

**MINUTES OF THE SPEEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON JANUARY 12<sup>TH</sup> 2004 AT 7.p.m. AT SPEEN VILLAGE HALL.**

**Present:** E Vandyk ( Chairman ) WRB John. R Wilson. G Foulkes ( Vice Chairman). A Snook C Woodhead T Tyler. J Booth P Calder ( late). J Huntingford (Clerk).

**Members of the Public:** 3 including District Councillor M Franks

**Apologies:** K Rai. P Bryant ( District Councillor).

**Declarations:** G Foulkes as Churchwarden of Speen Village Church. J Huntingford regarding Clerk's Salary on the Agenda.

**1. MINUTES** Minutes of the Meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> November were duly agreed and signed.

**2. MATTERS ARISING:**

- a) A Snook gave an update on the **Stockcross Changing rooms**. Two committee meetings have been held since the last Council Meeting. No commitment has been made in price or practice. The Parish Council resolved to continue the purpose and should the building take place we have to be sure that there are Teams waiting to play on the grounds and use the new facilities. With Speen recreation ground not in use, the use at Stockcross is even more important. We need to seek to maximise our return. A Grant has been applied for at Greenham Common, and we may be short listed. Vodafone has indicated that they may donate £5k.
- b) **Speen Recreation ground** – C Woodhead updated the position, and a discussion took place on the threshold of income needed before Council Tax kicks in. M. Butcher from the floor, gave the history and background of this in the past. A Martin (floor) suggested demolishing the Pavilion, as it is getting very expensive to maintain with repairs etc. E Vandyk said that this was certainly a possibility but it would be preferable to find a use in the community for the recreational ground and pavilion in use together. E Vandyk and C Woodhead would compile a report on the advisability of demolishing the Speen Pavilion for the Council's next meeting.
- c) The removal of the **Bus Shelter** was discussed and if it is ever re-instated then we would have to pay a small sum. E Vandyk proposed accepting this and R Wilson seconded.
- d) A letter from Mr Julian Shelley was circulated regarding the state of the Speen **Village Church**, and proposed closure. G Foulkes declared an interest. It was reported that there were 240 worshippers in Church at Christmastime. 98 on Christmas Eve. E Vandyk said that Speen Church was an important Parish Asset and the motion was passed to answer the letter and give the Council's support. C Woodhead proposed and J Booth seconded. There had been another letter received from the PCC, asking for use of the Speen Ground for a fete on

June 12<sup>th</sup>. This was agreed and the clerk asked to reply. There would be no charge for this function.

- e) The **Memorial seat** for Stockcross – the recreational committee will liase with the clerk by e-mail.
- f) The flattened **bus stop** at Stockcross has not been replaced despite promises. Clerk to chase again.
- g) **SID** – we still do not know the date for training. Clerk to chase the relevant authority.

3. **SCHOOL GOVERNORS.** A letter was read asking for Parish Councillors to take up the duties as School Governors, in the school of their choice. The Parish Council noted this request and there were no volunteers.

4. **LIGHTING IN STATION ROAD.** A bracket is missing and the Council have agreed to pay for this. Clerk to chase up.

5. **STOCKCROSS CAR PARK:** clerk reported that A E Butcher, litterpicker, had done a marvellous job and cleared the whole of the area. He had taken 4 plastic bags to the tip and had found lots of empty cans of drink but no syringes. M Butcher from the floor accepted that her son's hourly rate should be increased and this was agreed by the Parish Council. The Clerk was asked to write to Tony Butcher with thanks. A discussion took place on the lack of Deeds to the Property and E Vandyk agreed to ask his lawyer to the Land Registry. The land along the car park. E Vandyk and A Snook offered to check a gate that M Butcher said was 'dangerous'.

- 6. **PLANNING.** A Snook reported that there had been some activity and no problems.
- 7. **FINANCIAL:** The Clerk informed the Council that there was £26k in the deposit account with the Bank of Ireland. All cheques written since the last meeting were read out>

#### **CHEQUES DRAWN SINCE LAST MEETING**

1124 Playscheme	£ 300.00
1125 Clerk	£ 421.63
1126 A Butcher	£ 50.00
1127 Thames Water	£ 14.07
1128 Sutton Hall	£ 17.00
1129 Southern Electric	£ 261.98
1130 Waterers plc	£2,623.48
1131 A Butcher - various	£ 203.00
1132 Southern Electric	£ 82.08
1133 SEC Lighting	£ 159.59
1134 A Butcher	£ 22.00
1135 Clerk	£ 431.11
	£4,585.94

8. **PRECEPT.** A copy of the proposed Precept was circulated and the principle variations from 2003/04 were highlighted by the Chairman:
- a) The landscape and maintenance are now presented together.
  - b) Minor increase in Clerk's Salary/Administration
  - c) Administration all grouped together now.
  - d) Insurance down by £250 – now with a Broker.
  - e) No election costs
  - f) Less Rent income, as no Speen recreational ground rent.
  - g) Less interest as less money in Deposit.

Therefore Provision for the current year assessed on the progress of the Stockcross changing Rooms. Proposed £16250. Proposed by WRB John and seconded by C Woodhead. All Agreed.

It is not anticipated that this will not be a perpetual increase.

9. **CORRESPONDENCE:** Various items of correspondence were read out by the Chairman.
- (i) Local Area Forums – no comment after discussion.
  - (ii) Bus Service between Lambourn and Hungerford. Timetable studied.
  - (iii) Royal Berks Fire Service – noted
  - (iv) New Cinema in Newbury – no further comment
  - (v) Clerks Direct – circular.
  - (vi) BACVP C Woodhead taken to reply.
  - (vii) Community Hospital – details to kept on file

**9. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION:**

- a) Goalposts in Speen covered in mud. A Snook reports. Suggest moving to better area. A Snook proposed and J Booth seconded. P Calder to do the work.
- b) P Calder reported on the vandalism on the Speen Pavilion toilet door. Pavilion needs redecoration. Clasp missing off lock. E Vandyk proposed a report being raised and this was seconded by G Foulkes.
- c) Black Ghia parked opposite the Stockcross House entrance, appears to have been abandoned. E Vandyk has already reported to the Police. Clerk instructed to contact WBC.
- d) An e-mail has been received by M Franks and J Huntingford regarding the weight restrictions on the A4. M Franks to reply on the Council's behalf.
- e) A E Butcher to be asked to put oil on the Notice Board at Speen, to preserve it.

**10. CONFIDENTIAL: CLERK'S SALARY.**

After discussion it was agreed to raise the Clerk's Salary to Spinal Column 19. as from February this year. Proposed by C Woodhead and seconded by R Wilson. The Clerk thanked the Parish Council.

The Meeting closed at 9 p.m. and the next Meeting is scheduled for March 8<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at Stockcross.