

Checkendon Parish Council

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

1. Present

Mr D. Griggs, Mr. M. Wickens, Mrs D. Stanworth, Mr. A. Bennett and Mr. T. Corbishley

Also Cllr. D. Nimmo Smith (part time)

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Miss K. Palmer-Stevens.

3. Confirmation of the minutes of 1st September 2008

These minutes were agreed and signed by the chairman.

4. Matters Arising from minutes

a. Post on small triangle at turning to Hammonds

OCC had responded after the meeting to say they had cast a new top from the fingerpost at Goring Heath (one of only three in the county) and the post would shortly be taken down for refurbishment. The sign would be restored as of Bill Beaton's photo for the directions.

b. Memorial to Cliff Blackburn

Mrs Blackburn had approved the ideas put forward but it would probably be spring before action is taken.

c. Backing Board for Bus Shelter

Mr Corbishley had cut the plywood to size and would stain before it could be erected.

5. Report by Councillor Nimmo-Smith

The Chiltern AONB Plan for 2008-2013 was the framework for the next five years on the structures and materials, trees, woodland, wildlife, and protection of the natural environment. They recognised that the area had to move with the times but wished to encourage people to the rural environment. It would also look at the impact of development just outside the AONB on The Chilterns.

Reading had been given £250m to be drawn down as necessary from the government for improvements to their traffic problem. This would start with the first phase of finding a solution to the rush hour problems through congestion charging, penalise through traffic, bus lanes and re-phasing traffic lights. Moving on to Park and Ride schemes and finally 2015/18 if a proven need a third bridge over the Thames.

Cllr. Nimmo Smith had pressed for weed killing and hedge cutting to be placed back in OCC budget for 2009/2010

Mr Griggs asked about the possibility of a 20MPH zone being introduced for a 200 yard section outside Checkendon School as no one had applied for the vacancy of school crossing patrol. Cllr. Nimmo Smith stated that these zones were being introduced within Oxford City and hoped that maybe within three years they would reach the rural areas.

6. Sports Club Report

Checkendon FC's two teams had not had a good start to the season and lost heavily.

The cricket club were raising subscriptions and appointed a fund raising officer. It was agreed by councillors that Mr. Wickens should order the sight screens estimated £1399.95 for the start of next season. The gang mowers would need refurbishing at an estimated cost of £400 which councillors agreed to.

Minor vandalism with damage to the playing field surface was reported over the weekend of 18th/19th October.

Clippings from a hedge were being dumped on the playing field. Clerk to place article in Checkendon Newsletter.

7. Playground Report

The report book was signed.

The playground was in good condition, though wet. Mr Corbishley would tighten bolts requested by Rospa report.

8. Footpath Report

C21 hedge required cutting

9. Village Hall Report

The disabled access and alteration to the hall were not yet complete although the toilet area was finished. The Village Hall Committee were starting to formulate ideas for a major refurbishment for the centenary of the hall in 2013 including new heating, insulation, lighting and kitchen.

The Harvest Lunch had been undersubscribed. November 13th would see a Bingo Evening and 23rd November a family theatre night.

100 club winners October No. 34 and 83, November 23 and 74

The Village Hall Committee was looking into locking the village hall toilet due to misuse except for weekend daylight hours.

10. Correspondence

1. Environmental Services SODC – New household waste collection – article placed in Checkendon News
2. TVP – Crime figures July-Sept 08 3 burglary non dwelling, 2 others.
3. Soha – Emmens Close trees at the rear of Soha housing garages. Parish Council has no objection to Soha carrying out this work providing it is at no cost to parish council and any damage to the playing fields is repaired to the satisfaction of the parish council.

11. Finance

a. Cheques for payment

The following cheques were agreed for payment:

3.11.08

0835 Play Safety Ltd

Rospa report

£88.13

0836 BDO Stoy Hayward LLP

External Audit

£158.63

0837 C Dunk

Clerk's salary and petty cash

£378.17

0838 M. Russ

Work around village

£1, 037.00

b. Cheques received

2.9.08 SODC 2nd instalment of precept £4,000

15.10.08 SODC Street cleansing £64.11

c. Conclusion to external audit

No matters were raised.

12. Planning

The following application had been received since the last meeting:

P08/E01066 5, Hammond's Lane Bradley Street

Proposed dormer and French windows and internal alterations

Parish Council No strong views

The following decisions had been received:

P08/E0723 Checkendon Equestrian Centre

Extension of indoor riding school and refurbishment of existing stables

SODC Granted

P08/E0864 Hartslock Whitehall Lane

Erection of double garage

SODC Granted

13. Any other business

No matters raised

14. Next meeting

Monday 5th January at 7.45pm