

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SPEEN PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON MONDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2003 IN SPEEN VILLAGE HALL  
AT 7 P.M.**

**PRESENT:** E Vandyk ( Chairman) A Snook G Foulkes ( Vice Chairman )  
R Wilson. WRB John C Woodhead T Tyler A Martin M Butcher  
K Titcombe P Calder

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** 8 - plus Newbury Weekly News Representative.

**DISTRICT COUNCILLOR:** P Bryant

**APOLOGIES:** R Tolcher. S Thomas has resigned leaving a casual vacancy.

**DECLARATIONS:** Declarations were declared by G Foulkes ( Village Design Statement) and R Wilson ( Stable Cottage dispute).

**1. MINUTES:** The Minutes of the Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> January 2003 were agreed and signed without amendment.

**2. MATTERS ARISING**

- (a) Footpath 15. There had been a meeting, which P Calder had been unable to attend. P Calder had since been in touch with Miss Hopes, West Berkshire Council, and will try to make himself available to attend future meetings. Those who had attended the original meeting had been promised a letter summarising the situation, but this had not yet been received. E Vandyk said that the Parish Council were keen to support and help but were not empowered to make changes to footpaths. A member of the Public asked how it would be possible to change the definitive map. District Councillor said that it was possible, but West Berks Council had to give Notice of changes and it was quite a protracted affair.
- (b) The Village Design Statement is now on the Website.
- (c) B4000 – the signs are up, and in operation from 25<sup>th</sup> February. There had been an opening ceremony but representatives of Speen Council had not been invited. The Clerk was asked to investigate as to why not.
- (d) Speen Relief In Need Charity – E Vandyk proposed that A Martin should stay on the Committee as a Trustee, and that G Foulkes represented the Parish Council. This was seconded by P Calder and approved.
- (e) A discussion took place concerning Speen Obelisk. The Clerk said that she was trying to get it lit. It is not yet clear who actually owns the Obelisk. A Martin suggested a Conservation Agency. This is to be an Agenda Item in the May Meeting
- (f) The Car Park Notice Board in Stockcross Recreation Ground is up..
- (g) Stable Cottage, Ermin Street , Stockcross. A letter had been received from West Berks Planning Strategy explaining that the occupants were under notice to cease their Taxi activity.
- (h) The letter regarding the strip of land near the car park at the Stockcross Recreation Ground, sent by the Parish Clerk to Suttons, had not been replied to. The Clerk was asked to chase for a response.

**3..COMPLAINT TO THE STANDARDS BOARD.**E Vandyk explained the situation regarding an error in the November Minutes, which had been rectified at the following Meeting in January. The Clerk has not yet heard back from the Standards Board, having sent relevant copies of the Minutes to them at their request. E Vandyk proposed that in future all draft Minutes would be labelled as such and that such draft minutes were not finalised, in any event, until signed, following approval, at the next meeting of Council. He said that the complaint by S. Pascall was a significant waste of time, and regrettable. S Pascall has now moved to Marlborough. E Vandyk's proposal that in future the Minutes would be labelled 'Draft Subject to Approval' was seconded by C Woodhead and approved by Council.

**4.. NOTICE BOARDS** – The Clerk expressed concern over the state of Marsh Benham and Stockcross Notice Boards. The window had fallen out of the Marsh Benham when she had been putting up notices. The Council were asked by the Chairman to consider replacing these two Notice Boards, and the Clerk was detailed to get information and pricing by the May Meeting. Agenda item May Meeting.

**5.. STOCKCROSS CHANGING ROOMS.** A Snook reported no further movement, except that a letter had been received from Suttons saying that they would not make a contribution by way of financial support. Suttons had not mentioned approving, as the freeholders, the revised design submitted to them, following their comments, notwithstanding the request was in the same letter as the request for financial support. C Woodhead will follow up.

**6..STOCKCROSS RECREATION GROUND.** All the money has now been received from participating Football Clubs. The Clerk was asked to send letters to all three clubs, asking for their contracts to be signed and returned. The Tennis Club had been invoiced for £25.00. A Snook reported that a car looked to be abandoned in the car park although the road tax was still current until end March. This is to be an Agenda item next meeting.

