

**MINUTES OF THE SPEEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MARCH 8TH 2004 AT STOCKCROSS VILLAGE HALL
AT 7 P.M.**

PRESENT: E Vandyk (Chairman) WRB John, C Woodhead, A.Snook
T Tyler, J Booth, K Rai, J Huntingford (Clerk).

District Councillor: P Bryant

Members of the Public: nil

APOLOGIES: P Calder, G Foulkes, R Wilson

DECLARATIONS: nil

1. MINUTES: The Minutes of the last meeting on January 12th 2004 were read and agreed and signed by the Chairman.

2. MATTERS ARISING:

- (a) And (b) These items were referred to the close of the Meeting so giving time for the Press to arrive.
- (c) RoSPA report has been received and partly circulated around the Parish Councillors. There are no High Risk works to be done, but several Medium to Low. The Clerk was designated to compile a working schedule and report back.
- (d) There was no report at this meeting but the clerk was asked to e-mail G Foulkes and ask him to circulate an update. The Chairman reiterated that this Council supports the saving of Speen Church.
- (e) The Clerk was advised that an ideal place for the Memorial Seat in memory of Barbara Chandler would be outside the Parish Hall.
- (f) The flattened bus stop in Stockcross should now be restored. T Tyler to check.
- (g) The Clerk was asked to get a Quote on installing a new light in Station Road, near to the Sports Pavilion.
- (h) A discussion took place regarding the excess rubbish in the Stockcross car park. WRB John is to contact Streetcare at WBC and the Clerk would write to the Police to notify them of the numerous cars in the car park at weekends late at night. The Chairman thanked AE Butcher for his work as Litterpicker.
- (i) The Clerk still has no date for the SID training, and would chase and notify relevant interested Councillors.
- (j) A Snook explained that there has been no rent forthcoming for AFC football group, but reasons for this would be discussed later in this meeting.

3. ANNUAL CONFERENCE. A Snook reported an interesting meeting and the Chairman thanked him for representing the Parish Council. A Snook advised that the Speen Parish Council should consider doing a Parish Plan. As Speen, as opposed to Stockcross, have already completed a Village Design Statement, much of the work

has been done. The Chairman voiced the feelings of the Council, saying that he did not know if it was necessary, or advisable, or cost effective to do a Parish Plan. The Clerk was asked to find a suitable spokesman to speak to us at the Parish Assembly on April 19th 2004 on the merits/difficulties in producing a Parish Plan.

4. Proposed Vodafone mast at Marsh Benham – there had been an informal meeting on the 1st March. No one had been able to attend from the Speen Parish Council. A discussion took place and the Application has not yet come up for Planning Consent. E Vandyk had no further comment to make at this time.

5. Planning Application at the Shell Garage on the London Road – all problems now solved and WBC error sorted.

6. PLANNING - A new list had been compiled for the Planning Applications since January last year as the original had been incomplete. The procedure is now that a) all incoming plans to the Clerk are forwarded promptly to the Planning Chairman A Snook and b) he will contact the Planning Committee if there looks to be problems, and meet with them if necessary. C) If there is the need the Parish council will meet to discuss the Planning Application. The procedure was proposed by E Vandyk and seconded by K Rai.

7. FINANCIAL – The Responsible Financial Officer reported that she had just claimed back VAT for £465. There had been a request for a donation for the Churchyard at St Johns Parish Church, but this had been received too late for the Agenda and would be considered after the Parish Assembly and AGM.

Cheques written and signed since the last meeting:

1136 West Berks RoSpa	£ 180.00
1137 A E Butcher	£ 50.00
1138 S Electric re Speen Pav	£ 7.16
1139 post dated S & J Man	£ 446.39
1140 SEC	£ 44.69
1141 Clerk - extra work	£ 18.00
1142 Waterers replacement chq	£2,623.48
1143 Suttons Estates	£ 0.25
1144 Cottrells	£ 9.98
1145 AE Butcher	£ 97.00
1146 M Copeman Green	£ 105.16
	£3,582.11

8. CORRESPONDENCE:

- a) a letter from WBC on footways was discussed. J Booth said that stones were overflowing onto the pavements and making them dangerous for the elderly to negotiate. She was to contact the Editor of the Grapevine to enlist help.

- b) The Calor Gas Village competition for this year – details in the Stockcross village shop and in Speen.
- c) The Chairman has been invited to WBC function on 24th April.
- d) The Clerk reported having received a letter from Richard Benyon at Englefield Estate regarding Ragwort and has already replied.
- e) E Vandyk summarised a brochure from Standards Board and he took it with him to reply. All Councillors agreed.
- f) Two copies of the Berkshire Communicator have been received.
- g) A letter from Vital Villages was discussed. It is not relevant to us.
- h) Letter re Park Way Planning Application in Newbury to be referred to and passed to the Clerk for filing.
- i) A Review on the Homeless in Berkshire was passed to the Clerk for filing.
- j) A request from the Blind Society for a donation was rejected at this moment in time.
- k) The Clerk was asked to make sure all the building work at Speen Village Hall was completed or cleared for our next Meeting there on April 19th 2004.

9. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND INFORMATION.

- i) Battle Mast is still under consideration.
- j) Orange want to put a mast on Shell Garage

10. SPEEN AND STOCKCROSS RECREATIONAL PROJECTS

After a discussion it was proposed that AFC Juniors should be allowed to use the pitch at Stockcross, toilet and showers only for £300 - £500. Proposed by WRB John and seconded by C Woodhead.

Tony Butcher to be asked to help with necessary repairs at Speen Pavilion.

The Speen Recreation Ground working party, to comprise K Rai, A Snook, P Calder and C. Woodhead, will get 3 quotes for the repairs needed to Speen Pavilion.

Stockcross Changing Rooms: No grant Application – turned down by Greenham Park. No tenant agreed,

A discussion took place on the justifiability of building new changing rooms at Stockcross recreation ground. Whilst no conclusion was reached A Snook was asked to research what type of ‘hybrid’ and thus lower cost proposal might be feasible. To report back at next Council meeting.

The Meeting closed at 9.15 p.m. and the next Meeting is the Annual Assembly on April 19th at Speen Village Hall at 7p.m.