

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SPEEN PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD IN SPEEN VILLAGE HALL ON 16<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2006 AT 7 P.M.**

**Present:** G Foulkes ( Chairman ) J Booth ( Vice Chairman ) A Snook  
C Woodhead P Calder E Vandyk D McAlister A Lees J Ives ( Clerk )  
R Tolcher H Ashburner

**Apologies:** L Warner

**District Councillors:** P Bryant and M Franks.

**Members of Public:** 5 including Newbury Weekly News

1. Resignation of T Tyler. The Chairman read a letter from T.Tyler. He also reported that WRB John had retired as a Councillor.
2. **WELCOME** to the two new Councillors – R Tolcher and H Ashburner. The Clerk read a short list appertaining to Register of Interests. H Ashburner declined to complete this form, and said that the Clerk would receive it later from him. R Tolcher has already sent his in to WBC Electoral Dept. Both Acceptance of Office were duly completed. The Clerk gave the new Councillors a booklet for their perusal, which had been provided by BALC.
3. **DECLARATIONS:** C Woodhead declared an interest in the Landscape Quote decision, and said he would leave the room when the matter was discussed.
4. **MINUTES** of 21<sup>st</sup> November 2005. An Addendum was added re. Finance Committee on 9<sup>th</sup> December should have read Finance Working Group. All agreed and the Minutes were signed by the Chairman.
5. **MATTERS ARISING:**
  - a) Donnington Grove Footpaths – the Clerk had received a letter stating that the plan to move and extinguish footpaths had been refused.
  - b) A Lees reported on Brackley Medical Centre plans, which had been refused by West Berks Council. He advised that an Appeal may come through in due course.
  - c) The Clerk reported on work almost completed for RoSPa, and asked the Parish Council to vote on the purchase of one cubic metre of bark at £179 from Playground Services. A Lees proposed and R Tolcher seconded. Any left over after use at Marsh Benham should be kept in the Speen Pavilion garage.
  - d) The Clerk read out a quote from Brian Lambert regarding the fencing at Marsham Benham and Stockcross, and she was asked to get two more Quotes with the same specification. The remaining item regarding the tyre mound at Speen should be left for the time being: Proposed C Woodhead and seconded by H Ashburner.

**6.. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS:**

- M Franks said that some of his time had been attending Policing Seminars. If anyone needed to know further details they were welcome to contact him. He also mentioned that he knows where children's play area subsidies are available.
- P Bryant talked about the Surgery for the Brackley Medical Centre plans – he said that it had come up too suddenly - surely the Doctors must have known a year ago that space was short at

their present surgery? One has to work very closely with the Primary Care Trust.

- P Bryant mentioned that FP 15 has started to move – the first part of the project has taken place. He reminded the Council that this was the FP that goes through back gardens at Speen. A new FP needs to be planned and then the old extinguished. As the FP 15 has been there for some years there is a great deal of red tape involved.
- LPG2 Transport plans are planning the future of transport in the local area for the future. Look on the WBC website.

**7. PRECEPT** The Clerk asked the Parish Council to consider spending money on the Car Park at Stockcross, so that Mothers can park their cars when dropping off children at the school. C Woodhead proposed that quotes be obtained for this, and P Calder seconded. J Booth agreed to help, and also the Clerk. After due consideration and discussion the Precept was agreed at £13620 which was less than the current year, and the Clerk was asked to complete the necessary forms for this. 7 in favour 3 abstentions. The Clerk was asked to contact the Internal Auditor Mr Anthony Kirke, and ask him to come to the next Meeting. The Clerk said that she worked with open accountability and if the Parish Council wished to look at the quarterly figures there was no reason why they could not.

**8.. STANDING ORDERS** A discussion on the standing orders proposed by the Clerk. She was asked to write to D Holling, Legal Department WBC to ask if he had actually vetted them, and if he approved of them for acceptance. C Woodhead proposed that this item be brought up at the next meeting and P Calder seconded.

**9. LANDSCAPE CONTRACT.** C Woodhead left the room. After discussion and information given by the clerk the Council agreed to award English Landscapes the Contract. This was the lowest Tender. Proposed E Vandyk and seconded by D McAlister. 9 in favour and 1 abstention. C Woodhead took his place again.

**10. SPEEN PAVILION** The Clerk read a comprehensive report sent in by L Warner on the state of the Speen Pavilion area, and suggestions for work needed to be done. A discussion took place, and it was decided to ask L Warner, with A Lees and D McAlister to put together an Action Plan. It was agreed that maybe the car park should be surfaced with tarmac. This whole topic to be discussed at the next Meeting in March.

**11. FOOTBALL** at Stockcross Sunday players are enjoying the facilities. No problems at present.

**12. PLANNING** – some small applications had been seen by C Woodhead and A Snook, and J Booth and A Lees. All OK.

**13. FINANCE**

The Clerk read the balances on the two Bank Accounts, and went through each payment made since the last meeting. She asked that A Snook be a signatory in the absence of T Tyler, who has resigned. She would get a mandate for Lloyds and Bank of Ireland for the next meeting. All agreed.

#### **CHEQUES PAID SINCE THE LAST MEETING.**

1227	05/12/2005	A E Butcher/various	£ 146.76
1228	05/12/2005	B Lambert RoSPa	£ 400.00
1229	05/12/2005	St John's Church	£ 250.00
1230	05/12/2005	BALC	£ 8.00
1231	05/12/2005	Cottrells	£ 77.35
1232	05/12/2005	B Lambert re Notice Board	£ 128.00
1233	08/12/2005	S & J Magt - Clerk	£ 473.72
1234	08/12/2005	Speen Parish Hall	£ 31.80
1235	06/01/2006	Southern Electric	£ 49.40
1236	06/01/2006	A E Butcher/various	£ 209.00
1237	06/01/2006	WBC re Election	£ 47.00
1238	06/01/2006	S & J Magt - Clerk	£ 475.38
1239	06/01/2006	Southern Electric	£ 193.66
			<b>£2,490.07</b>

14.. **CORRESPONDENCE:** 7 items were read out by the Chairman and two taken to read by the Councillors.

#### **15. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION AND CONSIDERATION:**

- The Clerk said that Speen Fete had been changed to June 17<sup>th</sup> 2006.
- It was noted that L Warner had not been to a meeting since September, and we knew that he had a business meeting in London tonight. The Council approved his non-appearance and the Clerk was asked to Minute this. All Councillors who miss a Meeting should provide a valid reason for their absence, to be approved by the Council.
- J Booth reported a very interesting day with Rural Housing Association.
- WRB John would be missed as a Foot Path Warden, and after discussion C Woodhead offered to be responsible for Bagnor and Speen only.
- E Vandyk offered no recommendations in answer to a leaflet from WBC regarding Draft Freight Strategy.
- E Vandyk summarised the situation as it had happened with the Bagnor Notice Board and invited H Ashburner to respond. He declined. All necessary actions had taken place and the right decision had been made, in the view of the Council with this matter.
- The Clerk would contact Theresa Kenyon regarding the late Monica Harris, and the naming of a new road for her.

**The Meeting closed at 9 p.m. and the next Meeting is scheduled for March 20<sup>th</sup> 2006 at Stockcross.**