

**MINUTES OF THE SPEEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 21ST JULY 2003 AT THE SPEEN VILLAGE HALL**

Present: G Foulkes (acting Chairman) WRB John R Wilson J Booth
P Calder A Snook C Woodhead J Huntingford (Clerk)

District Councillors: P Bryant and M Franks.

Members of the Public 2

Apologies: E Vandyk T Tyler

1. **Welcome to the new Councillor.** G Foulkes introduced Kuldip Rai, from the Brummel Stores, Brummel Road, Speen and Mr Rai signed the Register of Interests and Code of Conduct. These were retained by the Clerk for onward posting to West Berks Council. Mr Rai was given a book on the job of Councillor, and invited to sit with the Council.
2. **Minutes:** The Clerk advised that two small alterations had been done already, after a phone call from Mary Butcher. The Minutes for 19th May were duly agreed and signed.
3. **Matters Arising:**
 - a) The new Notice Board at Marsh Benham was now in place.
 - b) The latest reply from Speen Cricket Club over the ownership of the Roller and Marker was read out. Some discussion took place and Paul Calder was asked if he would deal with the matter. He agreed.
 - c) The Stockcross Bowls Club is definitely closing, sadly, and therefore no donation is needed.
4. **Committee Appointments** were designated and copies would be issued to all Councillors shortly. There are five Councillors on the Building/Finance Committee, three on Planning/Highways, and two on Speen Recreation and one on Stockcross Recreation. It is assumed that the Chairman Edward Vandyk can sit on any of them.
5. **Speen Lane Project:** Paul Bryant, District Councillor explained that there had been a 90% against in the survey recently taken place. No one had been in favour of the proposal by the West Berks Council. They are to think again. Correspondence on this matter is being compiled by Nick Latham and will be given to the Executive (Sally Hanlon) on 31st July. P Bryant said that as far as he knew, there are no plans if it is turned down. There is no further news at present.
6. **Countryside Map, Rights of Way 2000.** In the absence of T. Tyler who has the map, this subject was deferred to the Next Meeting.
7. The **Stockcross Bus Shelter** – the accounts had now been accepted and agreed and paid.
8. **Stockcross Changing Rooms:** Planning application had been sent in. R Wilson has offered to help C Woodhead and A Snook on the next load of paperwork. C Woodhead suggested the formation of a new Committee. This was agreed and would be discussed at the next Meeting.

9. **Car Parking** in Stockcross Car Park – this matter has been resolved at the moment, advised A Snook.
10. **BALC** – The Clerk advised that the subscription, which seemed rather high (£364.98) is based on the Electoral Roll. C Woodhead proposed payment and R Wilson seconded.
11. Letter from Mr Pike – regarding the **upkeep of the Churchyard** at St John’s Church, Stockcross. After discussion, when it was remarked that the Churchyard always looks clean and tidy, R Wilson proposed payment of £250 and J Booth seconded. All in favour.
12. Donation – **Stockcross School Clock**. WRB John endorsed the request and explained to the Council some of its history. P Calder proposed a payment of £150 and WRB John seconded. All agreed.
13. **Speen Church**: G Foulkes said that maybe a decision has been made, but we do not know what it is.
14. **Benham Estate Forestry Plans**: C Woodhead reported on the document and maps he had been sent prior to the Meeting, and summarised for the Council. Smith Gore has formalised what has been done previously.
15. **Fianancial**

**CHEQUES PAID BY SPEEN PC SINCE LAST MEETING
AND AUTHORISED AT THIS MEETING**

		GROSS	VAT
20/05/2003	1020 Cancer Care Trust	50.00	
20/05/2003	1081 postage	27.00	
29/05/2003	1083 Westwood Renovations	1746.62	261.62
	1082 void		
29/05/2003	1084 West Berks Council	44.25	
06/06/2003	1085 Tony Butcher	50.00	
06/06/2003	ditto	15.00	
	1086 void		
14-Jun	1087 Planning Application	220.00	
14/06/2003	1088 Geoffrey Morgan	450.00	
15/06/2003	1089 Water rates	14.55	
24/06/2003	1090 Clerk's salary incl post	433.84	
04/07/2003	1091 Tony Butcher	38.35	
04/07/2003	ditto	50.00	
04/07/2003	1092 SEB	92.96	3.95
04/07/2003	1093 SEC lighting	159.59	23.77
04/07/2003	1094 Filcris notice board	455.09	67.79
02/07/2003	1095 Dashwood Ltd	270.25	40.25
24/07/2003	1096 G Morgan - Architect		78.75
24/07/2003	1097 Clerk's salary incl post	411.10	
24/07/2003	1098 BALC	364.98	
24/07/2003	1099 St John's Church	250.00	
24/07/2003	1100 Stockcross School	150.00	
	Total	5293.58	476.13

The Clerk reported that one cheque on the Bank of Ireland had been lost in the post and there was some discussion on this. It was finally agreed that the Bank of Ireland cheques would be signed by one councillor at the Meetings (3) and the Clerk would have to get another signature when it was needed from one of the Councillors, then sign it herself, and pay in at the Bank. She was also asked to get details of having a Current Account at The Bank of Ireland, as this would save the trouble of transfers to Lloyds Bank plc. in this way.

16. **Planning.** A Snook said that it had been a quiet few weeks, but one set of plans should be discussed. Sandilands School. M Franks explained that the school is very cramped, some lessons being held in corridors etc. Speen is adjacent Parish. There is a meeting to discuss the plans on 28th July at 6 p.m.. A discussion took place and A Snook guided the Parish Council through the proposals. He has no problem with the plans. A Snook will try to attend the meeting at the School.

17. CORRESPONDENCE:

- a) A letter had been received from Kate and Gavin Jones at Benham House, Marhsam Benham explaining a severe problem with rats in their gardens. They come through from the Recreation ground, where the grass is cut but leaving a 20ft undergrowth belt up to the boundary. After discussion the Clerk was asked to get a Quote from Waterers, to clear this 20ft belt. When cleared we could get the Pest Man in.
- b) The Clerk read an e-mail about Cottage Hospitals in Speen and Mary Butcher (MOP) was able to help.

18 MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND INFORMATION:

- a) The seat at the corner of Snake Lane at Stockcross, is falling down, and is dangerous. The Clerk had already asked Tony Butcher if he could repair it but it is iron and cemented in. It needs replacing urgently before someone has an accident. R Wilson offered to look into the matter.
- b) M Butcher (MOP) mentioned the Weeping Willow Tree in Kersey Crescent which is overhanging. It needs a trim. Opposite Battle Close. Sovereign land. M Franks to action.
- c) Rose Bush by Ivy Cottage, near Station Road, hanging down. The occupier has promised to trim back but this has not yet happened. The Clerk was asked to write a letter.

The Meeting closed at 8.40 p.m. and the next meeting is scheduled for September 22nd at 7 p.m. at Stockcross Hall.