

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 16th September 2009.

Present Cllr John Phipps (Chairman)
Cllr Andrew Hull
Cllr Dave Isbell
Cllr David Eversden
Cllr Alan Oates
Cllr Colin Golding
Cllr Kate Binks
Cathryn Carlisle (Clerk)

09/253 Apologies for Absence
There were none

09/254 Consideration of the minutes of the PC meeting held on Wednesday 19 August 2009.
These were amended and signed.

09/255 Declarations of interest
Cllr Golding agenda item 09/262
Cllr Hull Agenda item 09/262
Cllr Phipps agenda item 09/258.2

09/256 Public participation session with respect to items on the agenda and other matters that are of mutual interest.
No members of the public present.

09/257 Clerk's Report
The Clerk reported that she had spoken to Alpha Signs with regard to the refurbishment of the Village Sign. She was informed that the sign would be taken down this week.

The bench on White's Hill is in need of a clean Cllr Phipps has agreed to go and look at the bench and report back to the Clerk.

The Clerk reported that the hedge on White's Hill by the telephone box needs to be kept cut, but Greenfields need more details. The Clerk to send details.

The Clerk attended an Emergency Planning Evening at BDC, where the Flood Barrier equipment that was available to PCs was described. One item of interest is an emergency bag is available that can be stored in the parish

room in case of any emergency. This bag contains blankets and towels etc. The clerk to look into obtaining one for the parish council.

Jan Cole from the RCCE has sent an e-mail regarding the "Developing Action Plans" meeting on the 3rd December. It was agreed that this would be an agenda item in October.

09/258 Highways and Footpaths

09/258.1 Grass Verges and Hedges

The Clerk has asked for clarification on which hedges need trimming so she can write to the home owners.

The clerk reminded the council that the subject of asking either Highways or land owners to cut hedges and the reporting of 'potholes' to Highways do not require to wait and be raised as Agenda items. All that is necessary is to inform the Clerk as soon as possible and she will take the appropriate action.

09/258.2 Flower Beds -

Cllr Golding gave a presentation on the siting of flower beds on Whites Hill and estimates of the costs. The proposed scheme would cost some £3,500 to install and then there would be a maintenance cost each year. After discussion it was agreed that such flowerbeds would not fit into the rural landscape on Whites Hill. It was agreed that a flowerbed would be appropriate on the triangle outside the Village Hall and perhaps around the 'Shalford' sign on Whites Hill. It was agreed that Cllr Golding, with the help of Cllr Hull for his knowledge would prepare a more modest plan and get estimates of the cost.

09/258.3 Speedwatch - No Monthly update

09/258.4 Traffic using Water Lane

Cllr Oates reported on a meeting between local residents and representatives from ECC Highways Department held in Water Lane early September. The subject of this meeting was to try and get ECC Highways to restrict the number of vehicles using Water Lane and to reduce their speed. The PC was asked to write to Robbie Jamieson in support of these requests. It was noted that the PC had already approached both the Police and EC Highways department about this matter and had agreed in May 2009 to take no further action. Having done this under the 'Six-month Rule' this matter will not be discussed further until the November PC meeting when it can be raised.

09/258.5 The purchase of a SID

The council looked at a quote for a device, and suggest that we get a report from Panfield's Clerk on the reaction by motorists to the SID in their village. It was noted that if the planning application for the 'Affordable Houses' at Church End is approved ECC Highways will require the developer to contribute £ 6000 for the installation of vehicle activated speed indication devices.

09/259 Report from Planning Committee

09/259.1 Request for the PC to complete a questionnaire for a research student on the subject 'Engagement in planning process focussing on the role and influence of parish and town councils'. It was agreed that Cllr Oates would complete the Questionnaire

09/259.2 Planning Results.

09/00955/FUL Affordable Housing development - Planning Application meeting at BDC 22 September 2009.

Cllr Oates reported that he would not be able to attend the meeting s he would be in Scotland. Cllr Phipps reported that he would not be able to attend as he had to be in London on that day organizing an examination. Cllr Golding agreed to attend the meeting to represent the PC.

09/00988/FUL & 09/00989/LBC Garretts Lane Shalford

Erection of two storey extension to west side of dwelling with one and half storey link adjoining single storey rear extension, demolition of C20th additions (single storey west and north) and general repair and maintenance.

09/00980/LBC Brook Cottage Water Lane Shalford Braintree CM7 4QX
Detail amendments to extension and alterations.

09/260 Parish Council Vacancy

Cllrs had met with Kate Binks and had unanimously agreed to co-opt her on to the Parish Council.

09/261 Finance

09/261.1 £176.60 Clerks Salary,

09/261.2 £45.00 Phipps Landscapes, Bus shelter maintenance

09/261.3 £11.77 Clerks Expenses Stamps 3 /Travel 14 miles @ £0.40 =
£5.60/Telephone Calls £5.00

09/261.4 £144.90 MD Landscapes Grass Cutting

09/261.5 £190.00 Shalford Parochial Council - Churchyard grass cutting

09/261.6 £555.00 Bramleys - Footpath cutting

09/261.7 £178.25 Audit Commission

09/261.8 Audit figures

The Audit figures have been received back from the auditor these have been signed off by the Audit Commission. On the understanding that the matter of payments made without the correct reporting of these payments to HMC&E and Inland Revenue had been resolved.

Clerks Note

It was agreed that a statement would be added to the minutes regarding Agenda Item '09/247.6 Audit figures and Internal Auditor's report (Breach of law)'. This dealt with the payments paid in the past to Cllr Oates as a volunteer for cutting footpaths under the P3 Agreement.

' No blame can be attached to Cllr Oates for the problems highlighted by the Auditor regarding the 12 pence per metre paid under the P3 agreement, as in the past it had been assumed by Cllr Oates that this payment was the reimbursement of 'expenses' to cover the cost of fuel and wear and tear and servicing of equipment and not an income that had to be declared to 'HM Revenue and Customs'

09/261.9 To note the cost of running the Village Hall.

The running cost of the village hall is approximately £5,000 per year. Most of this is for Electricity/Oil/Insurance. It was suggested that the Precept should be raised to pay for the Village Hall maintenance. The Clerk reported that in the past Shalford Residents had not liked the idea of their taxes being used for such funding. It was noted that the Trustees are responsible for the Village Hall and it was recommended to the Village Hall Management Committee that the Trustees of the Village Hall be asked to help fund a new roof for the Village Hall.

09/261.10 Budget - to agree a Wish-List for 2010. After discussion it was agreed that the budget for 2010 should include grants to Shalford Organisations and the Village Hall Management Committee. It was agreed that the Precept Should not be increased to provide such funds and that cuts should be made elsewhere in the budget.

09/262 Report on Village Hall activities which require action from the PC

The Village Hall Committee has asked for match funding for new the playing field equipment. Councillors agreed to earmark £4,500 for such equipment. It was noted that Cllr Golding is only the Acting Chairman until such time as a permanent Chairman can be found. It was further noted that as Cllr Hull is the representative of the PC on the Village Hall Management Committee and as such should not hold the position of Vice-Chairman of this committee.

09/263 Matters to be raised by members for the next agenda

Payment of Alan Oates invoice for footpath cutting.

Boxted Wood

Cluster Meeting agenda items

Flowerbeds

Developing Action Plans 3rd Dec

09/264 Date of next Meeting

21st October 2009

09/265 Meeting Closed at 10.10

Signed.....

Dated.....