

Checkendon Parish Council

The minutes of a meeting of Checkendon Parish Council held of 3rd March 2008.

1. Present

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

Also present Cllr. D. Nimmo Smith, and Kathy Brookes CPSO (part time)

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr. M. Newland

3. Confirmation of the minutes of 7th January 2008

These minutes were agreed and signed by the chairman.

4. Kathy Brooks CPSO

Kathy Brooks introduced herself and outlined the parishes she served. Working for 27.5 hours per week she dealt with community issues including anti social behaviour, vandalism, drinking issues and victims of low level ground. She also helped to co-ordinate approaches to other police areas when she herself did not deal with that matter.

She hoped to get to know those within Checkendon better within the next few months. She would approach Bal Budesha owner of Checkendon PO and Village Store about placing a suggestion box at the shop or if villagers wanted to raise a matter with their CPSO. She explained about Pubwatch and discussed the parish councillors concerns about excessive speed, and the vandalism that occurred during summer months. Kathy hoped when her shift pattern allowed to attend parish council meetings.

5. Matters Arising from minutes

a. Church Floor

Clerk and Chairman had talked with John Stephens from PCC. The Chairman was satisfied that the PCC had recognised the disquiet that the removal of the Victorian flooring may well have caused within the village and for greater information to be given to the village through the Checkendon News on any future structural or significant changes to this Grade 1 Listed Building. They wished to draw a line through the matter with the pcc but remained unhappy about the procedure of the diocesan board and the flawed DAC and would write to the board.

They agreed to a request to raise the amount contributed to the upkeep of the churchyard by a significant sum in the next financial year.

With regards to repairs to the lych-gate they had made no provision for this in their budget for 2008/09 and requested estimates of costs once received by pcc for consideration in 09/10.

b. Overgrown hedges on exiting Checkendon LHS towards A4074

The hedge had now been cut with the line of vision improved. The parish council then went on to discuss the formal complaint made by Mr Davis to the cutting of his part of the hedge. The clerk would write to Mr Davis but councillors agreed that in future

years OCC would be notified if they received complaints over the hedge so that Mr Davis would talk directly with the County Council.

c. Copper Beech on Village Green

There had been an application to SODC to reduce the crown by 30%, which was currently being considered.

d. Closure of Checkendon Post Office

A successful campaign had seen the post office omitted from the list for closure. However the 6 week period of consultation was still running and until that ended on 17th March posters would remain in place. The Chairman thanked Cllr. David Nimmo Smith for arranging to bring Boris Johnson MP to the village and for the Steering Group for their work.

e. Tree Felling at Bellmans

Mr Bennett had contacted SODC to enquire about the status of the trees at the front of the property. They were subject to a tree preservation order and nothing could be cut without permission that was more than 75mm. There had been trouble finding the legal owner of the property but now they had been identified SODC would write to them.

6. Report by Councillor David Nimmo Smith

Councillor Nimmo Smith would report fully of OCC activities at the Annual Electors Meeting later in the month. OCC had lost a star rating and was now deemed to be a 3* Council. This had been because of the achievements and quality of education which was only at the national average and for an affluent county should be above.

With regards to the request by the PTR for a bus stop at the Checkendon Woodcote junction this would be prioritised with regards to the frequency of the service.

7. Sports Club Report

Due to the bad weather South Stokes start at Checkendon football pitches had been delayed until mid January but apart from minor parking problems the arrangement was working out well with the investment in the goals worthwhile.

2 requests had been received for using the playing field – one for playgroups French Market in June which all agreed subject to cricket fixtures they were happy to accommodate. The other for a wedding marquee was left to the discretion of Mr Wickens.

8. Playground Report

The report book was signed.

The chain support on a swing had become detached and Mr. Corbishley would tighten. More bark was required.

9. Footpath Report

Alan Futter from Chiltern Society was proposing a circular walk for less abled people in Checkendon which the parish council supported. This was still in the planning stage.

10. Village Hall Report

The grant application for the disabled entrance and toilet was still being determined.

The puppet show raised £247 and Quiz Night £400. Events to come were Carnival band on 15th March, Bluebell Walk and Plant Sale in May.

11. Finance

a. Cheques for payment

The following cheques were agreed for payment:

8th January 2008

0804 Checkendon Village Hall

Hire of hall for meetings

£96.20

0805 D. Horton

Reimbursement for posters

£35.20

0806 Spoil

5th February 08

0807 Bill Beaton

Reimbursement for village hall heater

£288.46

0808 Colin Silvester

Installation of heater

£119.50

3rd March 2008

0809 Alan Kendall

Reimbursement for annual payment for domain name

0810 OPFA

Annual Subscription

£30.00

0811 C Dunk

Clerk's salary petty cash

£387.50

12. Correspondence

1. OCC Grass Cutting Agreement – Grass contractor has £5m public liability insurance - signed and witnessed.
2. SODC – Code of Conduct training 9.4.08 at 7.30 SODC Offices KPS to attend
3. SODC – development Whitehall lane to be known as Hankley and Meadow Shaw.
4. RJS Symes – Internal Auditor agreed rates for 2008

13. Planning

The following application had been received since the last meeting:

Mr Wickens declared an interest and took no part in the proceedings on this planning application

P07/E01645/Ret 4, Hammond's End

Extension to dwelling house and retention and modifications to garage to use as outbuilding

Parish Council recommended for refusal

P08/E0041 Hollyshaw Coxhill

Single storey side/rear extension

Parish Council No strong views

P08/E00141 Hartslock Whitehall Lane

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

Parish Council No strong views but asked for the height of the ridge of garage to be reduced in line with their comments on other applications in Whitehall Lane

Letter of concern over this view by applicant

P08/E0110/LD Larchdown Farm

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

Parish Council had no views or information to offer

P08/E0197 Swallowcliffe Uxmore Road

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

To be considered by Parish Council

P08/E0227 Lovesgroves - Lovesgroves Lane

Demolition of existing greenhouse construction of new double garage and greenhouse

To be considered by Parish Council

P08/E0195 The Cottage Exlade Street

2 storey rear extension single storey side extension

To be considered by Parish Council

Mr Corbishley declared an interest in the next planning application

P08/E0236 Greengate Whitehall Lane

Demolition of outbuildings new timber garden room/workshop

To be considered by Parish Council

P08/E0240 The Old Cottage Whitehall lane

Single rear extension and re-roofing of office

To be considered by Parish Council

The following decisions had been received:

P07/E1470 Wyfold Meadows

Renovation and enlargement of existing storage building

SODC Granted

P07/E01534 Emmensfield Whitehall Lane

Erection of conservatory

SODC Granted

P07/E1554/LD Larchdown Farm

Insertion partition at first floor level of garage building to create a bedroom and en suite bathroom and kitchenette

Withdrawn

Appeal decision

P07/E0327 - App/Q3115/A/07/204400/ Waterfield Rushmore Lane – appeal dismissed

Mr Corbishley had informed enforcement about 2 brick piers and fence erected on verge at Donderry Whitehall Lane.

14. Any other business

a. Litter Collection

Clerk to place article in Checkendon News about Michael Weller retiring from litter collecting and asking if anyone is willing to take over his duties for a small honorarium.

b. Post on small triangle at turning to Hammonds Lane

This post was lacking the finger and was in a state of disrepair. Chairman to speak to Mr Beaton

15. Next meeting

Monday 17th March 2008 Annual Electors Meeting

Monday 12th May 2008 Annual Parish Meeting

7.45pm Village Hall