

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON JUNE 19TH
2006
AT STOCKCROSS AT 7 p.m.**

Present: H. Ashburner (Acting Chairman), D. McAlister, L. Warner, R. Tolcher, K. Phillips, J. Booth, C. Woodhead, M. Lavelle, P. Calder, J Ives (Clerk)

Apologies: E Vandyk, A. Lees, A. Snook, (illness), G. Foulkes.

District Councillors: M. Franks, P. Bryant.

Members of the Public: 7

1 WELCOME, The Chairman warmly welcomed those present – the Public, the District Councillors and the Parish Councillors.

Cllr Ashburner, asked Council to join him in wishing Cllr Snook a speedy recovery – and proposed that Council officially ‘accepts’ his reason for absence. Seconded by Cllr Woodhead – approved unanimously by Council.

2 ELECTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR, Keith Phillips was proposed for co-option by Cllr Tolcher, and seconded by Cllr Booth. Council voted unanimously to approve the co-option. Cllr Phillips was asked to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and his Register of Interests. This completed he accepted the latest book of Standing Orders and Powers and Constitution, and a Councillors guidance book. The Clerk said she would forward the necessary documents to the Legal Department at WBC.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY COUNCILLORS: Cllr Tolcher said that he would have an interest if land adjacent to 2 Speen Lane was mentioned. Cllr Booth was invited to consider her position living so close to Stockcross Primary School, but after discussion she was allowed to remain as representative for the Council in the on-going travel/car park matters at the school, and she declined an interest. Cllr Ashburner proposed this motion and Cllr Warner seconded. 5 in favour, 4 against. Cllr McAlister agreed to stand in if necessary and help Cllr Booth.

4 MINUTES: The clerk said that the Minutes of 15th May had been changed so much before the meeting, and she agreed to circulate an up to date copy to all the Councillors soon. The Minutes were therefore not agreed and signed, but held over to July 17th. Cllr Ashburner proposed that after each meeting, the Clerk circulate all Councillors with a final copy of the agreed and signed minutes. This was seconded by Cllr Tolcher and unanimously agreed.

5..MATTERS ARISING a) We have had no reply from Allianz Cornhill regarding insurance for the increased use of Stockcross car park.
b) Cllr Booth updated Council and reported on the problem with picking up the children after school – there has been a great improvement due mainly to the school’s ‘star’ programme. Cllr Lavelle proposed Council should temporarily suspend its standing order with regard to the six month

rule – this would allow Council to re-visit the school problem. Cllr Ashburner seconded. All in Favour. Cllr Ashburner advised Council of a letter received and responded to from the School's headmaster to Cllr Foulkes dated the 18th May. This had been superseded by the Clerks letter of the 19th May. Cllr Booth proposed that the Council write a letter to the Head Teacher allowing him to let parents use the Car Park at Stockcross Playing Fields on a temporary basis, and that they would like to know that he has considered a Car Park of his own. Cllr McAlister seconded. All in favour.

c) Cllr Woodhead reported that Lottery Funding is a long drawn out process. He has nothing positive to report at this moment in time. Council agreed to keep this matter on the agenda.

d) Cllr Ashburner was pleased to advise Council that Nick Carter of WBC would be making a presentation on Parish Plans to Council at the next Parish Council Meeting on July 17th. This was something to look forward to. Be prepared to ask questions about the Parish Plan.

Cllr Ashburner asked the newly created committees (from the May meeting) – for the committee members of each committee to elect a Chairman and to advise the Clerk of the Chairman of each committee in time for the next meeting.

6 SPEEN RECREATIONAL GROUND – ACTION PLAN. Cllr Warner advised the Council that some meetings ago he had put forward an 'Action Plan' to tackle the outstanding problems with Speen Recreational Ground. A general discussion took place – Cllr Lavelle reported a conversation with T Butcher (Litterpicker and ground worker) and said that it would be a good idea to have wire mesh put over the roof of the Pavilion, to reduce damage to the tiles. Scalpings were being picked up and thrown at the roof and all over the grass – causing problems for the grass cutter. Maybe we should tarmac an extra section, over the scalpings? The lights now need attention. Two coats of wood preservative are needed over the whole frontage. Cllr Ashburner suggested that we should prioritise the work. L Warner agreed and offered to get some prices for this work, and report to the Parish Council. This was proposed by Cllr Woodhead and seconded by Cllr Calder. All in favour. Cllr Lavelle suggested letting the Pavilion out for other meetings – if it was kept tidy and clean by the Footballers if this could be achieved. The Clerk said that she would speak to K Butcher, the Football coach. Cllr Tolcher proposed that the Terms of Contract for the Footballers was reviewed and checked, this was seconded by Cllr Ashburner. All in Favour. The Clerk was asked to send a copy of the existing contract to every Councillor.

7.. ARTIFICIAL WICKET The Clerk is getting quotes for this work – uplifting the rubble and topsoil and seeding. Probably will be completed in September or late August.

8 FIGHTING CRIME IN SPEEN Cllr Tolcher had prepared a report, and said that he had attended a Meeting of Thames Valley Police Officers and approximately 30 local residents at Brummell Road – operating in a Mobile Police Station. It is the responsibility of the residents to raise Petitions. There is to be a follow up meeting soon. WBC Cllr Franks District Councillor was also present. A Money of the Neighbourhood Watch Office told Cllr Tolcher that she had had a disappointing response following her visit to the Speen Parish Council Parish Assembly. One of the 'hotspots' is Speen Lodge Court – 21 houses – which is situated near a footpath. A

discussion took place and the Chairman thanked two members of the public and Cllr Tolcher for all their input. Cllr Ashburner proposed that P.C. Pete Sutherland, be asked to talk to the Council on July 17th, seconded by Cllr Calder. All in Favour. There is a question of whether we should share a Community Warden with Northcroft? WBC Cllr Franks and Cllr Tolcher to liase and report back.

