

## Checkendon Parish Council

The minutes of a meeting of Checkendon Parish Council held of 4<sup>th</sup> September 2007.

### **1. Present**

Mr D. Griggs, Mr. M. Wickens, Mr. Corbishley, Also present Cllr. M. Newland and Cllr. D. Nimmo Smith (part time), 3 parishioners (2 part time)

### **2. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Mrs D. Stanworth, Mr. A. Bennett, and Miss K. Palmer-Stevens

### **3. Confirmation of the minutes of 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2007**

These minutes were agreed and signed by the chairman.

### **4. Matters Arising from minutes**

#### **a. Village Path and seat around tree on Green**

The seat had now been refurbished in teak. The path leading to the school had been re-turfed with concrete placed by the entrance. Concern had been raised over the size of the copper beech planted in 1953. Its span was now considerable and it was causing the grass of the village green under it to die. A quote for lopping the tree had been received for £370. However approval and further advice would be sought from the Forestry Officer at SODC. Chairman to contact.

#### **b. Church Floor**

PCC had replied stating they were “somewhat bemused at the Parish Council’s repeated request .... as Faculty Expired on 8.6.06” However the Parish Council were concerned that no one from the pcc had bothered to come along to a meeting to explain why a Grade 1 Listed Building should be treated in such a way and no reassurance given for the floor’s future. A letter would be sent to the Chancellor of the Diocese to ask for an explanation as to why it had been agreed to in the first place.

#### **c. Litter bin at Park Side bus shelter and on recreation ground**

A new bin had been placed on the recreation ground. The bin by Emmens Close bus stop which had a faulty mechanism would also be replaced. An additional bin for the bus shelter at Parkside had also been ordered and received and was waiting to be erected.

#### **d. Overgrown hedges on exiting Checkendon LHS towards A4074**

The Chairman had contacted the owners of the property. One owner had agreed to cut back the hedge in autumn but the other had expressed reservations. Chairman would contact again stressing the importance of keeping them trimmed so traffic was not forced into the middle of the road towards the path of oncoming traffic.

### **5. Report by Cllr. M. Newland**

Cllr. Maurice Newland advised councillors that a questionnaire would shortly be sent to all households in SODC area asking for their views on the future of the household rubbish collection with the District Council being penalised at £150 per tonne for excess of their given target for landfill. One suggestion had been for a weekly kitchen

waste service with recycling and general household waste being on a 2 week cycle. All views and ideas would be welcomed.

#### **6. Report by Councillor David Nimmo Smith**

Councillor Nimmo Smith was pleased that the carriageway reconstruction of Blackhorse Lane was now underway.

Neighbourhood Action Groups which liaised between residents and Thames Valley Police were in the process of being started for Henley Rural which would cover Cllr. Nimmo Smith's division.

Tetra packs could now be recycled but it was thought they would have in the first instant to be taken to Oakley Wood.

The review of Subsidised Bus service for Checkendon (services 142 and 145) takes place in June 2008. Councillors agreed to undertake a Public Transport survey through ORCC.

Checkendon School had a new head Mary Bather from September 07.

Mr Davies had contact OCC with regards to having a VAS placed in the vicinity of Chestnuts.

The Chairman raised the continuing problem of potholes not being treated early enough and by the time they were they had often become large. Cllr, Nimmo Smith had been constantly onto Highways with this problem. The sign for flooding remained to be collected by the postbox near Checkendon Court and the triangular school warning sign had been uprooted and was also in the same place.

A villager had removed the build up of silt blocking the drainage grips at the entrance to the village from A4074 and the problem appeared to be solved.

#### **7. Sports Club Report**

The cricket season continued to suffer from the wet weather. They were on course to finish mid table of Division 2 of the Berkshire League. 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. Kidmore End had carried out some training sessions on the playing field.

Concern over flooding led councillors to agree (although this item was not in the budget) to go ahead with having the pitch spiked by "Vertidrain" which had greatly improved the playing surface in 2000.

Following the flash floods on 20<sup>th</sup> July affecting 2 bungalows at Balfours's Fields it was agreed that Mr Wicken's would obtain 2 quotes for a ditch to be dug to protect these properties. This item had also not been budgeted for but it was felt that work should be carried out to reassure the residents living there.

Minor vandalism had occurred with a broken window at the pavilion.

## **8. Playground Report**

The report book was signed.

