

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SHIPLAKE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN  
SHIPLAKE MEMORIAL HALL  
ON MONDAY FEBRUARY 8<sup>th</sup> 2015 AT 7.45 P.M.**

- 1. PRESENT Mr** T Taylor (Chair) Mr G Thomas, Mr R Head, Mr F Maroudas, Mr M Leonard, Mr D Pheasant, Mr R Curtis, Mr D Bartholomew (OCC) Mr P Harrison. (DC)**APOLOGIES.** Mr C Smith and Mr G Davies sent their apologies
- 2. DECLARATIONS OF GIFTS & INTEREST.** Councillors were given the opportunity to declare any gifts or interest in any item on the Agenda. Mr R Curtis declared an interest in the PA's for Grays Lodge and Shiplake College and Mr T Taylor declared an interest in PA for Randall House.
- 3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY JANUARY 11<sup>th</sup> 2015** were approved on a motion proposed by Mr G Thomas and seconded by Mr R Curtis.
- 4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**
  - 1.AONB response from John Howell MP to Kidmore End PC. Clerk updated Council. Clerk requested to send a further reminder with the original letter and include Chilterns in the communication. ACTION: Clerk
  - 2.SOHA response to request for meeting. Clerk updated Council. Meeting has been arranged with Mr S Lynch
  - 3.Buses parking. Clerk updated Council.
  - 4.Clerk requested to circulate a n up to date list of contact numbers to Councillors. ACTION: Clerk

**5. POLICE MATTERS.**

Report from PCSO Ashley Richardson

URN 735 -- 11/01/16 – white van parked over a driveway on Station Road. Police gave words of advice to van owner and no more issues arose.

**6. O.C.C. Cllr D Bartholomew.**

**REPORT TO SHIPLAKE PARISH COUNCIL FEBRUARY 2016**

**GENERAL OCC REPORT**

**1. BUDGET**

As reported last month, prior to Christmas, Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) went out to consultation on possible additional budget cuts totalling £51m, which at the time was believed to be the worst-case scenario. It was hoped that when central Government confirmed the local government settlement that not all the 95 savings measures consulted on would have to be taken. As it transpired, due to a change in the funding formula which unexpectedly penalised shire counties, the settlement was even worse than expected and the total additional savings required now total £69m.

Councillor Ian Hudspeth, the leader of OCC, said: "The clear message from our budget consultation in the Autumn was that making proposed savings would have a real impact on people and communities. We had hoped our original savings options would be a worst-case scenario and that we would not therefore have to go ahead with them all. We are desperately sorry that we now have to consider all these savings, but will be doing everything we can to help communities manage the impact. We have found a series of short-term measures, including drawing on reserves, to buy time before we have to make yet more new savings to cover the difference between £51m and £69m. Our approach remains the same: we want to try to protect the most vulnerable people in Oxfordshire – by which we mean those adults who need help with basic personal care and children at risk of abuse or neglect."

By law, OCC has to produce a balanced budget and Cabinet has made the necessary recommendations that will be debated by Full Council on February 16th. This includes a proposal to raise Council Tax by 3.99%.

2. **PROPERTY, BACK OFFICE AND RESERVES**

There have been misleading media reports that OCC could reduce its financial challenges by selling property, cutting the back office and drawing on reserves. The reality is that OCC has already sold more than 100 properties realising over £62 million that has been used on capital projects. Furthermore, 26 leases have been terminated saving over £2.1 million pa. With regard to back office functions, the number of directors has been cut by 50%, senior managers by over 40% and staff generally by 30%. Various services are already shared with other councils and partners, and further options are being explored to find even more back office savings. Reserves are already being drawn upon and will soon become low compared to expenditure.

3. **BACKLASH AGAINST SHIRE COUNTIES SETTLEMENT**

Up to 50 MPs are understood to have signed a letter demanding changes to the Government's proposed settlement with local government, which was published last month. The letter calling for shire councils to be given more money has been sent to the Communities Secretary, Greg Clarke, before a final deal is laid before the Commons within the next fortnight. The Government insists the proposal is a good deal because it also allows local authorities to set their own business rates and increase council tax to make up the shortfall. But one Conservative MP said: "There are a lot of us who are absolutely furious about this. We accept the need for cuts, but it's about fairness. How can it be right that rural councils are facing cuts of 33 per cent, but urban areas – where it is cheaper to provide services – are facing a reduction of just 19 per cent? In Wales, it's just 8 per cent and Scotland 4 per cent."

