

Checkendon Parish Council

The minutes of the meeting of Checkendon Parish Council held of 9th January 2007.

1. Present

Mr D. Griggs, Mr. M. Wickens, Mr. Corbishley, and Mrs D. Stanworth
Also present Cllr. J. Thomson and Cllr. D. Nimmo Smith (part time)

2. Apologies

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

3. Confirmation of the minutes of 7th November 2006

4d should read Bridle Path

These minutes were agreed and signed by the chairman.

4. Matters Arising from minutes

a. Update on affordable housing

Anna Kennedy from ORCC had been in contact with Kris Crowther over negotiations with the owners of site 7 but they were not optimistic about the outcome. She would also contact one of the landowners she had spoken to previously who had not been willing to consider selling the land for an exceptional site at the time but was not against the idea at some future date.

b. Village Shop

This was at present continuing in business with closure set for late spring.

c. North Grove Wood Bridle Path

Clerk had received a letter from the Woodland Trust asking for a meeting to discuss the issue. Clerk, Mr Bennett, Mrs Grant and Mr Griggs to meet with Equestrian Centre at 10am on 18th January prior to setting up meeting with Woodland Trust.

d. Village sign

This had deteriorated to a far greater extent during the summer with the paint lifting from the surface on one side. The sign had been taken down and Mr Griggs had tried unsuccessfully to obtain ideas and a quote from the original firm over what could be done. He would continue to try to get a solution.

e. Crime Figures

For the last 12 months the number of crimes recorded in Checkendon had been reduced from 21 to 15.

5. Report by Cllr. D. Nimmo Smith

Cllr Nimmo Smith reported that OCC's budget for the forthcoming year would be set at 4% (below the 4.25% predicted in the manifesto of the Conservatives).

Human Resources and Financial services were centralising and moving to cheaper office accommodation in Cowley.

OCC were currently looking at the provision of primary school places. There was growth in some areas and declining figures in others but Cllr. Nimmo Smith stressed that there were no plans to close any schools only to utilise resources to achieve best value and appropriate education for 21st century.

The chairman asked for Cllr. Nimmo Smith to look at the following which he will do during the forthcoming weekend:

Potholes at Lovegrove Lane

Blackhorse Lane

Flooding near Payables Farm

6. Report By Cllr. J. Thomson

SODC were currently seeking the views of 10,000+ householders regarding the future of rubbish and recycling services for the next 25 years.

Councillors asked Cllr. Thomson to look into the problem of the dual carriageway being littered with paper after every Tuesday rubbish collection.

A new method to distribute travel tokens for those not wishing to have a bus pass will be introduced for the current financial year with National Transport Tokens handling the service. More details would be sent to parish councils shortly.

SODC had actively sought to increase the returns for the Register of Electors

7. Sports Club Report

The recent heavy rain had led to cancellation of football matches and access for the progress of repairs on the pavilion.

Malcolm Russ would look in the spring at cutting back overhanging trees on boundary and see if he is able to do this or if a tree surgeon is required

8. Playground Report

The report book was signed.

Heavy rain had made the area water logged at times. The green wire mesh on one of the gates required fixing - DG to attend to. 1 post on the tower required attention and Mr Corbishley had fixed the new seats on the swing for which the chairman thanked him.

9. Footpath Report

Nothing further to report

10. Village Hall Report

The Quiz Night on 17th November had raised £190. The Cosmic Sausages would be giving a performance in February.

11. Correspondence

1. Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance – Thank you for donation
2. OCC – invitation to Chairman of OCC reception 28.2.07 -no councillors available
3. Home Start – request for donation declined
4. OCC – Highways arrangements

12. Finance

a. Cheques for payment

The following cheques were agreed for payment:

29th November 2006

0758 BDO Stoy Hayward

External Audit

£141.00

5th December 06

0759 Malcolm Russ
Work around village
£851.00

9th January 07

0760 Checkendon Village Hall
Hire of hall
£71.20

0761 OPFA
Annual subscription
£30.00

0762 C. Dunk
Clerk's salary petty cash
£326.69

b. Risk Analysis

Mr Corbishley was in the process of reviewing

c. External Audit

The following points were brought to the council's attention

1. Employment Status- clerk still trying to meet with tax office
2. Fidelity Insurance – clerk to arrange to raise to £25,000

13. Planning

The following application had been received since the last meeting:

P06/E1288/1287LB Old Rectory
Convert house back to single dwelling
Parish Council No Strong Views

P06/E01335 Broadoaks Judges Row

3 bay garage block
Parish Council recommends for refusal as they feel it is out of keeping of the character of the area.

The following decisions have been received:

P06/E0943 Wyfold Meadows Farm
4 bay garage/ storage over with external staircase
SODC Granted

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

P06/E01052 Brackenwood Whitehall Lane

Demolition of existing 3 bed bungalow replacement house
Withdrawn

P06/E0347LD Land at Denefield Farm Neals Lane

SODC refusal of certificate of lawful use or development
Enforcement notice to be served

Appeal dismissed App/Q3115/A/06/2023650 White Cottage Whitehall Lane
Garage extension to provide ancillary studio

14. Any Other Business

a. Stepping Stone Path across Village Green

Mr Horton had requested that this path be replaced. DG/MW and TC to look to discuss at next meeting

b. Seat on Village Green

Mr Corbishley to see what action is required to keep in good state of repair

c. Lighting on Village Green

Councillors felt this was not desirable in a rural location.

15. Next Meeting

Next Meeting Tuesday 6th March 2007 at 7.45pm

Annual Electors Meeting 27th March 2007 at 7.45pm