

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SPEEN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 20TH NOVEMBER 2006 IN SPEEN PARISH HALL at 7.30 p.m.**

Present: H. Ashburner (Vice Chairman, Acting Chairman) A. Snook, P. Calder, M. Lavelle, L. Warner, K. Sullivan, A. Martin, R. Tolcher, K. Phillips and J. Ives (Clerk).

- 1. Apologies:** were received from:- D. McAlister. P. Bryant (District Councillor), M. Franks (District Councillor) - and G. Foulkes (Chairman).

The Acting Chairman welcomed all those present.

- 2. Declarations.** Nil

- 3. Minutes** of the Meeting of 18th September were proposed by Cllr Lavelle and seconded by Cllr Calder, after a small alteration deleting ‘Sutherland – Hungerford’ and agreed by all. The Chairman signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING:

a). An update on Stockcross Car Parking was discussed, and Cllr Phillips said that the new scheme was working well. He had received no complaints, from the parents or the school. In the wet weather the Stockcross Car Park is not used so frequently, 40% however do climb through our fence. There is no great damage so far. Cllr Ashburner proposed that the project was looked at further, and Cllr Snook seconded. A meeting would take place on 15th January in the morning of the Stockcross Recreation Committee, at the site.

b). Neighbourhood Policing – Cllr Tolcher reported, that he had attended a further meeting of the Newbury Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) – Neighbourhood 3 - which consisted of Shaw, Donnington, and Speen. He also advised that part of the Parish was not presented – as Stockcross is a part of the Hungerford and Downlands NAG - Neighbourhood 3 - which includes Kintbury, Marsh Benham and Stockcross. Cllr Sullivan offered attend the Hungerford & Downland NAG. Cllr Tolcher attends the Newbury NAG on behalf of the Parish Council. This subject is to be on the Agenda in January – as the Council needs to make a decision as to either accept the status quo and operate within 2 NAG’s with the associated costs or recommend a change to the Police authorities to include Stockcross with the Newbury NAG, Neighbourhood 3. Cllr Ashburner requested that the Clerk circulate the copies of Police presentation to all Councillors – so that Council could reach a view in January. Also requested that she return the original colour version to him – as he may be able to get colour copies.

c). War Memorial – the Clerk reported having received the insurance money (after deduction of the excess) and this is now banked. B & V Masonry, the supplier, has been paid. The Chairman thanked the Clerk.

d). All future Parish Council Meetings will start at 7.30

e). Cllr Tolcher reported an incident at the Speen Recreation Ground. The Police had been called and he had made a statement on behalf of the Council. The offender was not from the Speen area. Cllr Tolcher had looked around the Pavilion and opened the garage doors. He was dismayed to find a great deal of rubbish in there, including 3 shopping trolleys and 2 old bicycles, and he noted that it would be impossible to reach the electricity board area. He also remarked that the lines for the marking of the football field had been burnt in and not painted, as is usual. A discussion took place and was held pending until item 8.

f). Cllr Tolcher also reported that he had received an official complaint from the Chairman of the Allotments Association – complaining about the parking along Station Road at the weekends – due to the footballers parents parking. Cars were parked in some instances well on the pavement – which prevented pedestrians using the pavement – and also the allotment holders accessing their allotments.

5. FOOTBALL CONTRACTS: Cllr Warner has produced new Contracts. The new contracts were discussed by the Council. Cllr Snook suggested we sent a copy to BALC – for their comments. The Clerk was also asked to get a copy of Contractors Hire documents from WBC and let Cllr Warner see them. The contracts would be approved at the next meeting and implemented after that.

6. THE NEW LEGISLATION re CUPS ON GOALPOSTS, did not affect at Speen. However, at Stockcross the subject needs to be discussed with AFC Juniors. Cllrs Sullivan, Phillips and Snook agreed to meet the relevant personnel.

7. COST OF GATES at SPEEN RECREATION GROUND: Cllr Lavelle advised that £300 would be available for the new gates, as a gift from Speen Fete. However, the only quote we have to replace the gates is £990.00 plus VAT. More quotes need to be obtained. Cllr Calder would seek. The need for new gates was also questioned.

8. SPEEN RECREATION GROUND: A discussion took place about the use of the Pavilion area for crime, and drugs. The hedge needs to be cut lower – down to the fence level from the corner of Grove Road through to the edge of and all around the car park. The reduction in the height of the hedge had been requested by Council back in May – and it was unanimously agreed that this should be done as a matter of urgency. The Clerk would recall English Landscapes and ask them to complete the job for which they had been paid. Cllr Ashburner also advised that he has a contact for hedge cutting also – he would ask them to quote if English Landscapes failed to deliver. Other matters were discussed with regard to the recreation ground and Cllr Snook summarised and suggested that a report be raised with priorities for discussion at the next Meeting. Proposed by Cllr Snook and seconded by Cllr Ashburner. All agreed. Rubbish has been dropped at an area in Station Road at the back of the Lime trees, and the Clerk was asked to notify Streetcare. The Clerk was also asked to get a quote from BIFFA to empty the bins in the Recreation Ground. T

Butcher our 'litter-picker', produced photos and a report. Cllr Ashburner proposed a thank you to T Butcher for all his hard work and this was agreed by all.

