

Culham Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held in the School on Monday 5th December 2005 at
7.30pm

Present: Mr R Griffiths
 Mr G Bartley
 Mr T Price
 Mr A Steele
 Mr J Thomas
 Mr J Stimson (District)

Apologies: 0

Public: 2

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies were officially received, however Councillor John Howell sent the Clerk a note to say that he would make every effort to attend but has 3 other parishes to cover on this date.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All Councillors were given the opportunity to declare an interest in any of the items on the agenda. No declarations were made.

3. MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 7th November 2005

The minutes from the above meetings were amended then agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record. As a point of accuracy, on point 10 of Any Other Business this should read The Lock and not The Lion car park.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Risk Assessment - All committee members agreed that the Risk Assessment in line with the previous year should be adopted.

Village Benches - Mr Bartley confirmed that the order had been placed and would confirm with the supplier for them to be delivered to Mr Steele's property for safekeeping. Mr Bartley also confirmed that he would chase the supplier to send the original invoice to the Clerk for payment.

Donations for village Christmas Parties (children and elderly) - Mr Thomas would like to donate £50 towards the cost of this event and asked for the Parish Council to match this amount. This was agreed and processed.

Thames Water Update - ongoing investigations with Thames Water with regards to the outfall location. Clerk to continue pursuing for exact location - when this has been confirmed, this may need a follow up visit from a Thames Water representative.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were two members of public present at the meeting. Mr Selwood raised his

concerns over the cyclists riding on the path on the corner of Tollgate Road. Visibility is very poor and several weeks ago Mr Selwood's car came into contact with a junior riding a bicycle. There were no injuries and Mr Selwood reported the incident to the police. However, it is not just children (amongst whom many go to the European School), riding on the path but also adults. Mr Steele said that he would put an article in The Mouthpiece as a reminder that nobody should be riding bicycles on the path. The Clerk will write to The Bursar at The European School, reminding them of the hazards of riding on paths; contact Sutton Courtenay Parish Council and contact OCC Highways.

The second issue that Mr Selwood raised was that of the depth of the manhole cover outside his house (12 Tollgate Road) - he believes that it is too low and that when the local lorries from the Hanson site travel over it, it is very noisy for him. The Clerk will contact OCC Highways)

6. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS

District Councillor – Mr Stimson reported back on several issues including the general appearance/upkeep of Culham No. 1 Site and the turfing contractor; current budget processes; forest activity; new benefits hotline (0845 4585449) and free bus passes.

County Councillor - Mr. Howell was not present at the meeting.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) SODC - Dial-a-Ride Service letter - **circulated**
- b) OCC - Fares & Ticketing Strategy Consultation - **circulated**
- c) Victim Support - fundraising letter - **put on agenda for 9.1.06**
- d) Thames Valley Police - Safer Streets campaign - **circulated**
- e) ORCC - Community Council Grant Aid for building projects - **circulated**
- f) Woodcote Parish Council - Youth Service Budget - **circulated**
- g) SODC - Vision for Didcot letter - **circulated**
- h) OCC - Review of Subsidised Bus Services for June 2006 - **circulated**
- i) SODC - Precept Information - **put on agenda for 9.1.06**
- j) SODC - Free Trees - **Clerk advised & noted no request at this stage**
- k) SODC - Pavements are for people campaign - **leaflet circulated and poster given to Mr Bartley for noticeboards**
- l) OCC - CAG Newsletter - **circulated**
- m) OCC - Children & Young People's Plan Consultation Letter - **circulated**
- n) SODC - Christmas Refuse Collection Information poster - **Mr Bartley will display on noticeboards**
- o) CPRE - Fieldwork magazine - **circulated**
- p) SODC - Standards Committee Meeting Minutes - **circulated**
- q) SODC - Register of Electors - **circulated**
- r) Northmoor Trust - Christmas Tree Train poster - **Mr Bartley will display on noticeboards**

8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

P05/W0994 - Old Turnpike, Abingdon Road, Culham - the description is to include the erection of a 1.8m fence. **Planning permission is granted.**

P05/W1026/LB - Culham Court, Culham - Conversion of existing stable building to

self-contained living accommodation ancillary to Culham Court - **listed building consent is granted.**

9. FINANCIAL MATTERS

PAYMENTS

1050	Miss B Cannings	Salary (September)	£124.86	
		Expenses	£ 9.66	
		Post & Telephone	£ 2.15	£136.67
1051	Bins-n-Benches (2 new benches)			
	£408.90(awaiting original invoice)			
1052	The Lion (Xmas Party Donation)			£ 50.00

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Offending large containers at the edge of The Glebe - the Clerk to contact SOHA again and investigate purpose and longevity. Mr Bartley also said that he would try and contact SOHA.

The Clerk advised the committee members that Mr Reichart had been written to in conjunction with the request for mains water to be supplied to the church with several conditions attached.

The committee members raised the issue of a pedestrian controlled device at The Waggon & Horses. The Clerk will revisit previous minutes and actions and contact the Highways department accordingly.

Mr Thomas asked Mr Price what had happened to the money that was raised for the pavilion? It is currently in the bank and Mr Price will investigate if it can gain a higher interest rate.

A For Sale sign has been erected on the Village Green sign. Although it is not strictly obstructing anything, it is advertising and Culham Parish Council does have the right to keep the village green tidy. Mr Griffiths will contact the agents to ask whether they have sought permission from Culham Estate to erect such a sign.

Mr Steele advised the meeting that the lock was flooding again. The Clerk to check that it has been entered onto the highways log and if so, check the progress.

Mr Steele has contacted Mr Storer with regards to the Culham Village Website. The cost to the Parish Council would be minimal and this was agreed to be met by the committee members. The next step would be for Mr Storer to arrange a meeting with other interested parties. The committee members felt that it would be useful if Mr Storer would be able to attend the February meeting to come and present his proposal to the interested parties. Mr Steele to liaise appropriately.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Parish Council Meeting – 7.30 pm. 9th January 2006

... **Signed** **Date**

Report from John Stimson

Mr Stimson reported back that the issues regarding the general upkeep of the No.1 site and the turfing contractor were still ongoing.

He also advised the committee members that the new budget process was in hand and that

£280k had been requested to strengthen the **planning team**. This would enable the team to recruit 5 new staff who would need to be trained and would in the longer term form a stronger team.

Also, with regards to the planning side of things, a growth bid of £20k has been requested to scan the backlog of 11,00 enforcement files.

Another area that is being looked at is **forestry activity** - again more money has been requested with tree preservation being reviewed (no figures as yet but 1 additional member of staff is being requested).

Benefits Hotline

South Oxfordshire District Council has set up a new benefits hotline which is open weekdays 9.30am - 4.00pm (**0845 4585449**). To date, there have been 380 calls registered.

Free Bus Passes

With effect from 1.4.06, disabled people and people over the age of 60 can claim free bus passes - the participating destinations include Oxford, Reading, Aylesbury, Abingdon, High Wycombe and Princes Risborough.

John Thomas also raised the issue of the Environmental Health's dedicated telephone number not being readily available. Mr Stimson advised him to use the main switchboard number.