4. **RISE OF APPRENTICES BOOSTS THRIVING OXFORDSHIRE ECONOMY**

Recent growth in the number of Oxfordshire young people choosing apprenticeships as the key to forging a career is outstripping regional figures. While the number of apprenticeship starts for 16-24 year-olds fell across the South East by 2.5 per cent in 2014/15 compared with the previous academic year, Oxfordshire's figure rose by 2.4 per cent, as employers took on 2,510 new starters.

**SPECIFIC REPORT FOR SHIPLAKE**

5. **SIGNAGE ISSUES: FOOTPATHS 7 & 36 AND MILL LANE RESTRICTED BYWAY**

Further to the visit by the Right of Way Officer on the 21st Dec and the lack of progress, the officer will again be writing to residents about the unofficial signs that are in place. The ROW team will be visiting the area in the near future to replace/refresh official signs.

6. **SAFETY ISSUES ON A4155 BETWEEN SHIPLAKE AND SPAN HILL**

An order has been placed to replace the damaged chevrons on the hill-top at Span Hill and these should be installed shortly. Vegetation is due to be cut back around various other road signs and land-owners have been contacted about other overgrown vegetation.

7. **POTENTIAL THIRD THAMES BRIDGE**

I was concerned to learn that the traffic modelling study I previously reported on has morphed into a 'Strategic Outline Business Case' and is being pursued with enthusiasm by various Berkshire councils and enterprise groups. My concern was heightened when I learned that SODC is also to contribute to funding these early stages. They are adding £10,000 to the £25,000 being contributed by OCC. I have tabled a question to the OCC Cabinet asking for reassurance that OCC's position remains sceptical rather than enthusiastic and that the county is contributing to the costs in order to remain part of the process rather than to promote the objective before the results of the study have been obtained and analysed

**S.O.D.C. Cllr P Harrison /Cllr W Hall**

**SODC Report to Shiplake Parish Council 8/2/16**

1. **SODC Budget**

The SODC Budget has now gone through Cabinet and will be coming to the next full Council meeting. The Budget includes a number of growth areas as well as a 0% change to the Council Tax. The overall cumulative multi-tier tax residents pay may be increasing, the District Council continues to either reduce or freeze.

## **2 David Buckle's Retirement**

David Buckle will be retiring as chief executive later in 2016. Also after 42 years service Chris Tyson will be leaving the council shortly. His current responsibilities will be split in the short term between Andrew (Economic Development and Property), Clare (Leisure) and William (Arts, including Cornerstone). To achieve a better balance across service heads I am also going to move the Corporate Policy team from Clare to Andrew.

## **3 Corporate Services Contract**

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils are set to save a total of £8 million over the course of the next nine years, by signing a contract with two companies to run some mainly back-office services.

South and Vale councils are working with three other councils in the South of England to draw up a shared contract so two companies can run some of their internal departments like HR and IT.

The five councils, separated geographically but united by their vision to deliver improved, more affordable services are set to save more than £50 million through a pioneering procurement believed to be the first of its kind in the UK.

There have been examples of councils working together to secure savings through shared contracts but this is the first time that a group of councils have looked beyond their neighbours to achieve this.

In 2014, despite being more than 85 miles apart, the councils (Hart District Council and Havant Borough Council in Hampshire, Mendip District Council in Somerset and South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse District Councils in Oxfordshire) embarked on an ambitious project to consolidate their purchasing power into one entity to award contracts to deliver a suite of services on their behalfs. The focus for the project was on securing better value for money services for residents.

This work culminated last night with the last of the councils agreeing to award a contract to Capita to deliver a range of corporate services including HR, IT and finance and to Vinci to provide facilities management and property services. The contracts will collectively save the councils more than £50 million over a nine-year period.

As well as delivering enormous financial savings, at a time when funding streams for local councils are being tightened considerably, the new contracts are expected to improve services for residents.

The councils will be benefitting from the two companies' extensive experience across the public and private sectors to continually review and improve services across the organisations.

In agreeing these deals the five councils have broken the mould for outsourcing with this being the first to involve councils from very different parts of the country, proving location is no longer a barrier to achieving savings if partners are committed to joint working and share the same goals. It's a move that's being closely observed by central government and many local authorities across the country.

Subject to the contracts being signed on 31 March 2016 they're expected to start in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse in August 2016 and for the remaining councils between July and October 2017.

The councils will manage the contracts through a new joint monitoring team, which will see staff from across the organisations working together. For the rest of the staff affected it could mean relocating to centres of excellence operated by the two companies in order to improve resilience in service delivery.

The councils and both companies will be providing support, advice and training to staff throughout the transition to the new contracts.

## **4 SODC Land Supply**

The Secretary of State for Planning and Housing has backed South Oxfordshire District Council's decision to refuse permission to redevelop Thame Police Station into housing, citing the council's five-year land supply.

