

South Moreton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

held at South Moreton School on Wednesday 30 July 2014

Present: Cllrs Lyn Deeley (Chair), H Ball, C Smith, Dr R Templeman (Clerk) (SMPC), Cllr P Greene (OCC), Cllr Leo Docherty (SODC)

- 14/65 LD opened the meeting at 1930
- 14/66 **To receive councillors' declarations of interests**
RT reminded councillors of their responsibilities to keep their Registers of Interests up to date.
- 14/67 **To record apologies from PC Councillors**
Cllrs J Vacher and B Woollen sent apologies for absence.
- 14/68 **To receive comments from the public, and District and County Councillors**
PG had previously sent his OCC July report to CS for display on the South Moreton Website. He mentioned road repairs in progress on North Moreton and South Moreton High Streets. He said he had been invited by Network Rail to visit Fulscot Bridge with North Moreton Parish Council members to view progress. He also mentioned LTP4 but did not know if it would include a request for direct train services from Didcot to destinations in the South of England, the Midlands, Northern England and Scotland (currently passengers have to change at Oxford or Reading to catch Cross Country services).
LeoD reported on the SODC 17 July meeting which had considered the Community Governance Review proposals for parish boundary changes. He said he had voted against the proposal for moving the South Moreton/North Moreton boundary and RT had put South Moreton's case opposing the change well, but the vote for the change was carried. The boundary will be repositioned from the current location to the railway line with the transfer of the Dunsomer Hill houses, Sherwood Cottage and Millennium Garden to North Moreton.
RT spoke for Mrs Wheeler who had complained about the overgrown state of the allotments and the path from the rear of her house through the allotments.
- 14/69 **To approve the minutes of the 21 May 2014 Annual SMPC meeting**
The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed by LD
- 14/70 **To consider matters arising from the minutes of the 21 May 2014 Annual SMPC meeting not taken elsewhere**
All matters arising taken elsewhere.
- 14/71 **To receive reports from clerk and councillors**
RT said he had been in contact with the new PCSO, Sue Harris, and requested Have Your Say meetings in South Moreton, and speed checks on Dunsomer Hill and Sands Road.
HB reported on a successful village work party on 13 July to mow the Rec and collect the cuttings when many residents helped with rakes. It was agreed that those who had provided and operated the large equipment (Lee Moxon, Billy Woollen and Ken Ball) should be given vouchers to the value of £79 by Cheque #552 signed by LD/HB
SMPC had been invited to publicise and contribute to the consultation on the South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031. Posters had been placed on the SMPC notice board.
- 14/72 **To consider decision of the Community Governance Review**
With reference to the decision to move the North/South Moreton parish boundary, SODC has written to SMPC saying: "If you are aware of any land, property or assets transferring from your parish as a result of this decision please inform this council and provide details of any that are subject to any rights or liabilities". RT offered to draft a reply, which he would copy to councillors for comment before sending to SODC. **ACTION: RT**
- 14/73 **To consider Recreation Ground matters**
Ongoing concerns of Rec mowing procedures were discussed. For the current season the contracted cuts by Azalea Landscapes augmented by cuts as described in 14/71 would continue. For 2015 discussions with Azalea are required with costs of alternative strategies investigated. More initial cuts taking the grass height lower with cutting collection would be required. The possibility of reseeding the area should also be investigated. A proposal from Azalea to weedkill around trees to minimise strimmer cord damage was discussed and approved. **ACTION: RT**
- 14/74 **To consider Millennium Garden matters**
An offer to mow the paths in the Millennium Garden on a voluntary basis had been received from Andrew Searle. SMPC confirmed they were pleased to accept the offer.
- 14/75 **To consider allotment matters**
The overgrown state of most of the allotment area was discussed. It was agreed that LD and HB would discuss the problem with Mrs Wheeler (see 14/68), and instigate remedial work for the whole area as they felt appropriate. **ACTION: HB/LD**
HB offered to investigate obtaining a water supply for allotment users, and to see if any grants would be available to fund this. **ACTION: HB**
- 14/76 **To consider public footpaths and highways matters, including Fulscot Bridge**
RT said he had reported to NR the overgrown footpath from Sand Road bridge alongside the railway to the allotments: their response did not promise speedy action.

The problem of the overhanging hedge obstructing the High Street pavement at the Clements Green junction has been reported to OCC: their reference 653933.

SMPC is getting biweekly reports on progress with the works to return Fulscot Bridge and its approach roads to public use. These reports can be seen on www.southmoreton.org.uk website and indicate that reopening is now scheduled for early September. However, SMPC is not happy with lack of communication regarding its concerns over pedestrian safety and some loss of visibility of vehicles on the bridge for traffic approaching from South Moreton. There is also concern for safety of rail enthusiasts who use the bridge. RT agreed to write to NR outlining these concerns and to ask about outstanding technical approvals from OCC.

