

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SPEEN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 22ND SEPTEMBER 2003 at 7 p.m. IN STOCKCROSS
PARISH HALL.**

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

Apologies: G Foulkes

Members of the Public: Three including Newbury Weekly News

District Councillor: M Franks

Declaration of Interests: nil

Minutes: Minutes of the meeting of 21st July were agreed and signed, by the Chairman.

1) MATTERS ARISING:

- a) Cricket Club: P Calder reported that he had contacted the man who had sold the roller to Speen PC and if he could get a photo of it , it could be identified. He agreed to try and photograph the roller and report back.
- b) Speen Lane Project: This has been shelved for the time being by WBC.
- c) Countryside Map 2000. This was discussed and viewed by the Council, there is no registered common land and open country in our Parish.
- d) Changing Rooms. We have been granted Planning Permission, and the invoice from the Architect had been received. E Vandyk congratulated A Snook. There are no restrictions on the planning permission. A discussion took place on whether to go ahead or not. Stockcross Football Club have closed down for the time being. AFC and Partek still play at Stockcross, and pay their fee. The pitch is flat and good, and now that the cricket club have left Speen playing fields, our Parish amenities are reducing. Partek and AFC would have better quality of games if they could get home matches, with new changing facilities. At present not many clubs are prepared to play at Stockcross because of the lack of facilities. E Vandyk suggested a sub committee be formed, to cost it and see if it would be economically viable. C Woodhead could get a rule of thumb price per square foot, almost immediately. Inflation would be built in to this cost. The sub committee will consist of A Snook, C Woodhead, P Calder, R Wilson.
- e) Speen Church: The Clerk read a report from G Foulkes explaining Speen Church is to be closed. Edward Hall (from the floor) declared that there is an action plan and team supporting the maintaining of the opening of the Church, amongst residents. There is a PCC Meeting on 28th September to discuss. He is vigorously opposing the closure and hopes a new dynamic Vicar will be appointed. Apparently the finances of St Mary's Church, Speen are in good shape. E Vandyk proposed that the Parish Council should support efforts to keep the Church open and support the Speen Restoration Committee as appropriate and this

- was agreed by all.
- e) Bank Current Account. After a report by the Clerk it was agreed not to move the Council's Current Account to the Bank of Ireland for the time being.
 - f) The rats at Marsh Benham have disappeared now that the borders of the recreational area have been attended to. A Snook said that we needed to make sure that they were cut back regularly, or the problem may arise later on. He also mentioned that there were two piles of tree cuttings in the nextdoor garden, which may attract rats. The Clerk agreed to contact the residents again.
 - g) The seat at the corner of Snake Lane has been replaced. Congratulations to Paul Calder.
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- 2) MAST at Battle Close: E Vandyk summarised the long saga which resulted in the building being halted and the matter closed. M Franks reported on the situation from West Berks Council's point of view. Congratulations went to Roy Tolcher (ex Chairman) who worked tirelessly to have this mast dismantled.
 - 3) The Clerk reported on the position as regards the Council's insurance and the results she had obtained. Melville Burbage had written a letter and expressed an interest in taking over the Policy which is currently with Allianz Cornhill, and getting a better deal for us at renewal. It was proposed by E Vandyk and seconded by T Tyler that Melville Burbage take over as broker in respect of the Council's insurances and this was agreed unanimously..
 - 4) Speen Bus Shelter: Mr Bruce Reay of Manor Place (member of public) requested that they could incorporate the shelter into their garden on the basis that it was both unused and in a state of disrepair.. It would need to be demolished and the boundary re-registered. No buses stop at the derelict shelter on the A4 near Station Road. The buses stop in Station Road. The Council has accepted 'ownership' of the shelter to the extent of repairing it if appropriate (as they had done in Stockcross) but this did not give them legal ownership of the structure of the shelter or the land. The plot is not owned by West Berks Council. Mr Reay offered to complete the Land Registry form and C Woodhead offered to contact B Lowsley in Highways who might be able to help. The Parish Council fully supported the concept of removing the potentially dangerous eyesore but before taking or being party to any action felt ownership should be established.
 - 5) Accident at Speen Recreation Ground. Details of correspondence had been circulated. E Vandyk summarised situation. A discussion took place. The Clerk was asked to speak to Health & Safety at West Berks Council. A Snook proposed that this item be put on the next Agenda, and C Woodhead seconded.
 - 6) Youth and Culture invoice (2) for £300. This was discussed and M Franks agreed to see the people who originated them in West Berks. It was thought that there had been no Playscheme in 2002 in Speen.
 - 7) Planning: A Snook reported – Dalecare Nursing Home plans had had to be returned as further thought needed on the way in which floor area could be increased by 30%.
 - 8) The Invoice from G Morgan was agreed to be paid – proposed by WRB John and seconded by R Wilson.