The council initially refused permission for the development because of the effect on the living conditions of local residents, the effect on the Conservation Area, parking provision, and the potential for continued employment use of the site. The developer appealed and a planning inspector opened an inquiry and recommended that the appeal should be dismissed.

As the application involves a residential development of more than 10 homes in an area with an adopted Neighbourhood Plan, the Secretary of State stepped in to make the decision. He agreed with the planning inspector's recommendation that the appeal should be dismissed.

The Secretary of State's report into the appeal stated that the council has a five-year land supply and therefore the local policies in the Development Plan can be considered up to date.

## **5 Thames Farm**

Given the Support from the Secretary of State and the fact that the District Council selected sites in the Core Strategy within the towns gives a level of confidence. However, it is still critical that the Henley and Harpsden neighbourhood plan is adopted to limit the risk. Due to the referendum area being designated by the examiner prior to the boundary changes a number of residents now in Shiplake get a vote, and conversely some residents now in Harpsden don't get a vote.

The referendum takes place on the 10th March.

## **6 Grants**

Our latest round of community funding opens on Monday 1 February. It's a pot of money to help build and improve community facilities, and covers things like building sports pavilions and village halls or giving them a facelift, or buying new equipment.

Your local community groups or parish councils could benefit from this. If you have any questions, email the grants team or give them a call on 01235 540525.

8. **OPEN FORUM** The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.16 pm and allowed questions from the floor. Mr Scott spoke in support of his planning application for Gray's Lodge. The Chairman resumed the meeting at 8.21pm

## **9. SPECIAL REPORTS-PLANNING.**

### **10. PLANNING**

The Planning Working Party submitted the following recommendations

#### **A) APPLICATIONS.**

P15/S4211/FUL: Randall House, Mill Road, Lower Shiplake RG9 3LP

Applicant: Mr J Regan Type: Other.

Proposal: Variation of condition 2 of P15/S1209-alterations to garage.

Recommendation: We consider P15/S1209, and therefore this variation, to be contrary to the SODC Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (July 2013) with regard to redevelopment within Flood Zone 3b and maintain our objection for the record, but accept that SODC will determine it as it deems fit.

P15/S3912/FUL: Willows Reach, Mill Lane, Lower Shiplake RG9 3LY

Applicant Mr J Glasspole. Type: Minor.

Proposal: Demolition of existing building and erection of new dwelling.

Recommendation: **NO STRONG VIEWS**, subject to EA approval.

P15/S4041/FUL: Devonvale and Little Vale, Mill Road, Lower Shiplake RG9 3LN

Applicant: Oraclemarker Ltd. Type: Minor.

Proposal: Demolition of existing dwellings and erection of 2 pairs of semi-detached dwellings and associated parking.

Recommendation: **NO STRONG VIEWS**, with following comments:

- 1) All construction vehicles to be restricted to on-site, given the proximity to busy crossroads and school bus-stop.
- 2) Particular consideration to be given to sewage and surface water management, given existing problems in this area.

Certificate of Lawful Development application received by SODC in respect of:  
5 Quarry Lane, Lower Shiplake RG9 3JW  
for erection of single storey rear and side extension to replace existing conservatory.

P15/S4337/FUL: Lashbrook Chapel, Mill Road, Lower Shiplake RG9 3LW.

Applicant: Mr R Hester. Type: Full

Proposal: Change of use from an ancillary domestic building to a single dwelling. No external changes proposed. Internal modifications only.

Recommendation: **NO STRONG VIEWS**, subject to Environment agency approval.

P16/S0121/LB: Shiplake College

Applicant: Shiplake College Type: Other

Proposal: Structural repair of the south elevation to Burr House, gable end wall to games room and alteration of external cellar access/coal chute.

Recommendation: **NO STRONG VIEWS**.

Recent applications received and pending review:

P16/S0140/HH: Watersmeet, Mill Lane, Lower Shiplake

P16/S0203/FUL: Grays Lodge, Bolney Trevor Drive, Lower Shiplake

P16/S0201/HH: Crescent Key, The Crescent, Lower Shiplake.

The recommendations were approved on a motion proposed by Mr F Maroudas and seconded by Mr R Head

## **B) DETERMINATIONS.**

The following applications were determined by SODC: (SPC recommendations in brackets)

P15/S2854: Chelford House, Reading Road, Lower Shiplake

APPROVED: Variation of conditions-13 Landscaping and 14 Tree protection. **(Refusal)**

P15/S3650: Rambler Cottage, Reading Road, Lower Shiplake

REFUSED: Replacement of 2m high fencing with 3m fencing. **(Refusal).**

## **C) OTHER.**

MINERALS AND WASTE LOCAL PLAN-CORE STRATEGY: OCC have submitted their draft document, and the representations received, to the Secretary of State for independent examination.

