

**Minutes of the Meeting of  
Tetsworth Parish Council  
Held in the Memorial Hall  
at 7.30pm on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2014**

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**Present:** Cllr. Karen Harris (KH) – Chair  
Cllr. Alan Martin (AM)  
Cllr. Hazel Bottone (HB)  
Cllr. Marjorie Sanders (MS)

**In attendance** Cllr. David Wilmshurst  
Cllr. Dorothy Brown

**Officer:** Sarah Pullen

**Members of the Public:** There were 6.

040/14 Apologies for Absence  
Cllr. Paul Margan (PM), PCSO, Michelle Jacques.

041/14 Co-option onto Council  
We have received one application which was read out at the meeting.

**Resolved:** That David Nixey be co-opted onto the Parish Council.  
David Nixey (DN) signed the ‘Acceptance of Office’ form and then joined the meeting.

042/14 To receive Declarations of Interest  
*To receive any declarations of interest from Councillors relating to items to be considered at the meeting in accordance with the provisions of the Councils Local Code of Conduct.*  
MS declared an interest in the planning application for Zion Farm as she is a neighbour. She requested to speak from the floor and left the room for the vote.

043/14 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2014 to be signed as a correct record.  
34/14 **The Laurels** – That the tree fell into the garden not into the Jitty.  
33/14 **Newts** - That the sales person for Rectory Homes made it clear that there are two preservation areas in the sites, not that she was unclear about the hibernaculas.  
**Resolved:** That with the above corrections, these minutes are a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman – UNANIMOUS.

044/14 Matters arising from the minutes  
Fix My Street – MS reported that she has received an email to confirm that the pot hole in Parkers Hill will be repaired.

045/14 Update of the Actions List  
See revised list attached.

046/14 District Councillors Report  
Further to the flooding which has taken first priority to help residents, SODC is asking for a list of properties that have been flooded so that they can contact the people involved to offer help and assist in a way that can help in the future. Contact [John.Backley@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:John.Backley@southandvale.gov.uk)  
I have worked with Parish/County Councils to try and sort problems that have occurred on roads, some have caused major disruption. The B4009 is one that caused much distress to the public. Many of the problems are not helped by the RLO (riparian land owner) not clearing ditches, this is not always the case but the exceptional wet weather brought this matter to the fore.

Please contact Suzanne Malcolm or John Backley at southandvale.gov.uk for details of government schemes to assist Flood Victims.

Repair and Renewal Grant that helps to pay for work that improves a property's ability to withstand flooding.

### **Neighbourhood Planning Camps**

A company called Locality is offering a FREE planning camp to help communities prepare their neighbourhood plans. The camps are networking and training events for community members currently preparing or thinking about a neighbourhood plan and who lack professional planning experience.

The camps are funded by the Department of Communities and Local Government. The event is taking place in Oxford from 3 – 5th April. Places are limited to two per neighbourhood group. To sign up for a free place visit the Eden Project's website or if you require further help Hannah Beck – Senior Planning Policy Officer (Neighbourhood) hannah.beck@southandvale.gov.uk 01491 823730

**Young Achievers Award** - I presented 21 young people between the ages of 11 and 18 a cheque for £250.00 to mark their accomplishments in art sport and citizenship, we were very lucky to present two young cricketers with an award, so there is hope for England yet, one of them played for the Aston Rowant Club, another young person for dressage who came from my own village of Towersey, they all were exceptional. Especially the young man who gained a Citizens Award for his work in running a youth club.

Helen Harvey Economic Development Officer Helen.harvey@southandvale.gov.uk is promoting Midsomer Murders in South Oxfordshire.

This is big business with people staying overnight and higher spending visitor profiles are attracted, this spend boosts business across a wide sector of the economy, including retail, dining etc.

One pub in Warborough is getting 4-6 Coaches per week during the summer. Wallingford, Thame and Dorchester also benefit – Tour companies reported a 17% rise in Midsomer tours last year. Please contact Helen Harvey if you have an attraction that might benefit.

