

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SPEEN PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON JULY 16 2007 AT 7.30 P.M. IN SPEEN PARISH HALL.**

**PRESENT:** G Foulkes (Chairman) L Warner K Phillips A Martin R Tolcher  
K Sullivan P Calder A Lee J Ives (Clerk)

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** 13 + PC P Sutherland.

**DISTRICT COUNCILLOR:** M Franks

- 1) **APOLOGIES:** E Vandyk (Vice Chairman) P Bryant (District Councillor)
- 2) **DECLARATIONS:** R Tolcher declared a personal interest in the footway between Speen Lodge Court and Bath Road, asking to be heard but not vote.
- 3) **MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON MAY 14<sup>TH</sup> 2007.** Two minor alterations – a) 7(b) Church Lane instead of Speen Lane and b) 16 – ‘yellow lines have been requested’ instead of “yellow lines will appear”. All in favour; the Chairman signed the Minutes.
- 4) **MATTERS ARISING:**
  - a. The Clerk had asked WBC to **trim some hedges** overhanging the footpath in Grove Road.
  - b. **Dog bins** – one is in Church Lane, and the other will be moved inside Donnington Grove on the public ROW.
  - c. **Gating Order for the Footway between Speen Lodge Court / Bath Road.** The Council heard the background history and events leading up to this meeting. A gating order is new to WBC, although this footway has been gated in the past, some 35 years ago when it was built. Members of the public joined in the debate, and one said that she feared villains would climb the wall near her kitchen. Strong gates would be needed, and keys issued to residents. CCTV was mentioned for use in the long term. Oxford and Slough have gating orders and they work. A Resolution was proposed, seconded and agreed stating that “ The Speen Parish Council supports the proposed Gating Order for the footway between Speen Lodge Court and the A4/ Bath Road for the purposes of reducing crime and antisocial behaviour.” All in favour.
  - d. **Crime in Speen** – PC P Sutherland gave details and figures showing how many crimes (291) of various importance had been activated in the Speen Parish (not including Stockcross, Marsh Benham or Bagnor) and though this is significantly lower than any of the other local parishes, the next highest being Turnpike (over 400) and the highest Newbury Town Centre (887) it is still too high. Members of the public listed problems; late night drinking at the Ladywell being highlighted as a problem.
  - e. **New Councillor** – a letter had been received from R Lewis who said that he would not be able to attend all the meetings, and would therefore decline.
  - f. **Paul Calder** was proposed and seconded as a co-opted Member of the Parish Council. All in Favour.

- 5) **STOCKCROSS RECREATION GROUND CAR PARK:** The Car Park has been completed satisfactorily, and paid for. On 12<sup>th</sup> August there is to be a Village Cricket Match on the Stockcross Recreation Ground. The Car Park will be full – permission was granted by the Council for attendees to park along the hedge leading up to the tennis courts. No report on the changing facilities, due to A. Snook’s absence. The Clerk had received an enquiry from the Tennis Club, asking for financial support for new netting round the tennis courts. After discussion, the Clerk was asked to contact A Snook regarding a sum of money that had been granted to the Council some years ago following a benevolent day at Deanwood Golf Course. Maybe this could be given to the Stockcross Tennis Club? This was proposed and seconded and all in Favour.
- 6) **A request from St Mary’s at Speen** for £250 for upkeep to the Churchyard was proposed and seconded; all in favour.
- 7) **The New Code of Conduct** was discussed in some depth; its adoption was proposed, seconded and all in favour with the provision that we include para 12.(2) and the Clerk to liaise with Thatcham to enter into a composite advertisement in the local press later in the month.
- 8) **PLANNING:** (3) sets of Plans adjacent to our Parish were discussed.
- Renaissance Habitat Limited Site 174-178 Craven Road Nothing more we can say at present.
  - Sandilands School – new canopy. Some confusion over the colour of the balancing feet (yellow) and the Clerk was asked to telephone the Planning Department and clarify our support.
  - Donnington Grove Hotel and Golf Complex. After a lengthy discussion and a full appraisal the Parish Council decided to ‘object – as it leans towards residential’.

Other local plans had been forwarded from the Planning Department and details had been issued to the Councillors before the Meeting. The Clerk was asked to get an instruction manual on planning, from BALC.

- 9) **FINANCES:** The Clerk gave supporting information re the year end Accounts March 31<sup>st</sup> 2007, and asked that they be signed off. After agreeing that a policy be put in place this year for reducing the depreciation of fixed assets, the accounts were proposed, seconded and agreed all in favour. A letter had been received from Mr Linn of MJL Accountancy offering to fill our vacancy as Internal Auditor. Mr Linn had been unable to get to tonight’s meeting but the clerk whilst accepting his offer, would suggest that he introduces himself on 17<sup>th</sup> September.

**Cheques paid since the last meeting:**

14/05/2007	1054 CCB annual sub	15.00
26/05/2007	1055 SEC	234.00
26/05/2007	1056 M W Sutton	264.38
25/05/2007	1057 Speen Village fete	100.00
11/06/2007	1058 WBG - dog bins	536.00
11/06/2007	1059 A E Butcher	87.00

11/06/2007	1060 SEC	437.84
16/06/2007	1061 Clerk	500.96
21/06/2007	1062 G & I Ayres	5,738.70
26/06/2007	1063 SEC	224.72
16/07/2007	1064 A E Butcher	66.00
16/07/2007	1065 Southern Electric	159.93
16/07/2007	1066 WBC - Elections	100.00
16/07/2007	1067 Clerk	484.28
16/07/2007	1068 Speen Hall	30.00
16/07/2007	1069 Thames Water	18.51
16/07/2007	1070 St Mary's Speen	250.00
		<b>9,247.32</b>

**10) Speen gov.uk domain:** The Clerk said that she had encountered difficulty with this and had stopped the link to her home. This was accepted. More details to be obtained including the reasons for the significant increase in cost.

**11) CORRESPONDENCE:** 3 items were read out and delegated.

**12) MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND INFORMATION.** The Pathway opposite Speen Grange is slippery and dangerous – the Clerk asked to report to Streetcare.

**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10.P.M. THE NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR 17<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2007 AT 7.30p.m.**