

Checkendon Parish Council

The minutes of a meeting of Checkendon Parish Council held of 6th November 2007.

1. Present

Mr D. Griggs, Mr. M. Wickens, Mr. Corbishley, Mrs D. Stanworth, Mr. A. Bennett, and Miss K. Palmer-Stevens

Also present Cllr. M. Newland (part time)

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr. D. Nimmo Smith

3. Confirmation of the minutes of 4th September 2007

These minutes were agreed and signed by the chairman.

4. Matters Arising from minutes

a. Church Floor

Clerk had sent letter to Chancellor of the Diocese asking for an explanation.

b. Overgrown hedges on exiting Checkendon LHS towards A4074

The Chairman had spoken with the contractor who was cutting this hedge and been assured that it will be done before Christmas.

c. Work to prevent run off from flash flooding from playing fields to Balfours' Fields bungalows

Vertidrain work had been carried out to improve overall drainage of the playing field and Hatt's were hoping to dig the ditch by the end of November.

d. Copper Beech on Village Green

Chairman had contacted SODC regarding substantial lopping of the tree which was fast outgrowing its position. Planted in 1953 to replace an oak it was obliterating the village green view of the church and causing the grass to die. SODC had declined to offer advice until the necessary form had been filled in. Cllr. Newland would intervene and Chairman would fill in form so the best solution could be found.

5. Report by Cllr. M. Newland

Cllr. Maurice Newland reported that SODC had been granted excellent status. The review of the rubbish collection for the new contract was shortly to go before the council cabinet for a decision but the recommendation would be for a weekly collection of kitchen waste (an indoors container would be supplied which would be transferred on filling to a sealed box), 2 weekly non compostable inert waste with a small wheelie bin supplied to cut back on the use of black rubbish sacks, 2 weekly recycling collection but this would also include glass, and 2 weekly compost service (still chargeable).

Oxford University in partnership with SODC were publicising the threat of global warming offering to hold evenings at no cost to villages showing Al Gore's film, holding a quiz and answering questions – or a combination of this. Village Hall Committee would look at programming this into to their event calendar.

The clerk asked Cllr. Newland to contact Mary Weller with regard to the failed application for funding for the disabled access for the village hall and the response that £1,000 07/08 and £1,000 08/09 grant from parish council was deemed “pathetic”. This represented one eighth of the parish precept.

6. Report by Councillor David Nimmo Smith

Councillor Nimmo Smith submitted the following report in his absence:

The Government will be abolishing the unelected, but only partially quango, Regional Assemblies in 2011. The assemblies refused to deliver the Government agenda, particularly on housing requirements and planning, so these will be decided in future by the South East Regional Development Agency, a fully fledged quango. So much for local democracy.

OCC has published a leaflet – available in libraries and one-stop-shops – about how to make a complaint about OCC services. As OCC has been rated an Excellent 4* Council, I suppose that the complaint form will gather dust.....

OCC and the District Councils are still fighting to get financial help from the Government to plug the £3m hole in the finances caused by the July flooding. However, we are pushing against a firmly locked door. The County is reviewing, with the Environment Agency, where further and better flood defenses should be considered, particularly in Oxford and Abingdon.

7. Sports Club Report

Rotherfield Boys had declined to use Checkendon playing fields this season and removed their goals. Enquiries had now been made from South Stoke Sunday players about using Checkendon facilities and maybe combining the name of the team to incorporate Checkendon. The problem arose that the goals Checkendon had no longer complied with British standards and could not be used. Councillors decided that even though this was not in the budget they would purchase the new goals (lightweight version approx £1,500.00) from their reserve in order that the playing field’s potential could be maximised.

8. Playground Report

The report book was signed.

Vandalism had remained a problem throughout the summer/early autumn with the gate to the viewing area being set alight and the round table scored and damaged with nails. Mr Corbishley had received no response apart from a crime number from the police who declined to send out a patrol or CPSO to talk to the repeat offenders when events were occurring at the same time each evening.

9. Footpath Report

Nothing to report

10. Village Hall Report

The grant application for the disabled entrance and toilet had not been successful, and would be resubmitted at the end of November. Cllr. Newland would liaise with Mrs Weller about the application.

The dance planned for 10th November had, had to be cancelled due to the lack of support. The Harvest Lunch had raised £150. A children's puppet show was planned for January and a music event for March.

Hundred Club winners October were £25 No. 51 £15 No. 24
November £25 No.52 £15 No. 19

11. Finance

a. Cheques for payment

The following cheques were agreed for payment:

13th September 07

0792 Playsafe

Rospa Inspection

£88.13

6th November 07

0793 Checkendon News

Donation towards running costs

£50.00

0794 Michael Weller

Litter picking

£115.00

0795 BDO Stoy Hayward LLP

External Audit

£141.00

0796 C. Dunk

Clerk's salary petty cash

£375.20

0797 Kestrel Contractors Ltd

Drainage playing fields

£646.25

0798 Malcolm Russ

Work around village

£937.00

0799 Malcolm Russ

Work around village

£1253.00

b. Cheques received

SODC – Precept £4,000.00

c. Results of External Audit

Employment Status of Clerk – the clerk is not self employed but employed by the Parish Council. She has been trying to get a response from the tax office since May 06.

No other matters came to BDO's attention.

d. Budget for 2008/09

A budget of £8,000 was agreed by all councillors with the reserve being used for any unbudgeted items that may occur during the year.

It was agreed to combine clerk's salary and allowance together and increase her wage by £50 per year to £2,000p.a.

12. Correspondence

1. M. Weller – resignation from litter collecting duties. Parish Council acknowledged their sincere thanks and appreciation for the work he had carried out in keeping Checkendon tidy and clean
2. OCC – review of subsidised bus services – Clerk would reply with the case for maintaining both services. Currently Public Transport Survey being undertaken by ORCC.
3. SODC – Change of house name Lovesgrove Stud Farm to Lovegroves and Indoor exercise Yard to Lovesgrove Stud

13. Planning

The following application had been received since the last meeting:

P07/E01294 Squires Mount Exlade Street

New first floor extension and ground floor storage area
Parish Council No strong views

P07/E1287RLB/1288Ret The Old Rectory

Conversion of split dwelling to form one
Parish Council No Strong Views

P07/E1299LB Four Horseshoes PH

Removal of 2 No steel windows and replace with traditional casements
Parish Council No strong views

The following decisions have been received:

P07/E0500 Oakwood farm Hook End Lane

Removal of all existing buildings - Erection of new dwelling, walled garden, lean to greenhouse garden store and tennis court
SODC Granted

P07/E0703/T

Land adjacent to Rushmore Lane

Installation of 20m high monopole and associated access and equipment cabinets
SODC Granted

To appeal

P07/E0327/ - App/Q3115/A/07/2054400/WF Waterfield Rushmore Lane – erection of building to be used as annexe accommodation for the main house for use by elderly parents, other members of the family and staff

14. Dates of meetings for 2008

Monday 7th January 2008

Monday 3rd March 2008

Monday 17th March 2008 Annual Electors Meeting

Monday 12th May 2008 Annual Parish Meeting

Monday 7th July 2007

Monday 1st September 2007

Monday 3rd November 2007

All meetings to begin at 7.30pm in Checkendon Village Hall