

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SPEEN PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON NOVEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup> 2003 IN STOCKCROSS VILLAGE HALL  
AT 7 P.M.**

**Present:** E Vandyk ( Chairman) G Foulkes ( Vice Chairman) A Snook  
R Wilson T Tyler K Rai C Woodhead J Huntingford ( Clerk)

**Apologies:** J Booth WRB John P Calder

**Members of the Public :** two inc. Newbury Weekly News

**District Councillor:** P Bryant

**Declaration of Interests.** E Vandyk said that he could have an interest in a matter which might be considered under Planning, and, if it were brought up, he would declare it and leave the room. G Foulkes declared that he was Churchwarden of Speen Church, and may have an interest if Speen Church was discussed.

**MINUTES:** The Minutes of the previous meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> September were agreed and signed.

**1) MATTERS ARISING:**

- a) **Speen Cricket Club** – P Calder had left a message to say that so far he had been unable to get a photograph of the equipment, but was pursuing it with the friend who had apparently sold it to Speen Parish council.
- b) The **Rats** have gone at Marsh Benham and the owners of the house next door to the infected area have agreed to demolish the compost heap.
- c) A report from Roy Tolcher says that it is almost 99% sure that the **Mast at Battle Close** will not be built.
- d) There was no further news on the **accident** recently reported on the swings at the Speen Recreational ground.
- e) **Speen Recreational Ground:** C Woodhead reported having contacted various companies, with a view to letting them use the facilities. Donnington Parish Council have agreed to help, if they can. K Rai reported that local youngsters would like to play football, and C Woodhead will look into this project. It would mean that the ground would have to be marked out and another net purchased.
- f) **Youth and Culture Invoice** – should now be paid. Marcus Franks ( District Councillor) to return all paperwork to Clerk, to enable payment.
- g) **Stockcross Changing Rooms:** The Committee reported that more time was needed to find funding and see if the feasibility was positive. Two or more teams playing regularly were needed. No decision at present.
- h) **Speen Bus Shelter:** Mr Bruce Reay ( member of public) reported on his findings and it had been discovered that this parcel of land had

dropped off the register over the years. No one owns it. Mr Reay would demolish shelter and fence. E Vandyk thanked Mr Reay for all his hard work and said that the Parish Council had no further interest. Mr Reay would contact the West Berks Council to try to ensure the bus stop sign would be removed. All Agreed by Council without in any way approving Mr Reay's proposed actions.

- i) **Saving Speen Church:** Edward Hall not present to report. Services are taking place now, and are well attended. The clerk was asked to write a letter to Mr Hall confirming interest and support.
- j) **Waterers:** The Clerk confirmed a good working relationship with this company and said that they had acted on her instructions very promptly, with regard to Marsh Benham edges.

2. **QUALITY STATUS:** there are seven tests and we could only pass on one. P Bryant said that many Parish Councils are finding it difficult to achieve this status also. We can aspire but that is all.

3. **OBELISK.** A discussion took place. We do not own the Obelisk. If we fund it, it would be open ended. G Foulkes reported that the Obelisk Committee had folded. The Parish Council decided not to support.

4. **RoSPA:** C Woodhead proposed that £180 be spent on a one off visit to check our recreational equipment. G Foulkes seconded. The Parish Council agreed.

5. **PLANNING:** A Snook reported the situation was not very active, Dalecare had been refused on the points that the Parish Council had submitted. There are one or two other applications in the pipeline.

6 **FINANCIAL:** The Clerk collected items such as Driving Licences to be sent to The Bank Of Ireland by Special Delivery, to submit for the signatories on the account. C Woodhead to submit his at a later date. These were needed under new regulations. Cheques were signed:

Samaritans	1115	£ 100.00 donation
A E Butcher	1116	£ 50.00 litterpick
SEC	1117	£ 159.59 lighting maint
Southern Elec	1118	£ 80.49 Street
AJH - clerk	1119	£ 454.20 incl postage/phone
A E Butcher	1120	£ 190.00 litter, War Memorial and Lady well, Pound
AJH -Clerk	1121	£ 425.60 incl postage/phone
Sutton Hall	1122	£ 20.00 hall hire
British Legion	1123	£ 32.00 wreaths
		<b>£1,511.88</b>

The Chairman, E Vandyk, asked the Clerk to look into a potential Salary rise, and put on the next Agenda. All agreed.

7 **CORRESPONDENCE:** a) A letter was read from J Allen requesting that a bench be put in Stockcross in memory of his Mother. The Parish Council were delighted and the clerk was asked to write back.

b) A letter from Robin Williams was discussed. He has ideas on making the Speen Recreational Ground a design feature, incorporating walks and woodlands.  
c) SID was discussed ( Speed Indicator Device) and the next meeting is to be held early in January. K Rai, E Vandyk, WRB John and T Tyler would try to attend. Several other items in Correspondence were discussed and then passed to the clerk for filing.

8. **MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND INFORMATION:** a) How can we increase the Parish Council? Emma Scott of the Newbury Weekly News was asked to help. We now have ten members and we need 13. Ideally from Speen. b) There is a water tap which needs repair. R Wilson to get in touch with Paul Calder. c) The bus stop as you come into Stockcross is flat on the ground. Clerk to contact Streetcare.

**The meeting closed at 8 p.m. and the next meeting is scheduled for January 12<sup>th</sup> 2004 at 7 p.m. at Speen Parish Hall.**