

Checkendon Parish Council

The minutes of the meeting of Checkendon Parish Council held of 3rd January 2006.

1. Present

Mr D. Griggs, Mr. M. Wickens, and Mr. A. Bennett

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

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr T. Corbishley, Mrs D. Stanworth and Mrs F. Chancellor, and PC Ian Roy.

3. Confirmation of the minutes of 8th November 2005

These minutes were agreed and signed by the vice chairman.

4. Matters Arising from minutes

a. Bus timetable post near seat at Whitehall Lane

Mr Griggs would erect as soon as possible.

b. Update on affordable housing

No progress had been made – clerk would chase at the end of January.

c. Licensing at The Highwayman Exlade Street

Councillors were unable to raise this with Cllr. Thomson as the parish council had in November received a large number of objections to the changes. OCC to undertake a traffic flow/speed survey to ascertain information regarding request by parish council for 30mph speed limit in Exlade Street.

d. Flooding at Bottom Lane – Bottom Farm House

Cllr. D. Nimmo Smith had arranged for OCC to recut grips and remove silt to improve the situation during heavy rain.

5. Report by Cllr. D. Nimmo Smith

Cllr. Nimmo Smith raised the following

- Council Tax increase would be in line with Conservative Manifesto and be 4.375% Front line services would be maintained, and finance would be co-ordinated across departments allowing redeployment of staff. £15.5m was ring fenced to improve standards in schools
- A review of usage of subsidised bus services was underway countywide. Cllr. Nimmo Smith would look at having bus service operators provide a return timetable at rural bus stops.
- Cllr. Nimmo Smith had asked for more signs warning drivers about the local deer population.
- Speed activated device was still awaiting main connection and installation. Both clerk and Cllr. Nimmo Smith would chase.

6. Sports Club Report

Rotherfield Boys U15 team were also interested in playing on Checkendon Playing Field next season. Jo Rush would be undertaking minor repairs to roof and guttering of pavilion.

7. Playground Report

The report book was signed.

Disabled entrance gates were still causing problems on being left open. Mr Griggs felt they may need to be locked or a stronger spring installed. Litter remained light at this time of year but Mr Griggs who had been emptying bin would provide Mrs Chancellor with spanner for lockable top. Mr Griggs had carried out a repair to the ladder and Mr Russ had altered rails to uprights so they could not be climbed on.

8. Footpath Report

No problems to report

9. Village Hall Report

Salsa Evening had been a success especially with the young.

10. Correspondence

1. OCC Highway Management Arrangements – p.c. to cut grass on behalf of OCC – clerk to reply.
2. SODC – resumption of kerbside garden waste collection service from 9.1.06 – 28.4.06. Clerk placed articles in village newsletter.
3. Thames Valley Police local police stations will not answer individual calls. Non emergency calls centre number 0845 8 505 505 to be used. Article to be placed in village newsletter
4. OCC – mobile library service – changes due to come into effect on 3.1.06 to be deferred until April due to further possible cuts.
5. OCC – Dial a ride service will end 27.1.06 due to SODC being unwilling to fund
6. Ashmolean Museum – Pilgrims Sacred Journey Exhibition invitation to councillors to attend on 18.1.06 - Mr. Bennett to attend if possible

11. Finance

a. Cheques for payment

The following cheques were agreed for payment:

19th December 2005

0652 BDO Stoy Hayward

External Audit

£141.00

3rd January 2006

0653 Michael Weller

Street Cleansing

£115.00

0654 C. K. Dunk
Clerk's salary, allowance and expenses
£309.05

0655 M. Russ
Work around the village
£1217.00

b. Cheques received

The following cheque had been received:
Scottish and Southern Energy Wayleave £1.00

c. Precept for 2006/07

Councillors agreed with the budget prepared by the clerk and agreed that the precept remain at £8,000 pa.

d. Increase in Clerks salary from 1.4.06

Councillors agreed to increase clerk's salary to £1,500 pa and her allowance to £350 p.a.

e. External Audit Report

The external auditor had raised the employment status of the clerk. The clerk was employed by Checkendon Parish Council who were aware that they would be responsible for back payments of tax and NI should she exceed her tax allowance.

12. Planning

The following application had been received since the last meeting:

P05/E1260 Whitehall Cottage

Erection of single storey extension
Parish Council No strong views

P05/E1184 Reeds Exlade Street

First floor extension over a previously built flat ground floor extension
Parish Council No strong views
SODC Granted

PO5/E1267 Checkendon Village Hall

Disabled access ramp and internal facilities
As holding trustees all parish councillors declared an interest and SODC were asked to make the decision.

The following decision has been received:

P05/E1101 The Cottage Beechwood Farm

Conversion and extension to outbuilding to create 2 bed/2 bathrooms with single storey extension and breakfast room
SODC Granted

13. Next Meeting

7th March

28th March Annual Electors Meeting