The grass required mowing. The new litter bin was being well used. The green wire fence required more staples which would be carried out shortly. The benches required being made more secure and Mr Corbishley/Griggs would concrete them the next day. The rubber slabs to the swings needed re-pointing and this would be looked at. Posts at the bottom of the ramp remained insecure.

Mr Corbishley would let the clerk have detailed plans of a proposed "Spiders Web" so should could seek advice from OPFA.

## **9. Footpath Report**

Mr Bennett left the following written report:

C12 Equestrian Centre - tree overhanging the stile north of Equestrian centre had had branches lopped, cut back hedge on approach from Lovesgrove Lane, and added some anti slip chicken wire to the stile steps.

The Chiltern Society Maintenance Volunteers had built a wooden staircase to replace a crumbling set of quite steep earth steps on C7 north of Bottom Farm.

C21 by Ardross had become overgrown. Since the report this area had been cut back by parish council contractor. However the contractor had found broken tarmac of the contractor used by the owner dumped on the narrow path. Clerk to write to ask owner if they would contact their contractor to have it removed.

## **10. Village Hall Report**

It was not yet known if the grant application for the disabled entrance and toilet had been successful.

A dance was planned for 10<sup>th</sup> November and Harvest Lunch on 7<sup>th</sup> October after the Harvest Festival.

## **11. Finance**

### **a. Cheques for payment**

The following cheques were agreed for payment:

16<sup>th</sup> July 2007

0785 Allianz Cornhill

Increase in fidelity insurance cover to £25,000

£30.47

17<sup>th</sup> July 2007

0786 Glasdon UK Limited

Rubbish bins

£150.04

21<sup>st</sup> August 2007

0787 James Lloyd

First instalment on refurbishment of curved seat on village green

£795.00

4<sup>th</sup> September 2007

0788 C. Dunk

Clerk's salary petty cash

£549.09

0789 Glasdon UK Limited

Rubbish Bin

£75.02

0790 D. Griggs

Reimbursement of materials for school path across village green

£72.40

0791 James Lloyd

2nd instalment of refurbishment of seat

b. Cheques received

OCC Grass Cutting £1247.00

## **12. Correspondence**

1. SODC Chairman's Forum 8.10.07 at 6pm at SODC – D Griggs and M. Wickens to attend.
2. Age Concern – thank you for £40.00 donation
3. SODC – Barley Close Exlade Street renamed Barley House
4. SODC – New National Bus Pass Scheme details placed on noticeboard
5. SODC - Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places. Checkendon PC happy with present arrangements – clerk to reply.
6. OCC – Burncote/Dogmore Lane cost of Checkendon carriageway reconstruction £164,000
7. SODC – Free trees – none required this year.
8. Mr Davies – Hedge/traffic speed – Mr Griggs to reply.

## **13. Planning**

The following application had been received since the last meeting:

P07/E0723 Broadoaks

Single and 2 storey extension to front and rear

Withdrawn

P07/E0565 Quires Mount Exlade Street

Withdrawn

The following decisions have been received:

P07/E0561 Corkers Farm

Extension and alterations to existing bungalow to provide principle dwelling  
SODC Granted

P07/E0712/LD Brandy Pightles Whitehall Lane

2 dwellings to be used as single dwelling  
SODC Granted

P07/E0435 Hankley Whitehall Lane

New detached house and garage (amendment to house 1 approved under P05/E0031)  
SODC Granted

To appeal

P06/E1174 App/Q3115/A/07/2051521 Whitewood Heath Barn Hook End

Conversion of existing barn from storage use to holiday/staff accommodation

P06/E01324/DA App/Q3115/C/06/2032156 Denefield Farm Neals lane

Change of use of part of stables building to use as dwelling

**14. Any other business**

**a. No smoking sign in bus shelter**

This had now been erected

**b. Surgery Bus Drivers**

An additional driver was now being sought to replace Mrs Chancellor.

**c. Flooding at Balfours' Field 20.7.07**

The flash flooding had resulted in water running through Linnets causing damage and worry to the tenant. English Church Housing had given the impression to the family that the parish council would not co-operate with them on diversion of drainage from the playing field. This was not the case as no one from the council had been contacted. Now aware of the problem the parish council would obtain quotations for a ditch to be dug on the playing field. English Church Housing was solely responsible for the property and for drying it out.

**15. Next Meeting**

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2007 at 7.45pm