ACTION: RT

RT said he had had comments from parishioners about the timing of the closure of Sands Road, Dunsomer Hill and North Moreton High Street (23-28 June) while Fulscot Bridge Road was closed which meant difficulties for commuters to London and parents of Didcot residents whose children attend South Moreton School.

14/77 **To consider public transport matters**

RT commented on the 23-28 June road closure mentioned in 14/76. In the event repairs were only made on Dunsomer Hill, so the closure of High Street, NM and Sands Road meant the bus service from the Bear Lane and Sands Road bus stops was unnecessarily withdrawn. There had also been problems with timing of buses on the 95 service to Didcot via Blewbury.

The Moretons' subsidised bus service is due for review with a new contract to start in 2015. RT, as SM's Parish Transport Representative (PTR), floated the idea of requesting a diversion of the Thames Travel X2 service through the Moretons. This would give good connections to Wallingford, Brightwell, Tesco, Didcot and Abingdon, and make the current 95 service to Didcot via the Astons and Blewbury redundant. Problems with this might be that the X2 is a commercial service, currently operating without OCC subsidy and OCC are looking to make savings rather than introduce new services. The suggestion was well received by SMPC and RT was asked to pursue it with OCC at PTR meetings and during the review process.

ACTION: RT

14/78 **To consider traffic problems within South Moreton**

Discussions with OCC continue in an attempt to get speed enforcement and a footway along Dunsomer Hill, with little progress. There is a suggestion from Anthony Kirkwood of OCC's Road Safety Engineering Team to repeat the safety assessment following the re-opening of Fulscot Bridge with an opportunity for a site visit with him and representatives of SMPC. RT said he would follow up on this suggestion if councillor(s) were interested

ACTION: RT/Councillors

14/79 **To consider organisation of village summer event**

It was agreed that SMPC would not hold a village summer event, but were pleased that HB and others would organise a fete on the Rec on September Sunday 7th September starting at 2pm to include a BBQ, Tea tent, Bottle tombola, Smack the rat, Duck fishing, Coconut shy and Skittles.

14/80 **To consider financial matters.**

i) The current financial summary

The balance in the Lloyds Bank current account was £3511.71 on 24 June 2014. A claim for a VAT refund of £901.67 has been submitted to HMRC.

There is £4698.02 in the NS&I account.

ii) Approval of payments

£15.00 to J Herman-Stokes for Rec strimming by cheque #548 signed by LD/HB

£428.20 to AON for insurance by cheque #549 signed by LD/HB

£305.23 to CD2ROM Information Services for Clerk's fees April-June 2014 by cheque #550 signed by HB/LD

£90.00 to J Herman-stokes for Rec strimming April-July 2014 by cheque #551 signed by HB/LD

An invoice for £62.80 has been received from SODC for dog bin emptying for 2014 Q2 but this has been rejected as it showed incorrect dates.

Consideration of external audit report

RT presented the annual report from BDO, the external auditors, which had concluded that all was in order. SMPC accepted the report but noted that BDO had mentioned an unavoidable rounding error of £1.

iii) Bank mandate

The bank mandate requires updating to remove Nichola I'Anson as a signatory for Lloyds bank cheques, and to add CS in this capacity. CS offered to complete the necessary form with help from councillors.

ACTION: RT/Councillors/CS

iv) Clerk's contract

It was agreed to continue the clerk's contract without change for a further year.

14/81 **To consider planning matters**

i) Report on application decisions

For a revision to P14/S0433/HH dated 8 May 2014. SMPC had decided to recommend Approval. Application granted by SODC on 6 June 2014

For P14/S1143/HH for rear extension and loft conversion at 'Extonia', Anchor Lane. SMPC had returned No Strong Views allowing OCC to determine the proposal. Granted by SODC on 12 June 2014.

P14/S1101/P11 from Network Rail had also been registered on the www.southoxon.gov.uk website on 8 April regarding the jacking of Fulscot Bridge in December. Approved by SODC.

ii) *New applications*

None

14/82 **To assess risk and its management**

All deadlines have been met. The 2015/6 budget and precept should be discussed at the next meeting.

14/83 **To respond to correspondence and discuss matters arising from Item 3 (14/68)**

14/84 **To take AOB at Chairman's discretion**

LD mentioned that she had noticed other parishes had installed fitness equipment on their recreation grounds and offered to find out if funding was generally available to parish councils for this.

ACTION: LD

14/85 **To schedule the next meeting**

A Wednesday end September TBA

With no other business, LD declared meeting closed at 2130

Minutes approved by on 22 October 2014

Cllr Lyn Deeley, Chairman