leader of OCC

Mr Griggs and Wickens had attended the evening reception

19. Next Meeting

Next Meeting 4th July 06 which will begin with a presentation by Townlands Steering Group on the Future of the Hospital at 7.45pm