

DRAFT

Notice of  
Meeting of the Parish Council on

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2007**

**at 20:00 h**

in

**The Village Hall**

**AGENDA**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Declarations of interest
3. Minutes of previous meeting
4. Matters arising
5. Current tasks
  - RAF
  - Play area/pavilion
  - State of roads
  - Parish plan
  - Affordable Housing
  - Health & Safety – risk assessment to be adopted; discuss gang mower cover.
  - Hampden Way footpath access
6. Planning
7. District/County Councillors' Reports
8. Correspondence
9. Accounts & administration
10. New items of interest
11. Next meeting – 11<sup>th</sup> April 2007 8pm

Parish Clerk            ( phone            01491 837441



funds and was concerned about the responsibility of preparing their own wicket. Various ideas were discussed. NB reiterated that council had decided that it would be unacceptable to fund such a large amount for one small village group. Suggestions included finding sponsorship or voluntary contributions, approaching SODC for a grant, finding someone from the Institute of Groundsmanship to do the work, approaching council for a small one-off S137 grant. SH had prepared a list of grass preparation equipment, most of which could be allocated to the Ewelme cricket club. All agreed this was acceptable. SH to send to Ralph Muller.

SH

- New sign for play area due to arrive next week.

#### **State of roads –**

- New speeding signs had been put up around the village, but several had been damaged within a week.

**Parish plan** – There had been a meeting earlier in the week. Three villagers were to attend a course on Saturday. Revised proposal to be sent in March.

**Affordable Housing** – Gill Oliver had promised SC that she would look at the Old Gym and the site behind the old dairy in the next few weeks.

#### **Health and safety –**

- NB/SH had been working on a risk assessment as required by the auditor. SH to email draft to councillors for approval at March meeting.

SH

#### **Hampden Way path** – results of the questionnaire were:

Sent to:

All houses in Hampden Way, Britwell Road and numbers 11 and 12 Martyn's Way, also displayed on both notice boards asking for comments.

Responses:

Does not want the "footpath" kept open: 5

Wants the "footpath" kept open: 21

Non respondents: 1

Comments from rest of village: 0

Note: there were a mixture of yes and no responses from the fence end of Hampden Way...half and half in the 4 houses at the very end. All of the No responses were at the far end of the road nearer the fence.

Comments on forms:

Against the "path" being kept open:

- Dog fouling is unpleasant, smells in summer
- Noise from dog owners calling their dogs (off lead)
- Dogs off lead going into peoples gardens
- Even numbers have an official footpath behind already. This other "footpath" encourages people to walk in front as well as behind the even number houses.
- Fly tipping has been occurring, then fence will prevent that

For the "path" being kept open:

- It's been there a long time
- Allows safe access to school
- Ugly fence in AONB
- No consultation
- Kids play in wood safely (although private land!) within easy reach of home
- Size of fence
- It would be a neighbourly gesture by SOHA to provide a gate

Discussions focussed on:

- The main issue is that the dog walkers allow their dogs to foul the area around the houses at the end of the road and then on the path through the wood, they also allow their dogs off leads to roam in people's gardens (and the wood) and then make noise calling them back (often at 7am in the morning). Kids also climb onto private property using the access through the wood. Council asked that people try to respect neighbours.

- Council would share the results with SOHA and, since the majority wish, request that a gate be put in the fence. The fence would still deter fly tipping as seems to be large pieces that are dumped. If users continue to be irresponsible, then the gate can always be padlocked.
- It was suggested that council approach the owner of the wood. A member of the audience suggested that, if a path were allowed, perhaps this could be away from the houses.
- Complaints about the dangerous state of the garages in Hampden Way and Britwell Road. Council to request that SOHA make these safe.

## 7. Planning –

**Clare, High Street** – Single storey extension and raising of roof. Dealt with between meetings due to timing. Councillors had refused permission due to concerns about the height of the roof, setting a precedent and neighbours' concerns. SC queried whether councillors wanted it taken to SODC committee if Planning Officers were in a mind to accept it. All agreed, as neighbours had concerns.

## 8. District/County Councillors' Reports –

Tony Crabbe:

County Council had set the budget with only a 4% increase in their portion of the community charge. This was the lowest for many years. Money had been included to improve the Wallingford Youth Centre and to rebuild the Wallingford Fire Station. Tony explained the unitary authorities policy. Costs involved in any changes would have to be regained within 5 years. Benson to Wallingford cycle way on hold due to legal issues. Shillingford bridge to be made one way with a footpath. Work to be done between 5<sup>th</sup> March and 5<sup>th</sup> April. NB queried who was responsible for increasing cable capacity of Wallingford Bridge. TC to find out.

Sue Cooper:

District Council had approved a zero increase for their portion of the community charge. New revenue grants offered to help communities employ people to do locally required jobs e.g. groundsman. Little chance of P.O. enforcement issues being sorted before application is determined. SODC were not able to explain rating value changes. SODC had suggested that a community shop rough business plan would indicate appropriate property price level affordable.

## 9. Correspondence -

Letters:

- OCC - unitary authority explanation.
- Tom Chadwick, The Mount, Cat Lane – asking council to look into parking on corner of Days Lane and High St. Council agreed that the problem needs looking into. A mirror had been suggested by School, but OCC would probably not allow due to safety issues. MF suggested that we ask OCC for comments. SH to contact and respond to Mr Chadwick.
- NALC – review of quality parish and town councils.

Meetings/Consultations/other

- [www.celebratestgeorgesday.com](http://www.celebratestgeorgesday.com) - Brochure encouraging communities to celebrate St Georges day for charity
- Communities and local government - Consultation on amendments to the model code of conduct for local authority members

## 10. Accounts & Administration –

Payments in: £25 pavilion hire

Cheques signed between meetings: SEB (£64.28), Easily.co.uk domain renewal (£29.36)

Cheques signed at meeting: VHMC (£16.50), clerk's wages (£199.21), OPFA subscription renewal all agreed it was worth renewing (£30), Colourplus (£306.75), Barry Rosier (£205), Margaret Blake (£36.95) for framing Grp Cpt Welham's leaving present picture.

SH presented the financial statement.

SH

SH queried the value of the gang mower for insurance, £1000 at present in policy.  
All agreed that was acceptable.  
NB requested that SH set up for next year notional headings for setting aside reserves money.

SH

**11. Other issues raised and for possible future discussion –**

- PL reported that the Fun Run committee had asked that they be allowed to have 4 portaloos on the common this year. All agreed this was fine. Councillors asked that the runners be asked not to use the pavilion toilets. SH to check booking of pavilion. SH
- Ian Grant had asked PL if some gravel/slabs be put around the new seat by the common as it was muddy underfoot. SH to arrange. SH
- Fence around common had branches fallen onto it. Barry Rosier to work on.
- NB suggested that the large goal be moved as there was a good deal of wear in front of it. Also to look at a relocating solution for future. SH
- NB recommended that the gang mower have a hard cover made to prevent accidents. SH to look into and put on agenda for next meeting. SH
- Brian Thompson complained about the mud on footpaths in the pig fields. Philip Chamberlain had promised council that hardcore would be put down, but this had not been done. SH to write again. Permissive path around the Hyde was being used by riders and cyclists. SH to put up signs. SH  
SH
- SC would put up a notice about neighbourhood policing on boards.

**12.** Meeting ended at 09.55 pm

**13.** Date of next meeting – **Changed to Wednesday 21<sup>th</sup> March 2007** at 8pm, village hall