

Checkendon Parish Council

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Checkendon Parish Council held of 8th May 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 and Cllr. D. Nimmo Smith (part time)

2. Declaration of Office

Councillors signed the declaration of office before the parish clerk.

3. Code of Conduct

Councillors signed the Register of Members' Interest.

4. Adoption of Revised Code of Conduct for Councillors

"That Checkendon Parish Council adopt

(a) the mandatory provisions in the Model Code of Conduct set out in Statutory Instrument 2007/1159 be adopted as the Checkendon Parish Council Code of Conduct, to be effective from 1 July 2007, subject to:

(i) the inclusion of the

"general principles" as an Annex to the Code, with a footnote to explain that it is not a part of the Code but is included as an Annex because of the requirement in paragraph 1(2) of the Code for members to have regard to the principles; and

(ii) the addition of paragraph 12(2) of the Model Code, but excluding the words in brackets each as recommended by the Standards Board for England and South Oxfordshire District Council; and

(b) the Clerk be requested to notify the Monitoring Officer of South Oxfordshire District Council of the passing of the above resolution"

5. Election of Chairman for 2007-08

Mr D. Griggs was proposed as Chairman by Mr M. Wickens seconded by Mrs Stanworth and with no other nominations was elected unopposed. Mr Griggs signed the Declaration of Office.

6. Election of Vice Chairman for 2007-08

Mr. M. Wickens was proposed as Vice Chairman by Mr. T. Corbishley, seconded by Mr. A. Bennett and with no other nominations was elected unopposed. Mr. Wickens signed the Declaration of Office.

7. Responsibilities of Councillors for 2006/07

a. Planning – Mr Corbishley and Mr Wickens

b. Public Transport Representative – Mr Michael Weller

- c. Playground – Mr Corbishley and Mr Griggs
2 weekly checks – Mr G. Williams
- d. Responsible Financial Officer – Mrs C. Dunk
- e. Highways – Miss K. Palmer-Stevens
- f. Footpaths – Mr. A. Bennett
- g. Checkendon School – Mr M. Wickens
- h. Village Hall – Mrs D. Stanworth
- i. Local Age Concern Link Co-ordinator – Mrs M. Weller
- j. Recreation Ground - Mr. M. Wickens

8. Confirmation of the minutes of 6th March 2007

These minutes were agreed and signed by the chairman.

9. Matters Arising from minutes

a. Village sign

Allum Signs were currently working on the new sign which was expected to be in early summer.

b. Village Path and seat around tree on Green

Mr Griggs and Corbishley were obtaining quotes for repairs to the seat. Still awaiting village opinion on the type of path to the school across the village green.

c. Church Floor

Response from Checkendon PCC would be made after their May meeting.

d. Circus 19th June 2007

Clerk still awaiting response from Checkendon School Association to the conditions for holding circus on playing fields. The parish council had no objections to an occasional licence being applied for.

e. Litter bin at Park Side bus shelter and on recreation ground

Clerk was awaiting a response from her letter of 29th March 2007 and would chase public amenities.

10. Report by Cllr. D. Nimmo Smith

Cllr Nimmo Smith reported that OCC were making steps at reducing their carbon footprint with £450,000 budgeted and supplemented by £300,000 from the carbon trust to make building saving efficiencies.

Cllr Nimmo Smith would find out when Blackhorse Lane was programmed for resurfacing and if it was to be late summer if some of the larger potholes could be filled.

Jacobs Babtie would be undertaking a review of the speed limit on the A4074 from the outskirts of Caversham to the Checkendon turn off with a view to reducing the 50MPH limit to 40MPH. Amongst the review would be the effectiveness of the speed camera at Cane End. The Chairman felt that a 40MPH speed limit would not be adhered to.

Cllr. Nimmo Smith raised the issue of low flying aircraft performing acrobatics over the area. Miss Palmer-Stevens felt there was a detrimental affect and noise nuisance for Checkendon.

11. Report By Cllr. M. Newland

Cllr. Maurice Newland introduced himself to parish councillors. The Chairman welcomed him to the meeting and looked forward to working with him over the next 4 years.

12. Sports Club Report

Work on the showers was agreed at £934.00 and the necessary associated electrical work at £235.00.

Malcolm Russ and his brother were thanked for their work on cutting back the trees overhanging the playing field.