Planning – Local Plans for Vale of White Horse - consultation period closes on 4th April also the Northern Gateway Area Action Plan for Oxford City closes on 28th March. Wycombe District Local Plan options consultation this includes the expansion of Princes Risborough - consultation runs until 4th April – Wycombe local plan website. If you require further information please contact Planning Policy Team.

Permitted Development Rights, I have had one or two cases of this type of planning causing problems, I recommend that people using this method of adding to the property check with SODC planning first.

Good News Council tax is one again reduced by 2.5%

We have made efficiency savings by using shared working with the Vale of the White Horse District Council. This is the third consecutive year means a total reduction of 7.5% which is very positive.

047/14

### County Councillors Report

County Council Tax is going up by 1.99%, which was agreed by the three main parties.

The amount we need to save remains at £64 million. However, a saving of £31 million has already been made. This is ongoing.

An extra £1million has been allocated to highway maintenance and £400,000 has been allocated to deal with flooding issues.

AM asked about the new footpath which is being laid between Thame and Morton which appears to be occurring a great deal of costs. DW agreed to investigate this.

A question was received from a member of the public – It appears that local property developers have gone to resurface roads for, but Highways department have refused this offer.

One example of this is in Lewknor. DW said he will also investigate this.

048/14

To receive the Monthly Financial Report

**Balance at Bank 5<sup>th</sup> March 2014 - £10,424.16**

A refund has now been received from the insurance company for works completed at 14 The Laurels of £325.00.

Village Plan

There is £500 set aside in the budget for the Community Led Plan. The CLP group are in the process of completing an application for a grant for the Parish Council to apply for. However, in the meantime there has been some expenditure already incurred. A residents questionnaire needs to be produced and 300 copies will be required. Clerk is to ask Watlington Parish Council if it can be copied there. Future meetings of the group should also now take place at the Memorial Hall to encourage new members. The hall hire costs are currently £6 per hour.

Any grant requires a 10% minimum payment from the Parish.

**Resolved:** To approve £200 towards costs immediately to be paid on receipts. - UNANIMOUS

049/14

To approve Expenditure and sign the following cheques:

I.	S. Pullen Clerk (February)	£316.67
II.	OALC Subscription	£133.07
III.	Clerks & Councils Direct	£ 12.00

**Resolved:** To accept the above expenditure and to pay by BACS – UNANIMOUS

050/14

PATCH/Skatepark

HB reported that the skatepark is starting to be used a lot more regularly since the weather has improved. The PATCH is drying out and nothing appears broken. There are some weeds starting to come through, but it is still too wet to rake. There is also some loose wood lying around, but it is unsure where it has come from.

051/14

Memorial Hall

Everything is running smoothly with new hirers. There is still the kitchen to refurbish and the floor needs completing on the upper floor. BT are installing the WIFI next week which will be fantastic for hirers.

052/14

Planning Applications

**Planning Applications:**

MS declared an interest in the planning application for Zion Farm as she is a neighbour. She requested to speak from the floor and left the room for the vote.

P14/S0090/FUL – Zion Farm, 78 High Street, Tetsworth

Erection of 3 bedroom chalet bungalow with off-street parking on former garden land of 78 High Street.

Several letters have been received with regards to this application which were read out.

KH closed the meeting for a discussion from neighbours and the applicant.

**Resolved:** To request an extension from Mr Lucas, Planning Officer to allow for an onsite meeting and planning meeting to make a decision.

Meeting set for Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March @ 5.00pm on site

Planning Meeting @5.30pm at the Memorial Hall.

UNANIMOUS

**Planning Decisions:**

There were none.

## **Planning Correspondence/Information:**

### **Ditch adjacent to the Swan**

A letter has been sent from Stefanie O'Brien solicitors. We have also written, and await a reply from SODC.