**7.. BUS SHELTERS.** Due to an oversight the contractors had not yet been notified to start. WRB John said that he would advise them by telephone and the Clerk would write to them as soon as possible. WRB John said that the Speen Bus Shelters could cost £4k to rebuild. It was agreed to start with the Stockcross bus shelter and consider the Speen position when works at Stockcross had been completed.

## **8.. FINANCIAL**

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### **CHEQUES WRITTEN SINCE LAST MEETING**

DATE	CHQ	PAYEE	AMT	VAT	
22/01/2003	997	AJH Clerk replacement	410.96		original lost in Dec
22/01/2003	998	Village Hall replacement	10.60		ditto
29/01/2003	999	Numbercraft - sign	23.50	3.50	
03/02/2003	1000	A E Butcher - Jan	50.00		Litterpick
24/02/2003	1001	S & J AJH Clerk	406.92		February
24/02/2003	1002	Numbercraft - sign	23.50	3.50	
24/02/2003	1003	Hacker Young - Audit	141.00	21.00	
10/03/2003	1004	A E Butcher - Feb	50.00		

10/03/2003	1005 Cottrells	13.11	1.95 Stny
10/03/2003	1006 Held to May Mtg - SLCC		subscription
	Total	<b>1129.59</b>	

The Clerk confirmed that the money from Lloyds Deposit account was now installed at Bank of Ireland. The cheque drawn to the Society of Local Council Clerks was to be held over to May Meeting.

## 9.. PLANNING

A Snook reported a quiet time recently with Planning Applications.

### 2003

03/00117	House	Extension & Garage	96 Benham Park	Marsh Benham	No Obj
03/00226	House	Conservatory (Retrospective)	5 Brummell Road	Speen	No Obj

## 10.. CORRESPONDENCE:

- a) Pang Valley – asking for donation – discussion – noted
- b) Sue Thomas – letter to Council, replied by Clerk. Due to ill health she has resigned from Parish Council work. E Vandyk thanked her for all her hard work, in her absence.
- c) Stockcross Bowls Club – asking for financial support – discussion – Agenda item May Meeting.
- d) Confirmation from Newbury Cancer Care Trust that they will speak briefly at April Assembly – noted
- e) Postal Addresses for Majendie Close – noted
- f) Affordable Housing issue – already discussed – document noted
- g) Rights of Way Survey – report to come – noted
- h) Consultation paper LEA – noted
- i) Shop Front and signs – letter from WBC – noted
- j) Vision 2025 – document noted
- k) Cultural Strategy – report noted
- l) Guide to Elections – in Clerk’s possession. Clerk passed round informative leaflets and documents to be signed.
- m) Community Champions – grants and training facilities – noted.

## 11.. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND INFORMATION

- a) M Butcher reported that The Ladywell was looking fine – snowdrops and daffodils in abundance.
- b) C Woodhead reported that the trees were low hanging on the entry to Bagnor, and that the new trees planted there were dying. He will deal with, if Council agreed - affirmative.
- c) E Vandyk expressed concern regarding the possible closure of Speen Church. G Foulkes would report at the May Meeting.
- d) E Vandyk reported on a liaison meeting at the New Offices for Vodafone. He said that West Berkshire Council had said it was a model development.

- e) Paul Bryant our District Councillor would be up for re-election and, if successful would become one of the members representing the Parish Council area on West Berkshire Council due to the change in election boundaries. E Vandyk proposed a vote of thanks for all his hard work, and this was seconded by C Woodhead.

The Council concluded its work this evening by a vote of thanks from the Chairman, to all the retiring Parish Councillors, particularly those who had stated their intention not to stand for election again being M Butcher, K Titcombe and A Martin, for all their work for the Council over their many years of membership.

**The Meeting closed at 8.20 p.m. and the next Meeting is the Parish Assembly at the later time of 7.30 p.m. on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2003 at Stockcross.**