9 STANDING ORDERS, The Working Party has agreed to review existing Standing Orders and make recommendations to Council. The WP has not yet met but Cllr Ashburner proposed that it be given a further month to arrange, meet and report to the July meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Lavelle. All in Favour. Cllr Tolcher proposed a resolution, “Until such time that there is a decision by resolution to replace them [standing orders], Council will comply with the current adopted Standing Orders (NALC booklets “Standing Orders and Chairmanship”, July 2003 and Powers and Constitution, October 2002) and the Law. This was seconded by Cllr Ashburner. Council voted against this resolution by 5 votes to 3 with 1 abstension.

10 WAR MEMORIAL, The Clerk updated the Parish Council of the quotes obtained, to replace the whole cross by using CNC scanning and Portland stone. The Insurers had written back and requested that we accept the cheapest quote. This was ‘Stone Circle’ at Basingstoke. Cllr Ashburner proposed that we accept this one (£2500) and this was seconded by Cllr McAlister. All in favour. Cllr Ashburner and Council thanked the Clerk for her endeavours with this matter.

11 VEHICLE ACTIVATED SPEED SIGNS, Cllr MacAlister had forwarded a document to West Berks Council but to date there has been no reply. The Clerk mentioned that if we were offering to fund in part or whole, it is very expensive!

12 PLANNING, The Clerk had already circulated a schedule of local planning applications recently, and their result if known.

- The Red House at Marsh Benham are asking for tourist accommodation on the other side of the river. J Booth said she could see no problems.
- Littlecroft on the A4 Bath Road – asking for a new entrance/exit through their wall onto the A4 etc. Complaints had been received. Ref 06/00170 Highways have proposed refusal.
- Watermill Theatre require new office and studio – Cllr Woodhead and Cllr Booth to visit to assess.
- Cllr Ashburner read out a letter, from a resident at 140 Boundary road, expressing concern at alterations to the Watermill Theatre which used to be owned by Westminster Abbey and was in the Cloth Industry with the watermill being prime importance. Cllr Ashburner passed the letter to Cllr Woodhead and asked him to consider it in his recommendations.

Cllr Ashburner proposed that the Planning Schedule issued by the Clerk at this meeting be a regular item – but with updated inserts to indicate where and what the PC’s position on the application was. Cllr Woodhead seconded. All in favour. The Clerk noted.

13 ROSPA. Cllr Ashburner asked Council to approve the annual inspection by ROSPA – a necessary obligation. All in Favour. The Clerk was asked to arrange for an inspection next month, on our Playing Fields. This would cost £180 plus VAT.

14 DONATIONS, Cllr Ashburner proposed that Speen Allotments Association be granted £50 from the Parish Council, in view of the sterling work and excellent display of daffodils on the banks adjacent to the allotments, and around the notice board in Station Road. This was seconded by Cllr Warner. All in Favour.

15 FINANCIAL PROCEDURES, The Clerk had circulated a proposed financial procedures document in response to a request by Cllr Vandyk at the previous meeting. Cllr Tolcher had circulated his recommendations. Cllr Woodhead proposed that these recommendations and the initial draft produced by the Clerk be reviewed by the working party looking at Standing Orders – and make recommendations to Council. Cllr Tolcher seconded – all in favour. The Clerk said that she would embrace his Cllr Tolchers suggestions and re-circulate for the working party.

16. FINANCES

Cllr Ashburner thanked the Clerk for circulating the two schedules – cheques paid prior to the meeting, and those to be approved and signed at the meeting. Cllr Ashburner proposed that in an emergency the Clerk should follow standing orders (page 25). Cllr McAlister seconded. All in Favour.

The following expenditure/cheques were unanimously approved by Council

CHEQUES PAID PRIOR TO MEETING

01/06/2006 BALC books	1270	108.00
01/06/2006 Southern Electric	1271	17.28
12/06/2006 A E Butcher	1272	62.00
12/06/2006 Cottrells office stny	1273	61.64
12/06/2006 S & J Management	1274	494.28
Total		743.20

Cheques raised and signed at the meeting

19/06/06 SEC	1275	220.02
19/06/06 CCB Subscription	1276	75.00

A further cheque for BALC had not been issued (Arnold Baker not required by this Council).

17 CORRESPONDENCE

- An invitation by the Area Commander of the Police was read out and Cllr Ashburner and Cllr Tolcher and Cllr Warner would try to go. The Clerk to supply details to the said Councillors and notify the Police.
- The Annual Parish Survey had been completed by the Clerk and sent to WBC.
- Greenham Common Trust have another meeting planned, and A Lees and H Ashburner would attend if possible.

18 MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND INFORMATION>

A discussion took place of the work of English Landscapes, and the Clerk was asked to tell them to take up all the grass cuttings and not leave half behind. Also she would ask them to cut the hedge behind the Pavilion at Speen to the top of the fence height around the pavilion and car park area.

**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.10 p.m. AND THE NEXT MEETING IS
SCHEDULED FOR JULY 17TH AT 7 p.m.**