### **Newts at Rectory Homes Site**

We have written to the Planning Officer to with regards to the Newts at the Rectory Homes site. They in turn have written to Rectory Homes and have drawn their attention to the misleading artist's impression in their sales material. Rectory Homes have responded as follows:

*I can confirm the appropriate dividing fence is constructed on site on both plots as required under the terms of the legal agreement and licence. Furthermore, it is quite clear in the legal documentation prepared for purchasers the terms of the Licence are to be adhered to. We are therefore confident that there could be no misunderstanding by prospective purchasers whatsoever. The brochure is purely indicative and does not show all features or indeed details of the licence or legal agreement.*

### **The Oxfordshire Golf Club planning application – Lights**

There is nothing to report further on this. However, it was unanimously agreed that we should keep pushing for a decision.

53/14

### Village Environment

#### **Trees adjacent to Common Land**

The Clerk reported that she had been contacted by Southern Electric who have requested permission to trim some trees adjacent to land next to the Common Land. However, it was uncertain who these trees belong to. Therefore, they contacted SODC to confirm that they weren't protected by a TPO, and the Forestry Department thought they would belong to the Parish. Therefore, the Clerk has signed an authority to cut these back as required.

#### **War Memorial**

There was a vote of thanks to Mrs Smith who has tended the War Memorial which looks beautiful at the moment.

54/14

### Knap Cottage

Following advice from the solicitor it was agreed that the Clerk should submit a bill to Mr and Mrs Armstrong for the rent at Knapp Cottage, until this matter is settled.

55/14

### Community Led Plan

A questionnaire has gone out to five organisations and four responses have been received to date. The Church has said they will respond by tomorrow.

There is now some work to finalise the resident's questionnaire which should be ready soon. This will be paper based and the Clerk has been asked to investigate sending out an electronic version via Survey Monkey. The final version will be ready within the week. The Clerk will do this outside of her normal Parish Council duties and will invoice separately.

Anton Nath from the ORCC has been responsive and is due to attend the next meeting of CLP committee. The group have requested that the Parish Council apply for a grant and a proposal is being put together at the next meeting.

**Resolved:** To apply for the grant and for KH to sign on behalf of the Parish Council.

56/14

### Correspondence

A report was received from PCSO Michelle Jacques as follows:

#### Op Maginot

*To detect and deter travelling criminals. Intelligence gathering using ANPR capability with a high visibility Police presence. (ANPR Automatic number plate recognition)*

Op Magpie

*Vehicles leaving any items on display are noted by officers on patrol and a letter sent to the registered owner. Letters are advisory only.*

Good Work & incidents.

*Police & Fire attended the village following reports of a house fire. It was established that this was actually an unattended fire on private land. Due to the locality to the M40 and the fact it was green waste, Fire were instructed to extinguish the fire.*

*The surrounding area and back roads were heavily affected by last month's flooding which caused major disruption. Police assisted partner agencies throughout this time and resources were deployed to a multitude of incidents. Highways were overwhelmed with incidents of trees down as well as flooding. Farmers and local residents assisted in the removal of large branches and trees which meant officers were able to re-open roads quickly. The neighbourhood team would like to thank the local community for their invaluable assistance and patience given the difficult circumstances.*

**Road outside TSSC**

Roger Benke has reported that with recent flooding, water tankers have been driving past the clubhouse, at times 24 hours a day, to empty at Spencer's Farm, and have significantly damaged the road surface outside the club house.

DN reported that he has also had similar problems and will pass on the contact details to KH to see if we can assist with getting this resolved.

57/14

Other Matters for Discussion

Dog Mess on the Green is still a problem.

**Resolved:** To speak with the PCSO about this.

58/14

Date of Next Meeting

14<sup>th</sup> April 2014

Forthcoming meeting dates to be as follows:

Parish Meeting – 28<sup>th</sup> April

Annual Meeting of the Parish Council - Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May (at The Swan).

**THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.13pm**