

TACKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on 6 July 2015 at Tackley Village Hall

Present: Councillor June Collier (Chair) Councillor Paul Joslin (V/chair)

Councillors Robin Gibbons, John Cook, Neil Wilson, Elizabeth Marshall, Les Summers

Councilor Charles Cottrel Dormer (West OxDC)

Councilor Ian Hudspeth (OxCC)

The meeting was opened at 19.10 (7.10 pm), Councilor Collier explaining that in the absence of the clerk, the Minutes would be taken by Councilor Summers

15/047) Apologies for absence: Linda Jones, Clerk.

15/048) Minutes of the Council meeting held on 11 May 2015

It was proposed by Councilor Cook and seconded by Councilor Gibbons that the Minutes of the meeting held on 23 June be confirmed. Agreed unanimously.

15/049) Minutes of Informal meeting held on 16 June 2015: It was agreed to take this item at the next meeting.

15/050) Annual Parish Meeting 11 May 2015

Councilor Cook raised the following items from the Minutes of that meeting-

15/031) Councilor Gibbons said that the main issue being referred to was the problem of the crossing and the possible replacement(s) for it when the crossing is closed to passengers, as is the policy of Network Rail.

15/033) The reference to the School Governors Report which it appeared no one had seen, and it was believed, had not been issued. *See item 15/055 reference to 15/046 ii*

15/054) Declarations of interest:

None

15/055) Matters Arising from Minutes: 11 May 2015

15/046 i: Notice board repair: Councilor Joslin said that he had not received a quote from Mr Harmon and in further reply to the suggestion to buy new, added that it was preferable to get the old one repaired. This was agreed.

15/046 ii: Councilor Marshall said that her appointment as a governor of the primary school had been challenged; there was some disagreement about eligibility and it was agreed to let the current situation continue until after the next PC election.

15/046 iv: Bus services: Councilor Wilson confirmed that the Sunday S4 service and the 0900 shopping service to Woodstock were being withdrawn. Councillor Cottrel Dormer said that the service through Steeple Aston had also been withdrawn and Councilor Hudspeth added that since the S4 was a purely commercial operation Stagecoach could alter the timetable at will. Councilor Joslin said that the bus stop at the top of Church Hill opposite Sturdy's was being moved on to the main road in order to facilitate a Sunday S4 stop for Tackley residents. Councillor Wilson regarded this as unsatisfactory; the matter was on-going.

15/056) County Council

Councilor Hudspeth said that the OXCC budget for next year was a matter of serious concern and referred to various subsidies and outlays which would have to be critically examined in order to achieve a balanced budget.

Councilor Cook mentioned –

- i) Angelino's corner which he believed was very dangerous due to limited visibility.
- ii) Encroachment on to verges by the Sturdy's Castle Dealership. Councillor Wilson reported that the police had informed him that this was not causing a traffic problem. Councilor Cottrel Dormer, however, said that it was contravening a planning restriction. The chair said that it would be raised with Kim Smith.
- iii) An apparent increase in parking around the village green. The chair said that this may have been a transient result of the need to crop the willow tree which had now been done.
- iv) A hedge had been planted at at 17 Medcroft Road (Jonathan Bevan) abutting on to the verge which was reducing the visibility at the exit from the VH car park and was probably illegal. It was agreed that the Clerk should be asked to write to the resident drawing attention to this.
- v) Garden flowers growing over pathways on Medcroft and Nethercott Roads. It was agreed that the clerk should write asking the residents concerned to tie them back.

vi) What progress, if any was being made with the owner of the land at 44a St Johns. There was no answer to this question.

The chairman raised the following points –

i) Storm water bund: Councillor Hudspeth said there was no information as to when a start would be made on this, he would seek an answer to the question.

ii) School ditch: OCC was supposed to be co-ordinating this matter but there had been no response from Adrian Saunders. Councillor Hudspeth said he would investigate.

15/057) District Council

Councillor Wilson reported an apparently abandoned vehicle in the village hall car park. The village PCSO had advised that the car was subject to a SORN declaration and that the owner was registered to a Didcot address. Councillor Cottrel Dormer replied that the PC should contact Bob Lightfoot at the WODC offices.

15/058) Play Area handover

Vanessa Langton spoke from the floor about progress with the Playground Project which had now reached the point at which responsibility for the play area should be returned to the Parish Council. She spoke to the accounts of the project group, which had been circulated, explaining that there was a small deficit which it was subsequently established may very well be covered by other payments. The group had established a need for £95,335.70p, raised £102,365.56p and spent £103,354.91p.

