

**MINUTES OF SPEEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON  
18<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2006 AT STOCKCROSS AT 7 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** G Foulkes ( Chairman) P Calder R Tolcher L Warner A Lees  
M Lavelle D McAllister A Martin K Sullivan J Ives (Clerk)

**DISTRICT COUNCILLORS:** M Franks and P Bryant.

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** 4 including Newbury Weekly News.

**1 . APOLOGIES:** H Ashburner (Vice Chairman) E Vandyk A Snook K Phillips  
These absences were due to holidays and sickness and working abroad, and were  
agreed and accepted by the Parish Council. Proposed by D McAllister and seconded  
by M Lavelle. All agreed.

**2.. WELCOME** by the Chairman and a slight alteration to the Agenda – we would  
start with a talk by the Community Policing Officer, Pete Sutherland.

**3...PETE SUTHERLAND,** Community Policing Officer for Hungerford and  
Newbury Area introduced himself and explained that a National Re-Assessment  
Project had highlighted the need for more Community Police representatives. They  
are designated officers and he was based at Shaw-cum-Donnington. Their  
responsibility is to raise public meetings, and make the public aware of anti-social  
behaviour, damage, and litter, and motor vehicle break-ins. After the public meeting  
the public would be encouraged to join the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. Meeting  
and discussions with the Police, and the Police are visiting schools and report on  
youth gatherings. The Speen Pavilion is still on the Police Awareness List. The public  
are encouraged to keep the Police informed. The Police work with many Agencies. A  
member of the public advised that his windows had been broken, and a discussion  
took place on surveillance cameras, and the benefits of the dome version.  
The Chairman thanked PC Sutherland for his very interesting talk, and everyone was  
most grateful for him attending the Meeting.

**4...WELCOME** by the Chairman to Nick Carter, Chief Executive of West Berkshire  
Council, who had come to talk on the benefits of Parish Plans. He began by saying  
that 85% of the Parish Councils in this area were underway. Parish Plans buy a clear  
articulation of what the Parish wants. Speen needs a robust consultation and the way  
forward made clear. Grants are available and help for obtaining these can be obtained  
by Sarah Ward, CCB, and WBC. When applying for financial backing it does help if  
there is a Parish Plan under way already. Building a Parish Plan encourages interest in  
the local Community. People have to help! Sometimes the Parish Council has to help  
too – and support the team of organisers with door knocking etc. The focus will be on  
all agencies – transport, policing and neighbourhood perspective. Mix short term with  
long term aspirations, particularly at the start. A short resume took place and  
questions asked. With Speen being so far from Marsham Benham and Stockcross,  
would this be a problem? Also it was felt that Speen Village is divided by the A4 to  
North and South side. Mention was made of the compiling of the Village Design  
Statement when one side of the A4 did not co-operate at all. Nick Carter said that

assistance would be available from WBC for all these hurdles, and with the Questionnaire, which would be compiled for all areas. He finished by saying that we should not be discouraged by past efforts.

#### **5...THE CHAIRMAN THANKED NICK CARTER FOR HIS TALK.**

**6....DECLARATIONS:** D McAllister said that her son now works for English Landscapes, the Contractors for Speen Recreation ground – noted.

**7....WELCOME** to the two new Councillors who were co-opted on to Speen Parish Council as per instructions from Legal Department of WBC. Annie Martin and Ken Sullivan signed the relevant forms, and Code of Conduct and took possession of books and literature given to them by the Clerk. They were warmly welcomed by the Chairman and the Council.

