

**MINUTES OF THE SPEEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON JULY 17 2006 AT 7 P.M. IN THE SPEEN PARISH HALL**

Present: G Foulkes (Chairman) H Ashburner (Vice Chairman) P Calder R Tolcher
K Phillips M Lavelle L Warner A Lees J Ives (Clerk)

District Councillors: none

Members of the Public: 6

The Clerk announced that 5 Councillors had sent their apologies and with the Chairman's authority she had rung the office of Nick Carter, Chief Executive at West Berks Council to postpone his visit to 18th September to talk about Parish Plans.

- 1 **APOLOGIES:** D McAlister P Bryant E Vandyk A Snook (illness) J Booth
- 2 **DECLARATIONS of INTEREST:** none
- 3 **MINUTES OF 19TH JUNE 2006.** A sentence was added to thank the Speen Fete organisers. The Minutes were all agreed and signed by the Chairman.
- 4 **MINUTES OF 15TH MAY 2006.** These were agreed and signed by the Chairman.
- 5 **MATTERS ARISING FROM 19TH JUNE MINUTES.**
 - a) Stockcross Car Park – a letter from Allianz Cornhill was read by the Chairman. The Parish Council has no responsibility for any accident in the car park, but we should check the condition of the surface regularly for pot holes and areas needing repair. Cllr K Phillips offered to do this. A letter which the Clerk had sent to the Headmaster at the Primary School, was read out for the Council's information. A discussion took place. The star system at present is working well and parents are using the car park and walking across the grass – on a rainy day this may not be the case. It was agreed that for medium/long term the school has to provide its own Car Park. In an effort to reduce traffic speed on B4000 and make the area safer a pedestrian crossing was suggested, but street lighting is a requirement for this and there is none in Stockcross. Cllr M Lavelle said that if the pavement by the B4000 is to be used railings should be fitted. The Chairman and Cllr K Phillips will arrange a meeting with the Headmaster early in September.
 - b) The names of Chairmen of Committees were not available and it was agreed that they would be decided by the September meeting.
 - c) The quote from English Landscapes of £376.88 for making good the artificial wicket at Speen Recreation Ground was approved unanimously. The Clerk to place the contract.

- d) The Working Party for Standing Orders had not been able to meet, but would do so by the September Meeting.
- e) There had been a Police Meeting at Newbury Racecourse and two Councillors had attended. The Local Police Area Commander chaired the Meeting, which centred on formation of Neighbourhood Action Groups. Speen is in two areas – Hungerford and Newbury, which will cause confusion. R Tolcher said that there is to be large increases in numbers of Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) from around 140 to 670. The Clerk was given a copy of the Police presentation to circulate to all Councillors. Cllr R Tolcher also reported on the Newbury Area Forum held on 4th July, when the petition was presented to West Berks Council regarding Speen Lane and Speen Lodge Court. WBC agreed after discussion to arrange a meeting involving all interested parties and agencies to discuss the way forward. Cllr Tolcher to represent Speen Parish Council.
- f) The Clerk said that she had booked PC Pete Sutherland, Community Police Officer to talk at the September 18th 2006 meeting.
- g) English Landscapes had advised the Clerk that they never pick up the cut grass. They had recently cut the hedge behind the Speen pavilion, but Councillors said that it should have been cut lower.
- h) A discussion took place regarding the lost keys of the padlock, and the padlock itself for the car park at Speen rec. K Butcher, the football coach had sent his apologies and replaced the padlock, but we still need five keys. Cllr A Lees said he would look into the matter.
- i) The repairs to the War Memorial are under way, by Stone Circle Basingstoke.

6 PLANNING PROCEDURES. Cllr R Tolcher had circulated a paper with his summary and suggestions to all Councillors. It was felt that our current way of dealing with plans may not be fully lawful. Cllr Tolcher urged councillors to study his paper. A note from Cllr A Snook suggested that we should ask BALC and WBC for guidelines. The main problem is that plans come in and have to be looked at and sent back before they can be discussed at a Meeting. It was felt that the Clerk must advise the Council when this has happened, and so be aware of actions taken, even if retrospectively.

7 DONATION FOR ST MARY'S SPEEN FOR UPKEEP OF THE CHURCHYARD. The sum of £250 was proposed by Cllr R Tolcher and seconded by Cllr H Ashburner. All agreed.

8 FINANCES: The Responsible Finance Office gave the balances in the current account and Deposit with Bank of Ireland. Quarterly accounts had been circulated. The Clerk was asked to provide councillors with the 2006/07 Budget Allocations.

CHEQUES PAID SINCE THE LAST MEETING

26/06/2006 Speen allotments	1277	£	50.00	Agreed at Mtg
17/07/2006 A E Butcher	1278	£	87.00	incl.new tiles on roof/ pavilion
17/07/2006 Staples (A J Ives)	1279	£	15.99	hanging green files for SPC
17/07/2006 Southern Electric	1280	£	143.70	unmetered electricity
17/07/2006 Sutton Hall Stockcross	1281	£	28.80	hall hire
17/07/2006 S & J Mgt (Clerk)	1282	£	492.28	incl extra postage
17/07/2006 SEC	1283	£	147.57	lights
17/07/2005 A J Ives	1284	£	120.00	Ex gratia payment, Clerk
18/07/2006 St Mary's Church Speen	1285	£	250.00	Donation re Churchyard
Total:			£ 1,335.34	

9 LONGER HOURS FOR CLERK: The Clerk said that she cannot get all her work done in the eleven hours she is paid for. She therefore asked if 14 hours could be considered. After consideration, The Parish Council offered an ex gratia sum of £120 proposed by Cllr M Lavelle, and seconded by Cllr H Ashburner. The matter would be put on the Agenda for the September meeting. The Clerk thanked the Parish Council. She was not successful in getting someone to look after two storage boxes of old files.

10 CORRESPONDENCE:

- a) The Queens Award for Voluntary Service – a letter was read out by the Chairman, and councillors were asked to suggest any nominations.

- b) A letter from MP Richard Benyon was discussed concerning noise of traffic on M4 and A34.

11 MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND INFORMATION:

- a) The Clerk was asked to send an invoice to Brazilliant Fun Soccer, if applicable, and could she check.
- b) The Clerk said that her holidays were Sept 25th to October 2nd.
- c) All future Council meetings booked for Speen Parish Hall will start at 7.30pm.
- d) Cllr Tolcher asked that the contract for the use of Speen Recreation Ground and the Pavilion by the junior football teams should be reviewed especially with reference to the requirements of the Child Protection Act. Cllr Warner to look into this.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.20 P.M. AND THE NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 18TH AT 7 P.M. AT STOCKCROSS.