

Checkendon Parish Council

The minutes of the meeting of Checkendon Parish Council held of 6th July 2009.

1. Present

Mr D. Griggs, Mr. M. Wickens, and Mr. T. Corbishley
Also Cllr. D. Nimmo Smith and Cllr. J. Nimmo Smith (part time)

2. Apologies

Mr. A. Bennett.

3. Confirmation of the minutes of 11th May 2009

These minutes were agreed and signed by the chairman.

4. Matters Arising from minutes

a. Noticeboard

This had been attended to.

b. Village Sign

Mr Allum had varnished the sign.

c. Hedges at Emmens Close

One owner had now cut back the overhanging hedge and Mr Griggs would speak with the other.

d. Car Parking

Clerk had emailed an apology to the person concerned as the minutes had been published in Checkendon News before they had been informed by the parish council about the problem.

e. Leylandi trees adjacent to playground

Malcolm Russ had felled these and a suitable low level hedge would be planted at the appropriate time of year.

f. Grass at Emmens Close

This had now been cut.

5. Report by Councillor Nimmo-Smith

Mr Griggs congratulated Cllr. Nimmo Smith on his re-election. Cllr. Nimmo Smith reported the county council were under financial pressures with cutbacks in budget from central government leading in this economic climate to cuts in administration to preserve front line services.

Oakley Wood had now re-opened and had twice as many receptacles for waste and recycling.

An action group had been formed by parish councils most closely affected by any proposed 3rd bridge across the Thames at Reading to make sure they and the public were consulted.

Cllr. Nimmo Smith confirmed street lighting was a requirement for 20mph zone. A crossing patrol person had been found for Checkendon School.

Cllr. Nimmo Smith would ask Peter Ronald at OCC if there had been any investigation into placing a priority scheme near Rose Cottage end of the village where the road narrows.

Cllr Nimmo Smith would ask OCC to follow up the claim made to Mr Bennett's that Exlade Street was being used as a high speed rat run.

6. Report from Judith Nimmo Smith

Cllr. Nimmo Smith had sorted the non collection of playground waste (blue bag collection) which would take place on a Monday from the kerb side near the bus shelter. The residue of 2 sacks would be collected from Scots Farm. Wheelie bins were outstanding for Rose Cottage although those delivered late had been mixed up and the correct chip would not be in place for the property name.

Cllr. Nimmo Smith reported that in the first weeks recycling had risen from 42% to 60% with 100 tonnes of waste food collected per week.

Those who wished to report a missed collection should ring contact Verdant directly on 03000 610610, and to request a new bin or larger bin 01491 823416.

The audit commission had flagged up communications with parish council's and Cllr. Nimmo Smith would be sitting on this panel.

Cllr. Nimmo Smith would be attending an affordable housing meeting.

7. Sports Club Report

The Cricket Club had, had modest success with their highest ever score of 267 but had lost in the last over. The cricket ground remained in a good condition despite the dry weather and many home matches. The pavilion had been power washed.

The running track had been marked out for Checkendon School Sports Day and the pre-school had also held their races though it was felt a shame that they had not contacted Mr Wickes who would have made sure the lanes were marked for their use as well.

The Black Horse v Young Farmer "Cricket" match would take place on 21st July.

Cliff Blackburn Memorial had been chosen as a picnic bench with carved inscription. An area near the pavilion had been cleared but a tree required trimming.

M. Russ to trim hedge by sight screen.

8. Playground Report

Alex Wilson had carried out the playground safety check. The tiles under the swings were loose. Rospa inspection was due in July.

Mr Corbishley had removed broken seat from table and would replace with small seat.

10. Footpath Report

Access to C12 from Lovesgrove Lane at the north end of the Equestrian Centre was temporarily obstructed by corrugated metal sheets from the dismantling of the adjacent barn. This has now been cleared.

A safe-exit mirror has been attached to the footpath sign post at the Exlade Street end of C33 in such a way that the sign itself is obstructed. It is not clear whether or not this is just a temporary measure connected to the work being done by builders at the house opposite -- The Cottage. I called at the house but there was nobody in. I will continue to try to follow this up.

Bramble/hedge encroachment on one side coupled with waist-height barbed wire on the fence on the other is making it difficult to walk C9 north from its starting point on the road west of the Four Horseshoes. Malcolm Russ tells me that the Checkendon Court gardener insists that they alone will manage this hedge. Attempts to acquire contact details for the head gardener have hitherto proved fruitless [no response to answer phone messages left with Checkendon Court Services and Pre-school supervisor, who Malcolm tells me is his wife] but I will keep trying.

11. Village Hall Report

Disabled facilities were nearing completion with the flooring in toilet and carpet tiles in foyer needing to be done.

Plant sale was a success. Next event Quiz Evening 25th September 09

12. Correspondence

1. SODC – tree preservation order Rummerhedge Bottom
2. SODC – Cedar Bungalow now called Cedarwood Cottage
3. SODC- Rummerhedge is now called Rummerhedge Farm
4. TVP – Police officers

13. Finance

a. Cheques for payment

The following cheques were agreed for payment:

6.7.09

0862 R. Symes

Internal Audit

£185.79

0863 C. Dunk

Salary and petty cash

£471.76

0864 M. Russ

Work around village

£1,795.00

0865 T. Corbishley

Reimbursement materials for bus shelter backing

£31.98

b. Cheques received:
VAT refund £680.20

14. Planning

The following applications had been withdrawn since the last meeting:

P09/E0674/LD the Orchards Neal Lane

Use of building as a dwelling
Parish council to respond

P09/E0555 Croft Cottage Checkendon

Two storey side extension
Parish Council no strong views

P09/E0566 Greenacre Checkendon

Erection of new dwelling with new vehicular access
Parish council objected as over development

P09/E0564 Greenacre Checkendon

Erection of single storey side extension and 2 storey rear extension with new drive
Parish Council no strong views

The following decision has been received:

P09/E0359 Busgrove Wood Busgrove Lane

Construction of extension to house Indoor swimming pool
SODC granted

15. Next meeting

Next Meeting 7th September at 7.45pm