

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SPEEN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 20 MARCH 2006 AT SUTTON HALL, STOCKCROSS
AT 7.00 P.M.**

Present: G Foulkes (Chairman) J Booth (Vice Chairman) L Warner
R Tolcher E Vandyk H Ashburner A Lees C Woodhead
M Lavelle J Ives (Clerk)

District Councillor: P Bryant

Members of the Public: 9

Apologies: M Franks A Snook P Calder D McAlister

1, **DECLARATIONS:** Nil

2. **Re PARISH CLERK:** A letter from the Clerk, withdrawing her resignation, had been previously circulated. R Tolcher asked for the matter to be debated with the public excluded and for the Clerk to withdraw in accordance with Standing Order 38. The Clerk having indicated that she was happy to have any debate about her position in open forum with the public present, E Vandyk proposed that the public not be excluded and that standing order 38 be suspended. The resolution was seconded by J Booth and passed by a majority. It was then proposed by G Foulkes that the withdrawal of the Clerk's resignation be accepted. This was seconded by E Vandyk. The resolution was passed by 6 votes to 2 Against with 1 abstention.

3. Mrs M Lavelle from Speen was warmly welcomed by the Chairman and given books by the Clerk.

4. A letter was read out by the Chairman received from P Calder concerning 'the troublesome attitude' of two new councillors. The Chairman commented that he had never received a letter like this before. He advised those concerned that the situation would be dealt with if their troublesome attitude persists.

5, **MINUTES:** Minutes of 16th January were agreed and signed after a small alteration. All in favour.

6. **MATTERS ARISING**

- A letter from the internal auditor was read by the Chairman. The Internal Auditor explained why he did not wish to attend evening meetings. A comment from BALC said that the Internal Auditor should not be asked to attend council meetings. Questions should be done on a report. E Vandyk asked that a report be obtained at yearend. Seconded by J Booth. All in favour.

- **Standing Orders:** Clerk read a memo from David Holling, legal department WBC. This recommended adoption. R Tolcher reminded Council that laws change every few months. E Vandyk said they would have to be reviewed every two/three years. After some discussion it was decided to leave this matter until a future meeting when councillors had had time to thoroughly peruse the standing orders originating from East Ilsley

- 7 **TRAVEL PLANS STOCKCROSS PRIMARY SCHOOL:** D Forsyth and K Jones introduced their travel plans for picking up and dropping off children at the school. There are no official arrangements. An accident is waiting to happen. There is concern about safety of children and mothers. The busy B4000 needs special signing, possibly a mirror on the Chapel Road corner, the widening of pavements and a path along the car park to the school. A debate was held and a member of the public, who lives on the B4000 corner, supported the urgency of the situation. It was pointed out that it is not possible for an ambulance to get through when mums are parking. It was suggested that the school had a parking monitor. The Chairman offered full support and J Booth offered to be a 'contact person' to liaise with the school and council. This would be on the Agenda in May. Meanwhile C Woodhead proposed to allow the Stockcross car park to be used by the school until the end of July, with the caveat that there being no objection from WBC Highways Department regarding the poor access to/from B4000, and that the Council's Insurance Company be contacted re no liability to accidental damage to cars in the car park. H Ashburner seconded. Seven in favour.

8. **RE-APPOINTING STOCKCROSS SCHOOL GOVERNOR:** A discussion took place and the Clerk was asked to liaise with Clerk of the Governors of the school to see if a more local person could be appointed, as Mrs Lynnette Homersham had moved into Newbury.

9. **PARISH PLAN:** S Ward from the CCB talked in some depth to try and activate Speen Parish Council to start a parish plan. She applauded the Village Design Statement, but felt it did not go far enough. Also now consultation was needed with the parish residents. She would be our key person and help with grants, and volunteers. The aim would be to have a clear idea of future opinions, tools to find consultation and progression. A discussion took place and H Ashburner and A Lees offered to sit down together and formulate a plan. The Chairman thanked them.

10. **SPEEN PAVILION :** L Warner reported on recommendations he had raised in an action plan. He had not consulted two other councillors, but had produced it by himself. G Foulkes thanked him for his effort. E Vandyk said we should act aggressively on drugs, drink and vandalism and knock it down. H Asburner commented that endless streams of money has

been going into the Speen pavilion and recreational area. Do we really want to carry on with this pavilion and all its problems? Is it part of the Parish Plan? A Lees commented that although a great deal of money is being spent on the upkeep of the Pavilion, we should still continue to maintain it, as it is for the Parish good. When the players are playing football it looks good. A Lees went on to say that the general area around the Pavilion was looking dilapidated, and the gates now do not lock, or shut properly. G Foulkes summarised it would be part of the Parish Plan and R Tolcher proposed to continue to think of positive alternatives, and get estimates. This was seconded by C Woodhead.

11. **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT:** P Bryant advised that Brackley Planners are still looking for surgery space, and would like to hear from Speen. He also reported that land adj. No. 2 Speen Lane, planning had been turned down. Footpath 5 at Donnington Grove has gone to written appeal. 8th April Downland Forum. Kersey Crescent – Sovereign Housing applying for application for 11 flats. P Bryant is monitoring.
12. **PLANNING:** J Booth had received one or two small applications. No Problems.
13. **STOCKCROSS STREET FAIR.** 29th July. A letter had been received asking for money and R Tolcher proposed £100. J Booth seconded. All in favour. Also a sum of £100 for Speen Village Fete was agreed, when the request comes through to the Speen Council.
13. **FINANCE:** The Clerk reported a balance of £25492 in the savings account at the Bank of Ireland and £1,000 in current account.

Chqs Paid Since Last Meeting

1240 Garden Carpenter	376.00
1241 Void	
1242 Water	34.28
1243 A E Butcher	62.00
1244 S & J Clark	487.60
1245 Garden Carpenter	728.50
1246 Southern Electric	14.32
1247 A E Butcher	62.00
1248 S & J Clerk	440.41
1249 Cottrells	12.10
1250 WBC Legal	47.00
	2,264.21

The Clerk brought to the notice of the Council the annual increment on Spinal 19. This was proposed by E Vandyk and seconded by C Woodhead. All in favour.

14. CORRESPONDENCE:

- C Woodhead reported on the stile at Bagnor, which is too high for elderly residents to climb. The Clerk was asked to contact WBC for their assistance.
- The Blind Society had asked for a donation. This to be put on the Agenda for the next meeting.

The Chairman sorted through 11 further items and read each to the Council.

15. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND INFORMATION:

- C Woodhead advised Council that he was applying for grants from the Lottery Fund for play areas. He would report back in due course.

The meeting finished at 9.30 p.m. The next meeting is the Parish Assembly on 10 April at Speen Village Hall, 7.00 p.m. All electors welcome.