

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SPEEN PARISH
COUNCIL HELD IN THE SPEEN VILLAGE HALL
ON MAY 15th 2006 AT 7 P.M.**

Present: G Foulkes J Booth L Warner H Ashburner R Tolcher M Lavelle
A Lees E Vandyk D McAlister J Ives (Clerk)

Members of the Public: 10 including Newbury Weekly News Representative.

District Councillors: None

1..**APOLOGIES:** A Snook (working commitments) C Woodhead (working commitments).

2..**WELCOME:** The Chairman welcomed all those present and in particular the Members of the Public, whom we are always pleased to see at our Meetings.

3..**ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN.** G Foulkes was willing to remain in office for another year, but there was another nomination – H Ashburner. G Foulkes was proposed by J Booth and seconded by H Ashburner. A Ballot was then held and a Vote taken. The results were 5 in favour of G Foulkes, and 4 in favour of H Ashburner. The Chairman was thus elected as G Foulkes, and the declaration of Office signed for the files.

4..**ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN:** J Booth wished to stand down as Vice Chairman after two years in office, and C Woodhead had expressed an interest, and was proposed by J Booth and seconded by L Warner, although absent for the Meeting. A ballot was held and a Vote taken. The results were 5 in favour of H Ashburner, and 4 in favour of C Woodhead. Thus the Vice Chairman's position is now taken by H Ashburner. Proposed by M Lavelle and seconded by E Vandyk. All in Favour. Declaration of Office was signed for the files.

5. **INTRODUCTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR:** K Phillips had just arrived and met the Parish Council. His letter of application had been circulated and he was welcomed by the Chairman and all those present. He is being signed up at the next Meeting in June, and he expressed that he was looking forward to taking office.

6. **DECLARATIONS:** R Tolcher and M Lavelle expressed an interest in the Planning Application for land adjacent to 2 Speen Lane. H Ashburner declared an interest in item 15, although he would have to speak but could not vote.

7..**MINUTES:** Two small alterations to be done – the word 'school' to be changed to 'Speen' in item 10 re Speen Pavilion – this alteration (typing error) was proposed by E Vandyk and seconded by J Booth. Also it had been agreed to give Speen Fete the sum of £100 and this was proposed by L Warner and seconded by A Lees. E Vandyk proposed and H Ashburner seconded a motion to investigate the costs of being able to record the Meetings, to prevent future disagreement about what was actually said. The Clerk expressed an interest in buying a recorder. The Minutes of 20th March 2006 were then agreed and duly signed. All in Favour.

8..**MATTERS ARISING:**

- Stockcross Car Park. A discussion took place as it was announced by J Booth that the facility of the Recreation Car Park at Stockcross was not being used

by the Mums and their children. She was not sure that the parents had been advised that they could use it. There is a Meeting on 22nd May at the school to discuss the problem of offloading and collecting children outside the school. R Tolcher had been up to the area and reported that 1 car was parked in the playing fields car park and 25 in Chapel Lane. Another time he went there were 2 in the our car park and the Lane was chocked up with cars. It was agreed by all that it would be a waste of Public money to tarmac the Car Park for the school use. There was also mention of the Insurance cover, which was a 'grey area', although the Clerk had been in touch with Allianz Cornhill initially. The Clerk was asked to write to the Headmaster of Stockcross Primary School and try to arrange a meeting between them, him and the Governors. The School has a serious problem and the Parish Council would be able to support any planning permission, but it was the school's problem. It was affecting residents as Ambulances cannot get up Chapel Lane when all the cars are parked. The Clerk was also asked to send a copy of her letter to the Diocese.

- School Governor: A letter was read out from the Chairman of the Governors, and a discussion took place. It was agreed to decline to nominate. All in Favour.
- Lottery Funding – C Woodhead has the details and will report in June.
- Parish Plan: H Ashburner advised that he had been to a Meeting of New Greenham Park Trust on April 4th and that it had proved very interesting. They support many Parish Plans in the area, financially, and H Ashburner said that Speen Parish Council should seriously try to raise a Parish Plan. S Ward would be our mediator with West Berks Council. H Ashburner proposed that we ask Nick Carter Chief Executive of WBC to talk to us at the next Meeting. Seconded by A Lees. All in Favour.

9.. **STOCKCROSS PLAYING FIELDS:** J Booth reported that Football was being played and no problems.

