

Checkendon Parish Council

The minutes of the meeting of Checkendon Parish Council held of 4th July 2006.

1. Present

Mr D. Griggs, Mr. M. Wickens, Mr A. Bennett, and Mr. Corbishley
Also present Cllr. D. Nimmo Smith, and Cllr. J. Thomson (part time)
Cllr. I Riesman

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mrs D. Stanworth and Mrs F. Chancellor

3. Presentation by Cllr. Ian Riesman Townlands Steering Group

Cllr. Riesman outlined his involvement with the group and the South of County Plan rationalising community health care. For the last 20 years Townlands had been housed in buildings not fit for purpose and needed to be rebuilt. Townlands Steering Group consisted of a broad base of local people in Henley and the surrounding catchment area. 2 years ago plans were put before the PCT for the redevelopment but they were rejected by the Strategic Health Authority. Following this the Townlands Action Group was formed to help with publicity organising the protest march, petitions and letters. The NHS is going through a period of enormous change with the configuration of 5 PCT's into 1, and reorganisation of Strategic Health Authority which is now merging with Hampshire and Isle of Wight. The NHS is faced with budget deficits and PCT is now changing its role from operating services to the commissioning of services. Services which will be delivered by Independent Health Providers.

Townlands serves a population estimated at 30,000 in the town and catchment area though this figure may be a gross underestimate. It provides 14 different medical services. Funding has been returned to GP's to buy intermediate care and the 5 practices in Henley and the catchment wish to take advantage of this for services on the Townlands site. Out of 15 independent health providers approached 8 have expressed an interest in producing proposals for the Townlands site. It was hoped that all but 2 of the services would remain. The 2 under threat were Young Disabled Unit which already has facilities elsewhere in Oxfordshire a large percentage of the patients being from outside the district with their PCT buying into the service at Townlands. The Peppard Ward for intermediate healthcare beds would not be developed but it is hoped that a service similar to that offered at Watlington Hospital where a private nursing home has 10 beds on permanent loan to NHS could be provided.

The Group were also looking at ways to raise capital to buy the land the hospital is to be redeveloped on to give permanent ownership. It was hoped that of the 6 acres of the site 2.8 acres would be retained for the hospital and parking, and the remaining 3.2 sold for housing development.

A Project manager had been hired to co-ordinate the interested parties and formulate the composite plan to report to the new PCT.

4. Confirmation of the minutes of 2nd May 2006

These minutes were agreed and signed by the chairman.

5. Matters Arising from minutes

a. Update on affordable housing

No progress had been made.

b. Vehicle Activated Sign

This was now working and appeared to be slowing a proportion of the traffic.

c. Removal of marking “Bus Stop” outside School

This had now been removed.

6. Report by Cllr. D. Nimmo Smith

Cllr. Nimmo Smith raised the following:

- He was still pressing OCC to do an evaluation of the feasibility of putting in a footpath from Nuthatch to the village.
- Awaiting study results on 20MPH zone in villages
- 142 Bus service – petition had been sent to Cllr. Robertson. It was felt that a link minibus from outlying villages to meet with X40 service to Reading/Wallingford and Benson may be the best way forward.
- Waste Consultation and the need for OCC to reach government targets had gone to public consultation.
- He would investigate the state of the pavement near 2 telecom duct boxes where mud collected and where a parishioner had broken a bone in her foot.
- Lovesgrove Lane had now been marked for the areas that required patching.

7. Report by Councillor Jules Thomson

- Concern was expressed that the green refuse lorry was no longer being brought to the villages and that the other refuse lorry refused to take green waste now the 2 weekly garden waste service had been introduced.

8. Sports Club Report

It had been confirmed that the Rotherfield U16 side would use Checkendon football pitch next season. There were now enough young cricketers to form an under 25 team. Net practice on Wednesday was being publicised to encourage the youth of the village. Repairs to the roof were still waiting as the contractor was recovering from an accident. The quote for 4 showers was £894.00

9. Playground Report

The report book was signed.

Repairs to the rotting telegraph pole and bottom pole had been carried out. The playground was in good order with a small amount of litter. The notices could benefit from cleaning. The rope required replacing and Mr Griggs and Corbishley would carry out within the next week. The ramp required attention. The shavings had been dug over and topped up. Mr Corbishley to purchase new litter bin.

Rospa inspection would take place in July.

10. Footpath Report

Jenny Greenbury from the equestrian centre had sent a petition regarding the ride through North Grove Wood being barred. Clerk to raise with Woodland Trust. **11.**

11. Village Hall Report

Plant sale had raised £350.00. A Saturday lunch was planned, with a rock and roll jive dance on 14th October. A quiz would take place in November and the highly popular Cosmic Sausages singing group booked for 23rd March 2007.

12. Correspondence

1. OCC meeting with PC 27th July at Abingdon DG and MW to attend.
2. Checkendon School – Thank you for grant for Lego day
3. OCC – Grass cutting grant fixed at £1178.00
4. CAB – AGM 13.7.06

13. Finance

a. Cheques for payment

The following cheques were agreed for payment:

4th July 2006

0741 OALC

Annual membership

£119.85

0742 – Spoilt

0743 C. Dunk

Outstanding salary petty cash from yr ending 31.3.06

£101.43

0744 C. Dunk

Clerk's salary petty cash

£661.20

0745 Norman Cox

Parts for playground repairs

£21.36

0746 M. Russ

Work around village

£1,361.00

b. Accounts for Year Ending 31.3.2006

The accounts were agreed and signed by Chairman and Responsible Financial Officer

c. Annual Return for Year Ending 31.3.2006

These were agreed and signed by Chairman and Responsible Financial Officer

d. Statement of Assurance for Year Ending 31.3.2006

This was agreed and signed by Chairman and Clerk.

14. Planning

The following application had been received since the last meeting:

P06/E0486 Whitewood Heath End Hook End

Change of use of storage/light industrial to dwelling

Parish Council objected as felt it was a green field development

Mr Wickens declared an interest in the following 2 applications

P06/E0505 4, Hammonds End

Deletion of lantern light to kitchen roof and 2 velux windows added

Parish Council no strong views

OCC Checkendon School

Change of use from agricultural to educational

Parish Council no strong views

P06/E0651 Wyfold Meadows Farm

Erection of 4 bay garage with storage over

To be considered by parish council

The following decisions had been received:

P006/E0183 14, Emmens Close

Side and rear 2 storey extension

SODC Granted

Appeal App/Q3115/A/06/2007226 Hinds Corner Barn

Dismissed

15. Any Other Business

a. New Printer

PC agreed to replace clerk's broken printer.

b. Village Shop

Mr Griggs and Corbishley to speak with owners regarding the future of the store and possible purchasers. PC would organise a thank you evening when confirmation of date of leaving was confirmed.

16. Next Meeting

Next Meeting Tuesday 12th September 06