

Checkendon Parish Council

The minutes of a meeting of Checkendon Parish Council held of 3rd July 2007.

1. Present

Mr D. Griggs, Mr. M. Wickens, Mr. Corbishley, Mr. A. Bennett, and Miss K. Palmer-Stevens

Also present Cllr. M. Newland (part time)

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mrs D. Stanworth, and Cllr. D. Nimmo Smith

3. Confirmation of the minutes of 8th May 2007

These minutes were agreed and signed by the chairman.

4. Matters Arising from minutes

a. Village sign

This had now been finished and re-erected.

b. Village Path and seat around tree on Green

Mr Griggs and Corbishley were obtaining quotes for repairs to the seat. It was decided to re-bed the stepping stones and request that the school access wheelie bin deliveries from their tarmac drive.

c. Church Floor

PC had sent further letter to Checkendon PCC requesting their assurance to apply for a new faculty to cover future works so the floor does not remain at risk.

d. Circus 19th June 2007

This had been held on the new school field and had raised approximately £2,000.

e. Litter bin at Park Side bus shelter and on recreation ground

Clerk had still not had a response from her letter of 29th March 2007. Cllr. Newland to chase request for litter bin at bus shelter but Chairman had purchased new bins for recreation ground direct from supplier.

5. Report By Cllr. M. Newland

Cllr. Maurice Newland advised councillors on what grants were available from SODC. At a meeting next week with Chief Constable TV Police he would enquire as to when CPSO would be placed in villages such as Checkendon.

6. Sports Club Report

The cricket season was suffering from cancelled matches due to the wet weather. The Sports Club were still awaiting a response from Rotherfield United boys' teams to see if they wished to continue using the pitches for the forthcoming season. There had been interest from Reading YMCA a senior league side at using the facilities but the sports clubs preferred option would be continuing use by the youth.

The grass would be left in a natural state near to the Balfours' Fields bungalows.

7. Playground Report

The report book was signed.

The green mesh wire on the gate had been fixed. The wooden post on the tower slope remained insecure; the bark had been dug over and topped up. The whole area remained very wet and water logged in places. The rubbish bin although emptied prior to weekend was overflowing due to a party of campers using without permission the playing fields overnight (Fri/Sat). Broken glass had been left and had been removed.

8. Footpath Report

No additional problems were raised. Mr Bennett had written to Mr Greenbury with regards to the tree blocking the footpath adjacent to the Equestrian Centre. Footway to Emmens Close from Recreation Ground would be cut back.

9. Village Hall Report

Grants were in the process of being obtained for the disabled entrance and toilet. If successful it was hoped work would begin in October 07.

The playgroup was expanding their opening hours to 5 mornings and 3 whole days a week.

The Art Exhibition had been very successful and had raised approximately £780.00.

10. Finance

a. Cheques for payment

The following cheques were agreed for payment:

23rd May 2007

0781 Allum Signs

Repainting double sided village sign

£992.88

3rd July 2007

0782 RJS(IA) Ltd

Internal Audit

£169.02

0783 ORCC

Annual Subscription

£20.00

0784 C. Dunk

Clerk's salary petty cash

£398.24

b. Cheques received

VAT refund £224.47

c. Account for year ending 31.3.07

These were agreed by all councillors and signed and dated by the Chairman and Clerk.

d. Annual Return Statement of Account

This was agreed and signed and dated by Chairman and Responsible Financial Officer

e. Annual Governance Statement

This was agreed and signed and dated by the Chairman and Clerk.

11. Planning

The following application had been received since the last meeting:

P07/E0561 Corkers Farm

Extension and alterations to existing bungalow to provide principle dwelling
Parish Council No Strong Views

M Wickens declared a personal interest and took no part in the discussions on the following application

P07/E0703/T Land adjacent to Rushmoor Lane

20m high monopole and equipment, access and equipment storage
Parish Council Objected on the grounds that they felt the existing pole could be shared and that other means of siting this equipment should be stored first.

P07/E0500 Oakwood Farm Amendments 1 & 2

Removal of existing dwelling and outbuildings - Erection new dwelling
Parish Council Strong Objection as they felt this was totally out of keeping with AONB and the local surroundings.

P07/E0712/LD Brandy Pightles Whitehall Lane

2 dwellings to be used as single dwelling
Parish Council No Strong Views

The following decision had been received:

P07/E0389 Brackenwood Whitehall Lane

Demolition of existing 2 bedroom bungalow and replacement with 2 storey dwelling
SODC Granted

12. Next Meeting

Tuesday 4th September 2007 at 7.45pm