10.. **WAR MEMORIAL:** It was unanimously agreed that the War Memorial at Speen should be restored to its full glory. The Clerk reported on contact The Stone Circle in Basingstoke whose quote came out at approx £2400 plus VAT and additional cost for cleaning. She was getting two more Quotes, and had been in touch with the Insurance Company and they were favourable to getting it repaired. Infact it may not be possible to actually repair the cross (half had blown off in recent gales) but it is possible to scan the pattern and produce another cross. The Clerk would report progress to the Councillors. The Parish Council desires to get the work completed by November, and Poppy day.

11.. **PLANNING:** (R.Tolcher left the room) Land adjacent to 2 Speen Lane was discussed in some depth. It was felt that the area was too small for two houses and two garages, and also most importantly there is dangerous exit and access on the corner of Speen Lane. A Member of the Public said that he had been trying to get the double yellow lines extended for some months. This would help the situation and the Council agreed. The Clerk to contact WBC. R Tolcher rejoined.

12.. COMMITTEES: The Council decided who was sitting on which Committee and the Clerk will summarise by e-mail to all of them during the week.

13.. DONATIONS: After some discussion E Vandyk proposed that the sum of £90 be given to The Blind Society and A Lees seconded. Speen Village Fete had already been agreed at £100, the same as last year. The Subscription to Berkshire Association of Local Councils £338 was proposed by R Tolcher and seconded by H Ashburner. A request from the Speen Allotment Association would be discussed at the next meeting, as it was not on the Agenda

14.. It was agreed that the Insurance Company's Annual Invoice be settled (£1245.43). All in Favour.

15.. Hugh Ashburner apologised for ordering books from BALC without prior agreement from the Council. It was agreed to pay for the books – the Standing Orders and Chairmanship and Powers and Constitutions and the Clerk was asked to order 3 more of each. It was agreed that it is necessary for any Councillor to ask before spending Precept money. All agreed.

16.. FINANCIAL: The Clerk had circulated some figures and schedules and although the Councillors had not time to examine fully they were read a letter from the Internal Auditor, who had signed the Accounts. He had also made a small report on the Clerk's format of Accounts. G Foulkes signed the Accounts and the Clerk said that the Public, or indeed any of the Councillors, would be welcome to look at the Accounts if they contacted her to make an appointment. Mandates to be signed – were now long overdue – and the Clerk would post them round to those who had not attended the Meeting.

CHEQUES MADE PAYABLE SINCE LAST MEETING

23/03/2006	1251 Stockcross Fayre	100.00
23/03/2206	1252 Southern Elec	116.27
10/04/2006	1253 Speen Hall	23.85
10/04/2006	1254 Southern Elec	193.66
10/04/2006	1255 Southern Elec	119.79
10/04/2006	1256 Sutton Hall	39.60
10/04/2006	1257 S & J Mgt Clerk	458.44
10/04/2006	1258 A E Butcher	62.00
19/04/2006	1259 SEC	159.81
19/04/2006	1260 NWNews	35.81
03/05/2006	1261 A Kirke	150.00
03/05/2006	1262 Thames Water	21.27
03/05/2006	1263 S & J Mgt Clerk	484.28
15/05/2006	1264 SEC	264.20
15/05/2006	1265 A E Butcher	64.99
17/05/2006	1266 Berks Blind Soc	90.00
17/05/2006	1267 Speen Fete	100.00
17/05/2006	1268 BALC sub	337.95
17/05/2006	1269 Allianz Cornhill	1,245.43
	Total	4,067.35

17.. CORRESPONDENCE: 8 items of correspondence were read out by the Chairman and circulated.

18.. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND INFORMATION:

- VAS – Vehicle Activator Speeding - a letter had been received from West Berks Council and D McAlister offered to read it and plan where the units could be placed in our Parish, and report back. There would be no funding for the proposals, said the Council.
- Standing Orders: E Vandyk proposed that a Meeting be held of a Working Party consisting of the Building and Finance Committee to review the Standing Orders of the Parish Council and make recommendations to the Council. if any changes were needed.. J Booth Seconded and it was agreed that R Tolcher should attend the Working Party Meeting. A date would be agreed.
- J Ives (Clerk) said that she had met with Rachel Craggs of West Berks Council regarding notices for anti-social behaviour. She had asked for three to be placed near the Pavilion at Speen.
- A Member of the Public said that crime and theft and vandalism were rife in the Parish, and what were we going to do about it. After some discussion it was agreed that Stuart Forte would ring the Clerk before the next Meeting and report what details he could, so that the Parish Council could discuss them. We await a report from District Councillor M Franks on CCTV.
- Mrs M Butcher complained of the falling stones outside her house. The Clerk agreed to look into it.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9 45 p.m. AND THE NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 19TH AT STOCKCROSS AT 7 p.m.