9. LANDSCAPE CONTRACTORS CONTRACT COMPLETE: The Clerk advised that this had now been completed and the final payment had been made. Council asked the Clerk to put the work out to tender for next seasons contract. Quotes to be obtained from the 3 contractors asked to quote this last year plus Continental Landscapes based near Oxford.

10. NOTICE BOARD REFURBISHED. Council was advised that the posts of the notice board at Speen were becoming wobbly. They would probably need rebedding/changing next year, and an annual maintenance of oil needs to go on again next summer. Tony Butcher was thanked again by Council for his report and actions- by all.

11. CRIME IN SPEEN: Cllr Tolcher reported and said that progress is slow. It has been suggested that the 'alley-way' by Speen Lodge Court should be fitted with a self-locking gate and keys. Closed Circuit TV is proposed. There will be a 'Newbury Forum' meeting on the 17th of January next year - Cllr Tolcher will be attending.

12. WORKING PARTY MEETING 15/09/2006 - Standing Orders, Internal Auditor, Bank Accounts, Clerk's Hours. This item was dealt with confidentially at the end of the meeting and is 'minuted' separately.

13. DONATIONS were agreed as follows: St Johns Church Stockcross, for the upkeep of the Churchyard, £250 proposed by Cllr Tolcher and seconded by Cllr Calder. Thames Valley & Chiltern Air Ambulance Trust, £100 proposed by Cllr Tolcher and seconded by Cllr Phillips. All in Favour.

14. PLANNING APPLICATIONS: Land Adjacent to Sextons Cotage – the Clerk was asked to redo the covering sheet, as a mistake on the boxes had occurred. Cllr Snook had received a plan for a new dwelling in Chaucer Road and would be circulating it. It is not due in to WBC until 5th December 2006.

06/01349/LBC SPC Object WBC Approval	Watermill	Watermill Theatre	Lily pond area refurb
06/02159/FULD	Rivar Ltd	Land adj to Sextons Cottage	one detached hse & garage SPC Support (error) WITHDRAWN
06/02156/FULD	DA Hageman	land adj 6 Majendie Close	one 4 bed detached house SPC Object WITHDRAWN
06/02146/HOUS E	K Woods	Coach Hse Church Lane Spe	4 bay oak garage + stairway WITHDRAWN
06/01786/HOUS E	D Ross	Marsh Benham Lodge	2 + 1 storey from rear SPC No Object WBC approval
06/02266/HOUS E	T Turner	2 Wickham Rd Stockcross	Single storey extension
06/02329/HOUS	R Aldred	36 Caunter Rd Speen	conv of garage + new

E			garage SPC No Object
06/02390/FULD	D R Male	Manor Farmhse	demo outbldgs + new
		Benham Park	annexe SPC No Object

15. **FINANCES:** The Clerk reported that she had not received all the Bank Statements, but as far as her records showed there is £27,537.62 in the Bank of Ireland, and £5611.01 in the Current Account at Lloyds. The latter does not reflect a recent cheque for the War Memorial (approx £3k). The Precept would be discussed at the next Meeting.

CHEQUES PAID SINCE THE LAST MEETING

08/10/2006 S & J Clerk	1302	501.44
08/10/2006 SEC	1303	51.35
08/10/2006 Sutton Hall	1304	24.00
08/10/2006 A E Butcher	1305	62.00
20/10/2006 English Landscapes	1306	2,150.25
20/10/2006 B Lambert Plumber	1307	30.00
26/10/2006 B & V Masonry	1308	3,458.03
26/10/2006 Thames Water	1309	79.12
08/11/2006 S & J Clerk	1310	494.20
08/11/2006 Sir R Suttons Estates	1311	0.25
11/11/2006 Royal British Legion	1312	16.50
11/11/2006 A E Butcher plus extras	1313	110.98
20/11/2006 Southern Electric	1314	18.55
20/11/2006 St Johns Church	1315	250.00
20/11/2006 TV&C air Ambulance	1316	100.00
		7,346.67

Expenditure Approved – proposed by Cllr Ashburner and seconded by Cllr Calder.

16. **CORRESPONDENCE:** 7 items were read out by the chairman and discussed. The Planning Strategy Document sent out by West Berkshire Council has gone missing and the Clerk was asked to get a duplicate. It needs consultation..

17. **MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND INFORMATION:** Cllr Lavelle reported that she had received documentation regarding Flooding, and as Flood Warden for Speen she was happy to say that there is very little likelihood of flooding taking place in this area. Two homes only may be affected and they are being notified.

This part of the Meeting then Closed, and Part II Confidential was opened as soon as the hall had been cleared.

The next Meeting is on January 15th 2007 at 7.30 p.m. at Speen Parish Hall.