Ms Langton also drew attention to maintenance procedures and expenses which she hoped the PC would continue to service. A maintenance manual would be put into the council's hands in due course. Finally she said that the use of the Play Area had previously been, on average, about 25 children per week. It was now 800 children per week and there had been an increase in shop profit of 5-7% as a result. Councillor Marshall expressed thanks to Ms Langton and Mr Mark Hilton for their huge commitment to this project which was endorsed by all present.

15/059) Planning

i) Planning Application No 15/02101/FUL Vehicle workshop at Whitehill for Vodaphone: No adverse comments

ii) Balliol Farm (cut off date for comments is 23 July 2015)

The chair read out written comments left by residents in the Coffee Shop. These included references to the size of the proposal, concerns about security and disturbance, and a risk of flooding in Nethercott Road, rights of way and proposed open space, and criticism of the new access to the station particularly by disabled people. Councilor Cook again raised concern about the disparity between what Thames Water had said about the application, that the drainage system was inadequate to meet its needs and what they had told the parish council, to the contrary. Speakers from the floor reiterated the comments made in the Coffee Shop, describing it as a 'massive impact on the quality of life right from the doorstep'. Councilor Cottrel Dormer said that Balliol Farm was a Greenfield site and therefore it was appropriate to take a harder line against it. Councilor Gibbons informed the meeting that the possible connection with a Network Rail access to the station was not part of the application and could not be referred to in representations made about it. Councillor Cook continued that whereas the Street Farm site had been registered as a possible development site in 2008 and included in the SHLAA list more recently, Balliol Farm was not similarly designated. However the landowner of Balliol Farm had been approached by WODC and asked whether the land was still available. Cllr Cottrell-Dormer advised that this had been a general enquiry to many similar site owners but Councilor Cook continued that it highlighted the fact that WODC are still under pressure to provide houses and implied that an application may be accepted. The subsequent pre-application advice was also positive in nature. Councillor Summers proposed a meeting specifically to discuss the Balliol Farm application and this was agreed. It would be at 19.00 (7pm) on Tuesday 14 July at the village hall.

15/060) Traffic Report

Speaking from the floor Hugh Vaughn Jones, traffic consultant made an offer to undertake a professional assessment of the traffic situation in Tackley, particularly in relation to the two planning applications. Councilor Wilson said that the traffic assessments in the applications were weak and out of date but Councilor Cook asserted that since traffic problems had not previously been identified, bringing them forward now would appear to the planning authority to be stratagems which they would query. He added that Nethercott Road in itself need study. Councilor Hudspeth said that an independent professional assessment would carry more weight with the Highways authority. Councilor Cottrel Dormer suggested that OCC Highways did not

accept the existence of problems that it is perfectly apparent do exist and furthermore deny the information when it is put forward.

15/061) Finance

It was proposed by Councilor Marshall and seconded by Councilor Wilson that the following payments be approved (ratified?):

- i) £100.00 to ODV
- ii) £40.00 to OPFA
- iii) £19,500.00 to Pavilion Paving; £1,000 from TPC, balance from PCC (Church)
- iv) £975 56p to Green Scythe
- v) £20.00 to OCC (Crecy Hill)
- vi) £402.21 to Aon Insurance
- vii) £171.21p to J Collier (Crecy Hill)
- viii) £147.30p to HMRC
- ix) £7,794.00 to Safe & Sound (Play Area) Play Area
- x) £78.00 to Sheldon Healthcare (Play Area)
- xi) £975.56p to Green Scythe
- xii) £200.00 to Quadtrack (Auditor)
- xiii) £96.00 to Tackley Village Hall

15/062) Railway

Councilor Gibbons reported –

i) that Network Rail were undertaking a feasibility study of putting a bridge from the Balliol Farm development onto the platforms at Tackley station. He would circulate the details when he has them to hand.

ii) Network Rail were undertaking a review of railway crossing policy; this could affect what is done at Tackley.

iii) FGW Customer & Community Fund: As proposed at the informal meeting on 16 June a bid had been made for additional facilities under this scheme. He outlined the kind of improvements that were being requested though there was no guarantee that Tackley would be successful.

15/063) Other matters

i) Footpath Week 11-19 July: Arrangements for this annual event were discussed with John Harding.

ii) The chair confirmed that Linda Jones had resigned from the office of Clerk and that one application for the position had, so far, been received.

Matters from the floor

None

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 21.00 (9 o'clock).