9) Financial:

CHEQUES DRAWN SINCE THE LAST MEETING		Notes
1101	23/07/2003 Douglas Engineering	300.00 re seat replacement
1102	29/07/2003 Allianz Cornhill Ins	948.76 annual premium
1103	01/08/2003 Dashwood Cons. Ltd	141.00 re Marsh Benham Notice Board
1104	01/08/2003 Speen Parish Hall	7.95 hire of hall
1105	01/08/2003 Newbury Internet	681.50 inv from 2001, 2002 to Sept 2003
1106	08/08/2003 A E Butcher	50.00 litterpick
1107	24/08/2003 Parish Clerk	455.05 including postage £57.45 some stock in hand.
1108	22/09/2003 Thames Water	13.77
1109	24/09/2003 Parish Clerk	402.40
1112	22.09.03 Cottrells	37.56 stationery including envelopes, computer paper
1111	22.09.03 Hacker Young	141.00 Audit Fee
1110	22.09.03 A E Butcher	65.00 including removing tree stump and disposing
1113	22/09/2003 CCB	50.00 Subscription for year
1114	22/09/2003 Geoffrey Morgan	1527.50 Architect re Stockcross Changing Rooms
	Total:	4821.49
Partek	Received	250.00 Fee for Football.

10) Standing orders were discussed and remain the same, with any item over £500 needing three quotations and full agreement by the Parish Council.

11) The Samaritans had asked for a donation, and the Council unanimously agreed to give the sum of £100.00.

12) It was agreed to join the CCB and the Clerk was instructed to write a cheque. Proposed by A Snook and seconded by C Whitehead.

13) **CORRESPONDENCE:** The Clerk went through the correspondence each item of which was noted by the Parish Council.

(i) Stockcross School had written to say that the Parish Council Representative needs re-appointing. Mrs Ruthe Snowball is happy to continue, and the Clerk was asked to write to her, and Stockcross School.

14) MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND INFORMATION:

- (i) The Clerk advised the Parish Council that all the keys were now with her, except for one set with Tony Butcher and one set with Paul Calder.
- (ii) A discussion took place regarding Footpath 23 which had been blocked whilst a bridge was repaired. Footpath 2 had also been unavailable whilst hedge trimming was taking place.
- (iii) The Clerk was asked to put the Precept on the next Agenda, with a view to meeting in January 2004.
- (iv) E Vandyk expressed his concern about the loss of amenities throughout the Parish including the cricket at Speen, the Football and Bowls at Stockcross. He stated that there was little the Council could do about such loss given the viability of such activities depended heavily on the enthusiasm of the individuals involved. Nevertheless the consequences for Council were potentially serious as, for example, having an unused building at Speen

recreation ground would become costly and potentially dangerous and detract from the remaining amenity value to local residents of the recreation ground itself.

The Meeting closed at 8.50 p.m. and the next Meeting is scheduled for November 17th at 7p.m. at Stockcross Hall.