The cricket season was beginning and the football teams for Rotherfield Peppard would be known by the end of June.

13. Playground Report

The report book was signed.

The green mesh wire on the gate needed fixing again. The wooden post on the Tower slope was loose and the bark needed digging over and topping up.

14. Footpath Report

No problems were raised though Mr Bennett would find the latest position regarding the tree blocking the footpath adjacent to the Equestrian Centre.

15. Village Hall Report

The recent Quiz night had raised £200, and the Bluebells Sunday walks £115. The plant sale would take place later in May. The Village Hall Committee were currently choosing 2 events from the touring theatre programme for later in the year.

16. Correspondence

1. TV Police crime figures – January to March 1 burglary non dwelling, 1 theft, 4 others (but 3 were recorded as not crimes).
2. OCC – Road Closure Stoke Row Road from 11.6.07 for 8 weeks for water main work. Full details given to Checkendon News.

17. Finance

a. Cheques for payment

The following cheques were agreed for payment:

8th May 2007

0767 OALC

Annual Subscription

£122.79

0768 Allianz Cornhill
Annual premium
£621.61

0769 Michael Weller
Street Cleansing £115 PTR Expenses £5.15
£120.15

0770 C. Dunk
Clerk's salary petty cash
£374.58

0771 CAB Henley
Donation
£50.00

0772 CAB Didcot
Donation
£50.00

0773 Woodcote Volunteers
Donation
£40.00

0774 Stoke Row School (surgery bus)
Donation
£200.00

0775 Checkendon Parochial Church Council
Donation towards upkeep of church yard
£250.00

0776 South and Vale Carers
Donation
£30.00

0777 Age Concern
Donation
£40.00

0778 Alan J. Evans
New showers to pavilion
£934.00

0779 Wilcom Systems Limited
Electrical works to showers
£235.00

0780 Chiltern Society
Subscription
£25.00

All payments were in line with the budget for 2007/08

b. Cheques received

1.4.07 – SODC Precept half yearly £4,000.00
3.4.07 – SODC Street cleansing half yearly £61.59

c. Risk Analysis

Mr Corbishley produced the updated Risk analysis which was agreed by all councillors and signed and dated by the Chairman

d. Fidelity Insurance

The completed proposal to increase the fidelity insurance to £25,000 was signed by Chairman, vice chairman and clerk.

18. Planning

The following application had been received since the last meeting:

M Wickens declared a personal interest and took no part in the discussions on the following application

P07/E0230 Checkendon CE Aided School

Erection of single storey toilet and library extension

Parish Council No Strong views

SODC Granted

P06/E01287/LB Amendment 1 EO/1288 The Old Rectory Checkendon

Conversion of split dwelling to form 1 unit

Parish Council No Strong views

SODC Granted

P07/E0327 Waterfield Rushmore Lane

Erection of building to be used as annexe

Parish Council No Strong Views

SODC Refused

Mrs Stanworth declared a personal interest and took no part in the discussions on the following application

P07/E0389 Brackenwood Whitehall Lane

Demolition of existing 2 bedroom bungalow and replacement with 2 storey dwelling

Parish Council No Strong View

P07/E0437 Hankley Whitehall Lane

New detached house (amendment to P05/E0031)

Parish Council No Strong Views

P07/E0500 Oakwood Farm Hook End

Removal of all buildings – erection of new dwelling

Parish Council recommended for refusal

The following decisions had been received:

P06/E1351 4 Nuthatch Cottage Checkendon

Erection of two storey rear extension and porch to front elevation

SODC Granted

P07/E0046 1, Neals Farm Cottage

Erection of timber garden building

SODC Granted

19. Any Other Business

a. PTR report

- The budget for public transport subsidy has been under spent this year but will probably be over spent in subsequent years leading to pressure to reduce subsidised bus services.
- There is no information as yet as to how the universal bus passes to be issued in 2008 will be funded. It is probable that new passes will be required.
- Accessibility strategy is required for schools and hospitals. Under the Best Value review there is a possible restructuring of transport requirements in South Oxfordshire.
- There has been an increase in bus service satisfaction across the area.
- The free travel scheme has been much more popular than expected.
- There is a more positive attitude to rail services and the Oxford – Milton Keynes Line is timetabled for completion in 2012.

20. Next Meeting

Tuesday 3rd July 2007 at 8.15pm (please note later start)