

Checkendon Parish Council

The minutes of the meeting of Checkendon Parish Council held of 6th March 2007.

1. Present

Mr D. Griggs, Mr. M. Wickens, Mr. Corbishley, Mrs F. Chancellor and Mrs D. Stanworth

Also present Cllr. J. Thomson and Cllr. D. Nimmo Smith, and Mrs P. Venters (Checkendon School Assoc) (part time)

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr A. Bennett, and PC Brockington

3. Confirmation of the minutes of 12th January 2007

These minutes were agreed and signed by the chairman.

4. Presentation by School Association

Mrs Venters outlined the plans Checkendon School Association had for a circus to visit the village on 12th June (subsequent to the meeting this was rescheduled for 19th June). The circus would be situated on the playing fields with side stalls. Parish council agreed to the school associations proposals subject to the following:

1. That the school association take out additional insurance for loss of revenue to cover the event should adverse ground conditions force the parish council to cancel access onto their playing field. Final permission that the event will be permitted to go ahead will be granted by Matthew Wickens.
2. Parking will be under the direction of stewards organised by the school association.
3. Evidence of liability and indemnity insurance be provided
4. That a litter pick is undertaken within 48 hours to ensure the playing field are left in a clean and tidy state.

5. Matters Arising from minutes

a. Village Shop

This continued to trade and the parish council apologised for the wrong information they had been given at the previous meeting regarding closure dates.

b. North Grove Wood Bridle Path

Clerk and Mr Bennett had met the Equestrian Centre manager listened to their concerns and walked the route through North Grove Woods. After discussions with the Woodland Trust who did not wish to open the route again to horses it was agreed that OCC Paul Harris should look with the Equestrian Centre for new permitted routes around Checkendon so as to keep the horses away from vehicular traffic.

c. Village sign

Quotes for a sign in aluminium relief and painted had been received from the original contractor at £1750 +vat and from Allum Signs for £845+vat. The parish council agreed to Allum Signs undertaking the work.

d. Village Path and seat around tree on Green

The parish council would replace the seat that was starting to rot. The School had requested an improvement to the pathway from lych gate to the school, and the parish

council would seek village opinion as to whether the path should be re-laid or improved upon from the stepping stones currently placed.

6. Report by Cllr. D. Nimmo Smith

Cllr Nimmo Smith reported that following an inspection of Lovesgrove Lane the road would be programmed to be resurfaced, along with Blackhorse Lane.

OCC had achieved an Excellent 4* rating by the Audit Commission

7. Report By Cllr. J. Thomson

SODC had announced improvements to their garden waste collection service with smaller brown wheelie bins for those not seeking the larger volume bin and following an assessment paper sacks for garden waste for those who could not house a bin.

There would be a slight reduction for those paying by direct debit.

New powers under the 2004 Housing Act meant that empty dwelling management orders could bring property back into use, and the first such property in Berinsfield had been subject to such an order.

Best Performance Indicators showed SODC in the top quarter of district councils in the country. Customer satisfaction was up from 51% to 58%.

SODC element of council tax remained at the same level as the previous year with 0% increase.

A redeployable CCTV camera was now available through SODC for anti social behaviour monitoring.

8. Sports Club Report

The recent heavy rain had led to the playing fields being under water.

9. Playground Report

The report book was signed.

Heavy rain had made the area water logged. One post still needed to be made secure on the play equipment, the bark needed topping up, and the green mesh wire on the gate fixed.

10. Footpath Report

Mrs Chancellor questioned the resurfacing of the Broad Oaks track. Clerk to raise with OCC footpath officer Jenny Beardmore.

11. Village Hall Report

The "Cosmic Sausages" performance would be on March 23rd. Village Hall Committee had plans on going for disabled entrance.

12. Correspondence

1. G. Williams – Condition of oak tree on entering village from A4074 end. Chairman to raise with owner
2. SODC – change in issuing travel tokens

13. Finance

a. Cheques for payment

The following cheques were agreed for payment:

31st January 2007

0764 Wickstead

New swing seats

£191.23

18th February 2007

0765 A Kendal

Reimburse website hosting

£29.38

6th March 2007

0763 Bix and Assendon Parish Council

Reimbursement allotment money

£10.00

0766 C. Dunk

Clerk's salary petty cash

£344.27

b. Risk Analysis

Mr Corbishley was in the process of reviewing

14. Planning

The following application had been received since the last meeting:

P06/E1351 4 Nuthatch Cottage Checkendon

Erection of two storey rear extension and porch to front elevation

Parish Council No strong views

P07/E0102 Corkers Farm Checkendon

Re-location of agricultural building

Parish Council No Strong Views

SODC Granted

P06/E1384 Corkers Farm Checkendon

Erection of an agricultural building

Parish Council No Strong Views

SODC Granted

Rooks Nest Checkendon

New access. Close existing access

Parish Council No Strong Views

SODC Granted

P06/E1317 Downderry Whitehall Lane

Removal of existing garage, erection of side extension to existing bungalow and raising roof to create first floor accommodation

Mrs Stanworth declared an interest

Parish Council recommended for refusal
SODC Granted

T mobile phone base station cell 53731 Rushmoor Lane

Parish Council objected as feel the existing mask could be used.

St Peters and St Paul's Church

Parish Councillors were surprised that a Faculty allowing renewal of the tiling had been allowed and consider that such work inappropriate and would adversely affect the character of this Grade 1 listed building. The Parish Council would seek an assurance that a new Faculty be sought before any further work is contemplated which would provide for a proper restoration programme on this part of the fabric.

The following decisions have been received:

P06/E01335 Broadoaks Judges Row

3 bay garage block

SODC Granted

P06/E1174 Whitewood Heath Barn Hook End

Conversion of existing barn from storage to holiday/staff accommodation

SODC Refused

P06/E01065 White Shutters Exlade Street

Single storey extension to east elevation roof alterations erection of double garage conversion of existing garage into kitchen

SODC Granted

15. Any Other Business

a. Resignation of Mrs F. Chancellor

Mrs Chancellor resigned as from the end of meeting 6.3.07. The Chairman thanked her for the work she had carried out as a parish councillor.

b. Retirement of PC Brockington

PC Brockington was retiring from 31.3.07 and the contact would be Sgt Keith Stacey at Henley Police Station.

16. Next Meeting

Annual Electors Meeting 27th March 2007 at 7.45pm

Tuesday 8th May 2007 at 7.45pm