THAMES FARM: Leaflets have been distributed to Henley and Harpsden households in the lead-up to the JHHNP referendum on 10 March canvassing new proposals. A request has been received from the developer's agent for a meeting with Council to explain proposals, Council rejected the notion of a private meeting and requested the Clerk to write to Mr Durrant inviting him to attend the open forum of any PC meeting. ACTION: Clerk.

Council reiterated and re-approved their strong objection to any residential development on the Thames Farm site, proposed by Mr T Taylor and seconded by Mr F Maroudas.

## **11. FINANCIAL MATTERS.**

The month accounts for February are attached and the following payments require approval

R V Hudson – salary January	222.15	102445	338.27
R V Hudson – expenses, office allowance. January	223.15	102446	144.74
Inland Revenue – clerk’s tax January	224.15	102447	225.20
Oxford It Solutions	225.15	102448	420.00
Oxford It Solutions	226.15	102449	53.54
Shiplake College (Playground repairs)	227.15	102450	80.00
Staples Business Account	228.15	102451	5.99
Shiplake Memorial Hall Room Hire	229.15	102452	171.41
Redsplash Consultancy (Moravia safety mirror)	230.15	102453	385.56
Broadband	231.15	DD	37.91

The accounts were approved on a motion proposed by Mr T Taylor and seconded by Mr R Curtis.

**12. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION.**

**104/16 HIGHWAY MATTERS.**

1. Mr R Head to update Council on potential dangerous speed hot spots, which may require additional anti speed measures Mr R Head reported that he is in the process of setting up a small working party to discuss these items.
2. Clerk requested to report damage to the verge in Memorial Avenue. ACTION: Clerk

**105/16 MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT.**

**106/16 RECREATION GROUNDS/OPFA**

1. Badgers Walk - Mr C Smith not being resent there was no report on the condition of the equipment and general condition of the playground.
2. Replacement window arrived. Clerk via Mr G Davies to request the maintenance team at the college to help install.
3. Memorial Hall. Mr G Davies to report on the condition of the equipment and the general condition of the playground.

**107/16 FOOTPATHS**

**108/16 SHIPLAKE – DEVELOPMENT OF FACILITIES.**

1. Network Rail: Initial consultation meeting re electrification of branch line with council and SVP representatives confirmed for Wednesday 6th April at 2:30pm. Potential cycle path to Henley to be discussed during the consultation process.
2. Broadband: With the commissioning of the 3rd fibre cabinet on Mill Lane/A4155 the OxOnline project is essentially complete for Shiplake parish. There are some shortfalls in speed expectations for some residents, which need to be pursued individually with service suppliers, particularly when there is a shortfall against minimum speeds guaranteed in contracts. Generally speaking, there appears to have been a lot of enthusiasm for adopting the new high speed services, reflected by the need for BT to increase the capacity at the Station road cabinet and responses via the website. OxOnline have asked for a case study for Shiplake.
3. Website: Redesigned Home Page was released in January with positive feedback from users and a demonstration of its effectiveness reflected in responses to publicity for SHADDO's latest production. Minor modifications requested to further increase the more dynamic nature of the redesign. Number of registered users on the website has increased to over 450 and parish wide survey of use of the site to be undertaken shortly

**Future Phases**

- a) TREE PRESERVATION Mr T Taylor /Mr F Maroudas to update Council, nothing to report

**109/16 ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS.**

**110/16 S.O.D.C.**

**111/16 OCC**

**112/16 O.A.L.C. /O.R.C.C.**

1. 2016 OALC Members Latest update circulated by email

**113/16 MEMORIAL HALL** No operational meetings have taken place. Financial picture looks more positive with bookings increased

**114/16 CHILTERN SOCIETY/CPRE**

1. Latest Chiltern /Conservation Board /Society newsletters 2016 circulated by email

2. Latest CPRE newsletter circulated by email

**115/16 DEFRA & OTHER GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENCE**

**116/16 TOWNLANDS & OXFORDSHIRE PCT.**

**13. CORRESPONDENCE**

Thread posted by Simon Fairthorne 30/01/2016 1:54 pm

Can anything be done to stop advertising placards being erected on the triangle around the Memorial Cross, there is one there this morning and it badly obstructs the view for drivers turning right onto the A4155 to Henley?

**14. ITEMS OF INTEREST OR FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION.**

1. The Clerk reminded Councillors that next month's meeting will be on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March
2. There being no other items of business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.05pm

R.V. Hudson.

Clerk to the Council.

08/03/2016