

Checkendon Parish Council

The minutes of a meeting of Checkendon Parish Council held of 7th January 2008.

1. Present

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

Also present Cllr. D. Nimmo Smith (part time)

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mrs D. Stanworth, and Cllr. M. Newland

3. Confirmation of the minutes of 6th September 2007

These minutes were agreed and signed by the chairman.

4. Matters Arising from minutes

a. Church Floor

Clerk had sent a further letter to Chancellor of the Diocese on 30th December as the parish council had felt the explanation provided was unsatisfactory.

b. Overgrown hedges on exiting Checkendon LHS towards A4074

This hedge had still not been cut and Chairman would endeavour to get owners to have it done before spring growth occurred.

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

This had now been completed giving reassurance to those at Balfours' Fields.

d. Copper Beech on Village Green

Chairman still awaiting report from Landmark Tree Surgeon's about the amount that could safely be lopped from tree.

e. Review of Bus service 142 and 145

The Public Transport review had been completed by ORCC and although disappointingly low numbers of villagers had responded 5 letters of objection to any cuts and a 13 signature petition had been received. Clerk had asked OCC John Wood to maintain Henley Service at current level due to low level of subsidy required and that the 142 Route to Reading be maintained or a feeder bus link from the village with the fast X40 service to Reading Wallingford and Oxford. Cllr Nimmo Smith endorsed this view.

5. Report from Steering Group against the Closure of Checkendon PO

The Chairman informed councillors that a steering group had been set up consisting of parish councillors and concerned villagers to fight against possible closure of Checkendon PO. Although the closures affecting this area would not be announced until 3rd February 2008 everything was being done to lobby and publicise the effect that a closure would have on the viability of the Village Store which would not be able to continue trading. A meeting with Boris Johnson MP on 25th January at 2.15pm had been arranged by Cllr. Nimmo Smith. The steering group would meet again on

9th January and consider whether to undertake a profile of villagers' age, disability and ability to reach an alternative branch should closure occur.

6. Report by Councillor David Nimmo Smith

Councillor Nimmo Smith reported that the waste disposal would be discussed at the full council meeting on 8.1.08 with consideration being given to two firms to tender to burn unrecyclable waste for energy.

OCC were now considering their budget for 2008/09 with the government grant being set at 2% this coming financial year 1.75 the next and 1.5% the following. This was against a current inflation rate of 2.75%. It was thought that the current element of OCC budget would rise just below 4% and in line with the Conservative manifesto they were elected on.

Mr Wickens brought to Cllr Nimmo Smiths attention that the line marking denoting "Give Way" had not been reinstated on Blackhorse Lane following the carriageway resurfacing.

Cllr. Nimmo Smith would also look at the issue of the outgrowing hedge towards the A4074 and the erosion of the side of the carriageway by cars being forced to the edge of the tarmac on the opposite side.

7. Sports Club Report

The new goals had been delivered which would enable football to restart this coming Sunday. South Stoke team would play on a trial basis for the rest of the season.

8. Playground Report

The report book was signed.

No changes had been made since the last inspection although the vandalised gate to the viewing area needed attention. Councillors agreed to replace this with fencing which Mr Corbishley would carry out.

9. Footpath Report

Nothing to report

10. Village Hall Report

The grant application for the disabled entrance and toilet was being resubmitted.

Elves Children's Show would take place on 26th January 08, and a quiz evening on 8th February.

Mary and Michael Weller were retiring as Village Hall caretaker and booking secretary on 31st March 08. Ms Palmer Stevens expressed an interest in taking over these responsibilities.

11. Finance

a. Cheques for payment

The following cheques were agreed for payment:

15th December 07

0800 W J Hatt Ltd

Flood alleviation Balfours' Fields

£470.00

Although this work was not in the budget for 07/08 councillors had previously approved the expenditure to be paid for from the reserve as unforeseen work due to the summer floods.

28th December 07

0801 It's a goal Ltd

New goals for playing field

£1319.00

Although this work was not in the budget for 07/08 councillors approved the expenditure to be paid for from the reserve as unforeseen work due to the club who had previously used the pitch taking their goals with them when they decided not to use the pitch this season. The old goals no longer conformed to current standards.

7th January 08

0802 SODC

Uncontested May elections

£69.50

0803 C Dunk

Clerk's salary petty cash

£371.04

b. Cheques received

Southern and Scottish Electric Wayleave £1.00

12. Correspondence

1. SODC – Consultation referral of planning applications to committee – M Wickens had replied saying Checkendon did not support this proposal and when there is a disagreement between officers and those of parish council they should automatically be referred to the planning committee in the interests of democracy which should not be tampered with for greater efficiency.

2. OCC Grass Cutting Contract – Grass contractor has £10m public liability insurance and can now enter into agreement.

13. Planning

The following application had been received since the last meeting:

P07/E1376 and 1449/LB Four Horseshoes PH

Smoking shelter lean to

Parish Council recommended for refusal

SODC Refused

Mr Wickens declared an interest and took no part in the following:

P07/E01398/Ret 4 Hammonds End

Retention of outbuilding

Parish Council recommended for refusal

SODC Refused

Mr Wickens declared an interest and took no part in the following:

P07/E1503/Ret The Blackhorse PH

Conversion of existing barns to self contained residential units' workshop and office

Parish Council No Strong Views

SODC Granted

P07/E01433 Brandy Pigtles Whitehall Lane

To replace existing gates with 2 wooden gates and posts

Parish Council No strong views

SODC Granted

P07/E1470 Wyfold Meadows

Renovation and enlargement of existing storage building

Parish Council No Strong Views

P07/E01534 Emmensfield Whitehall Lane

Erection of conservatory

Parish Council No Strong Views

P07/E1554/LD Larchdown Farm

Insertion partition at first floor level of garage building to create a bedroom and en suite bathroom and kitchenette

Parish Council had no information to add to this

The following decisions had been received:

P07/E01294 Squires Mount Exlade Street

New first floor extension and ground floor storage area

SODC Granted

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

SODC Granted

P07/E1219 Broadoaks

2 storey and single storey extensions

SODC Granted

To appeal

P06/1174 - App/Q3115/A/07/2051521/ Whitewood Heath Barn – appeal dismissed

Mr Corbishley would consult with planning department about 2 brick piers and fence erected on verge at Downderry Whitehall Lane.

Mr Bennett would raise with Forestry Officer about tree preservation order at bellman's and the ongoing work within the wooded area.

14. Next meeting

Monday 3rd March 2008

Monday 17th March 2008 Annual Electors Meeting

All meetings to begin at 7.45pm in Checkendon Village Hall