

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SPEEN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE PARISH HALL, ON 25TH JULY 2005 AT 7 p.m.**

Present: G Foulkes (Chairman) J Booth (Vice Chairman) E Vandyk
T Tyler, L Warner L Homersham

Apologies: WRB John A Snook M Franks (District Councillor)
C Woodhead

District Councillor: P Bryant

Members of Public: 7 plus Representative of Newbury Weekly News.

1.. Declarations – E Vandyk advised an interest in the Stockcross gate.
There were no other Declarations.

2.. New Councillor: The Chairman advised that by law we are required to put up a Notice of the Vacancy, but this has not yet been done as E Dineen had resigned verbally, although having promised a letter of resignation in the post it had not yet arrived. This matter would go through the legal channels when it had been received by the Parish Clerk. The Chairman also advised the Parish Council that C Woodhead had given notice to resign in October.

3.. Minutes of the previous Meeting on May 23rd 2005 were adjusted on two small points, and then agreed and signed by the Chairman.

4.. Matters Arising:

- a) The Gate/stile at Stockcross has not yet been completed but would be checked and the Clerk advised. The Clerk had heard from WBC a year after initiation, reporting that some stiles and gates had now been attended to.
- b) The gate at Stockcross which has recently been installed does not need preservative, the Clerk reported.
- c) The sign at the south entry into Stockcross has been re-instated and also the one at the East entry which had broken down.
- d) There were no more reports of excess fly tipping, the Vice Chairman advised. The Council resolved to keep a watch on this illegal habit.

5.. COMMITTEES: The schedule produced by the Clerk was completed with the help of those present. All Councillors have a responsibility and some two or three. It was agreed that the Chairman could sit on all the Committees if he so wished. The Clerk was asked to send round copies of the schedule to those Councillors not present.

6.. In the absence of A Snook the Clerk was asked to go ahead and get a sign saying '**No Ball Games in this Area**', a sturdy one if possible, and then to ask A

Butcher to put it up in the area where there have been complaints of balls hitting the private fencing. J Booth offered to liaise with K Butcher the Coach. The Clerk reported that she had received money outstanding since May from the Brazilian Fun Soccer group who play on Saturdays at Speen.

J Booth summarised the position at **Stockcross** – the new season starts in September, and there was some concern over the cars parked as two sessions overlapped. A general discussion took place, and E Vandyk suggested that there be three quarters of an hour between each session thus avoiding those coming to park before the first group have left. J Booth said that she was report back after speaking to the coach, K Butcher and Gary Marsh. The Council thanked J Booth and hoped the matter would be solved.

7.. Quotes have been coming in for **the uplifting of the two Cricket Wickets** at Speen Recreational Ground. Two were verbal and one was in writing. It was agreed that the Clerk should get a letter out to the cheapest quote and get the details confirmed in writing, with a time limit of ten days. Proposed by E Vandyk seconded by L Homersham. All in Favour. Should this not be forthcoming then the next cheapest quote should be accepted. Agreed.

It is planned that the work should commence in the middle of September, to allow for new grass seed to grow, before the heavy use in the Winter Season.

8.. **Notice Board** – the notice board at **Bagnor** is so warped that it will not close. A discussion took place and it was pointed out by a member of the public that the board was only 4.5 years old. It was suggested that a local wood craftsman look at it, to see if it could be repaired. J Booth offered to ask someone in Stockcross.

At this point it was also suggested that the seats at Speen Recreational Ground should be looked at, and that A Butcher would be pleased to look after them if instructed. The Clerk said that she had never refused A Butcher's request for paint or preservative, but that she relied on him telling her what and when it was needed. She would contact him to talk about his work for us.

9.. **PLANNING** – J Booth reported that 9 Applications had been passed by WNC and 2 rejected. The erection of flats and demolition of garages proposed in Battle Close had been rejected. This was a great relief. J Booth thanked Roy Tolcher for all his hard work and detailed objections. She hoped there would not be an Appeal.

Meadow Cottage at Lambourn Road plans for an extension have been refused.

Donnington Grove Country Club have plans in for new Country Clubhouse, but conditions regarding footpaths prevent the Application going ahead. The Applicants want the conditions removed but the residents want them to stay. The footpaths should be maintained as they are well used, by public from Speen. A lengthy discussion took place and it was agreed to protect the rights of residents, and keep the footpaths as Rights of Way. This motion was proposed by L Warner and seconded by E Vandyk. All in Favour.

10.. FINANCE. The Clerk had no cheques to sign this evening but listed those paid since the last meeting. The Reserve account at the Bank of Ireland has a balance of £27,431 and she asked that £1500 be moved from the reserve account to the current account at Lloyds. She advised that VAT had been reclaimed approx £555.

SPEEN PARISH COUNCIL

CHEQUES DRAWN SINCE LAST MEETING	Gross
25/05/2005 B Lambert - spring on gate Stockcross	37.56
06/06/2005 Barry Forkin - keys cut for Speen Rec	30.98
06/06/2005 S & J Management Services - Clerk	471.76
06/06/2005 A Butcher - litterpick	62.00
06/06/2005 AON - Allianz Cornhill - Ins	1,177.97
06/06/2005 BALC - sub	347.74
06/06/2005 B Lambert - mend ball valve in loo	36.46
30/06/2005 SEC	193.66
30/06/2005 Thames Water	21.58
04/07/2005 S & J Management Services - Clerk	470.41
13/07/2005 Southern elec	93.14
13/07/2005 UHY	52.88
13/07/2005 A Butcher - litterpick	62.00
Total	3,058.14

11.. CORRESPONDENCE – several items were read out by the Chairman, and the signs along the Bath Road 30 mph and 40 mph were discussed. Also it was noted by the District Councillor that out of 52 Parishes in West Berks, only 17 are having their road/highway improvements according to circulated plans.

12.. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND INFORMATION: L Warner explained that he had been approached to ask the Council if a bank of daffodils could be planted on the verge near the Speen allotments. Also some near the Speen Notice Board. It was suggested that L Warner direct the communicative to Highways at West Berks, as they own the verges.

The Meeting close at 8.25 p.m. and the next Meeting is scheduled for September 12th at Stockcross.