**8... MINUTES** of the Meeting on July 17<sup>th</sup> 2006 were duly agreed and signed by the Chairman. All in Favour.

#### **9....MATTERS ARISING**

- a) There had been a meeting between the Head Teacher at Stockcross School, with the Chairman and Cllr K Phillips. It had been a good meeting. It was agreed that the use of the Stockcross Car Park by parents is a temporary measure only. We should work in close harmony with the school who will try to raise money to fund a path. This would be a new project. More discussions at the next Meeting.
- b) English Landscapes have agreed to replace the practice wicket with turf. A discussion took place on football versus cricket. Cllr M Lavelle suggested the goal posts be moved so that both can be accommodated. Cllr L Warner asked if the Contracts for the football can be discussed at the next Meeting – all agreed.
- c) Police Meeting: Cllr R Tolcher reported on a Public Meeting by the Newbury Neighbourhood Policing Team. 55 people attended and Sovereign Housing was represented. A number of issues were raised, and Cllr Tolcher said he would attend the next meeting in October.
- d) War Memorial – all pleased. Invoice not yet in. Insurance to pay less excess. Cllr M Lavelle proposed a vote of thanks to the Clerk for her work on this, and all agreed.
- e) Clerk's hours – to be discussed at the next Meeting following a recent Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting.
- f) The Clerk advised the Parish Council that she had received over £1k in football rent.

#### **10.....COMMITTEES** Chairmen:

- FGP: Cllr E Vandyk
- Planning: Cllr A Snook
- Speen Rec: Cllr L Warner
- Stockcross Rec: Cllr K Phillips

**11... STANDING ORDERS** – Following the recent FGP Meeting this would be discussed at the next Meeting.

**12...OLD BAGNOR NOTICE BOARD:** After discussion it was agreed to give this away to the Speen Village Hall Committee. R Tolcher announced an interest – noted. Proposed by D McAllister and seconded by L Warner – All agreed.

### **13....PLANS**

06/01349/419LVC Watermill Theatre Lily Pond area – being assessed by SPC

16 Bagnor Newbury the appeal has been dismissed

Sandtrend – appeal upheld. Planning permission not now necessary.

MPV Bath Road – clerk reported no paperwork received. 01695 ref certificate of lawfulness applied for. She would chase.

### **14... FINANCES**

The Clerk reported balances at the bank: £24,404.95 deposit and £2,424.62 Current.

#### **CHEQUES PAID SINCE LAST MEETING**

18.07.2006	St Marys Church	1285	250.00
02.08.2006	Speen Hall	1286	23.85
02.08.2006	Hacker Young	1287	141.00
02.08.2006	Thames water	1288	31.89
02.08.2006	S & J Clerk	1289	482.28
08.08.2006	AE Butcher	1290	66.00
08.08.2006	Cottrells Stry	1291	67.53
18.08.2006	B Lambert	1292	35.00
18.09.2006	Southern Electric	1293	16.12
18.09.2006	AE Butcher	1294	72.00
18.09.2006	SEC	1295	452.86
18.09.2006	Playsafety Ltd	1296	211.50
18.09.2006	Dashwood Constr	1297	188.00
18.09.2006	S & J Clerk	1298	495.88
18.09.2006	Staples	1299	14.00
18.09.2006	SEC	1300	234.00
18.09.2006	SEC	1301	220.09
	Total		<b>3,002.00</b>

Cheque 1297 for £188.00 was agreed as long as the Clerk checked all records in 2004, as the invoice had not been presented when work done, to Speen Pavilion. It had now emerged at Dashwood Construction ( Cllr P Calder). The Clerk said she would be very careful Also the Invoices to SEC (Southern Electric Contracting) referred to the P5 column in Speen Lane, and Cllr Tolcher did not think it was working. The Clerk would report back to him.

**15...CORRESPONDENCE:** 8 items were read by the Chairman and distributed to the various Councillors.

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

- The hire rates for Speen Village Hall are going up to £6 per hour.
- Cllr M Lavelle informed the Council that Speen Fete had offered a donation of £300 for the Recreational Ground, and this was to go on a special project at their request – “Gates”..
- Cllr L Warner instructed the Clerk to send out up to date lists of address, telephone numbers and e-mails addresses.
- The Clerk reminded Council that meetings would be at 7.30 p.m. at Speen in future, and she was asked to alter the Stockcross meetings to start at the same time, to avoid confusion.
- The Clerk was asked to cancel the June 2007 Meeting, as it would not be needed.
- The Clerk reminded Council that she would be away from 25<sup>th</sup> September to 3<sup>rd</sup> October, but any e-mails would be dealt with in the usual way, and plans would be sent on.

**The Meeting closed at 9.25 p.m. and the next Meeting is scheduled for November 20<sup>th</sup> 2006 at 7.30 at Speen.**