

## **CULHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting duly convened and held in Culham C of E School, Culham on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2010.**

**Present:** Cllrs T. Price (Chair), G. Bartley, A. Steele, J. Thomas, P. Gibbs and J. Woodley-Shead.

**In attendance:** L. Dalby (Clerk), County Cllr Lindsay-Gale, District Cllr J. Cotton and eight members of the public.

#### **1. Public Participation**

Mr Marjot asked if the County Council had responded to the request to remove the parking restrictions on Tollgate Rd. The Clerk agreed to chase this up and to ask the Police to report on what they are doing to reduce speeding.

There was a lengthy discussion about the consultation, which Oxfordshire County Council has started on the proposed closure of Culham School. A group of parents have started an action group to save the school and many of the governors have now resigned. A new Head Teacher needs to be found urgently if the school is to remain open. The Parish Council offered its support to the campaign.

#### **2. Reports from County and District Councillors**

County Cllr Lindsay-Gale reported that the County Council is obliged to go through the consultation process but she hopes the new Board of Governors will find a solution to keep the school open.

District Cllr Cotton reported that the Core Strategy has been accepted though there will be further consultation and the new Localism Bill may influence the final outcome.

#### **3. Apologies for Absence**

There were none.

#### **4. Declarations of personal and prejudicial interest**

There were none.

#### **5. Minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2010**

These were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

#### **6. Clerk's Report**

Cllr Woodley-Shead had attended a meeting with ORCC and SODC. He reported that the only place for extra housing in Culham would be at the end of The Glebe. Access to the play area would be maintained and the football pitch could be re-sited as necessary. Cllr Woodley-Shead proposed that the Council should go ahead with the Affordable Housing survey this was agreed unanimously.

#### **7. Burial Ground Slope**

Cllr Woodley-Shead is waiting for the prices of the blocks.

#### **8. Burial Ground Administration and Fees**

It was agreed to keep the Fees for the Cemetery at the current level. The Clerk will send a copy of the fees to the local undertakers and stonemasons. It was also agreed that residents could purchase the Exclusive Right of Burial in a numbered plot in the Cemetery for 25 years. Those who have purchased a plot can extend this right for a further 25 years after 10 years at no extra charge.

#### **9. Fortnightly safety checklist**

All ok.

Jim Boyland has quoted £2,850.00 + VAT to dig out and replace the loose fill.

#### **10. Traffic and Speeding**

The Clerk has made some enquiries about the volume of traffic in Thame Lane and will report when she has more details.

#### **11. Remembrance Day**

The Service went well.

#### **12. Didcot Expansion**

Cllr Gibbs attended the scrutiny and cabinet meetings and spoke about the traffic implications of the proposed houses. A Councillor from Long Wittenham spoke on behalf of the Didcot Ring of Parishes (including Culham) at the full Council Meeting. DROP will continue to campaign on behalf of the Parishes and Cllr Gibbs agreed to represent Culham at any meetings. The Council agreed that the main impact on Culham would be the increased traffic and concerns were expressed about the ability of the bridges to cope.

#### **13. Consultation on concessionary fares scheme**

Cllr Gibbs has read the consultation document and feels there is no need for the Council to comment.

#### **14. Consultation to close Culham School**

Cllr Woodley-Shead reported that following the informal meeting of the Parish Council he had given the head teacher a list of questions in order for the Council to understand how the County Council had made the decision to consider closing the school. Cllr Woodley-Shead explained that the school was built through a foundation as a Church of England School and it would not be easy to change the use. The Clerk reported that she has been in contact with ORCC who have provided details of support available for small schools. The Clerk is also waiting to hear back from the village halls advisor who should be able to offer assistance to the council if the school is closed and the Council wish to explore options for keeping the building for community use. Cllr Gibbs agreed to draft the Councils response to the consultation.

#### **15. Notice Board maintenance**

Cllr Bartley reported that the Notice Boards need to be sanded and varnished. The Clerk will obtain quotes.

#### **16. Planning Applications**

- a) Applications received from District Council for Consultation  
There were none.
- b) Decisions of Local Planning Authority

There were none.

**17. Financial Matters**

a) The following accounts for payment were agreed.

Payee and Reason	£ detail	£ VAT	£ total
J. Boyland - RoSPA Checks and maintenance	£54.00	£9.45	£63.45
L. Dalby – Clerk’s salary and expenses December	218.58		218.58
Berinsfield Community Business - maintenance	289.80	50.70	340.50

b) Payment made between meetings  
SODC – servicing dog bins £102.75

c) Precept Calculations 2010-2011

The council set a budget for the next financial year on which the 2011/2012 precept will be set.

**18. Correspondence**

Cllr Bartley has received a letter from Adkins who following advice from their solicitors confirm that they are not responsible for the maintenance of the Church Rd.

**19. Items for inclusion on Januarys Agenda**

There were none.

**20. Future Meeting**

It was agreed that the date of the next meeting would be January 10<sup>th</sup> 2011 at the school, commencing at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 10pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....