

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SPEEN PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD IN SPEEN HALL ON 15<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2007 AT 7.30 p.m.**

**Present:** G Foulkes ( Chairman) H Ashburner ( Vice Chairman ) R Tolcher  
K Sullivan, A Snook M Lavelle K Phillips A Martin D McAllister  
AJ Ives (Clerk).

**District Councillor:** M Franks

**Members of the public:** Newbury Weekly News Representative.

**Welcome by the Chairman.**

1. **Apologies** Cllr L Warner, Cllr E Vandyk, Cllr P Calder. P Bryant (District Cllr).
2. **Declarations:** nil
3. **Minutes** of the last meeting ( 20<sup>th</sup> November 2006) There was small minor adjustment in Part II and then the Minutes were passed – all in Favour, and signed by the Chairman.
4. **MATTERS ARISING:** a) **Stockcross Car Park** A Meeting had been held of the Committee on 15th January, and the report said that the Stockcross Car Park is in a woeful, deteriorated condition. In the last 3 months it has got worse. Cllr K Phillips said rough estimates of money to be spent on scalping the car park would be £2250. He had also received quotes of £2660 and £6120 plus VAT. The Council needs to plan if it is to go ahead. The post and rail fence between the car park and the playing field is a disgrace. Parents have climbed through it from the school. As the Parish Council is looking at the Precept this Meeting, ideally we would put some monies into the Stockcross Car Park. A lengthy discussion took place. It was decided to look for at least £10k from Grants. A team of Councillors, Cllr K Phillips, Cllr M Lavelle, Cllr A Martin and WBC Cllr M Franks to seek. Contracts are to be sought and report back to meeting in March. It was also decided to ask Suttons if they had any problem with scalping the car park. This plan was proposed by Cllr H Ashburner and seconded by Cllr A Martin. All in Favour.  
b) **Neighbourhood Policing/Community Wardens.** Community Wardens have limited powers and are funded by the community. It was noted that Newbury Town Council have had some. They do a good job, but we have to pay for them. A discussion took place on the finances needed. WBC Cllr M Franks said that he would get more information on costs and get back to us.
5. **Football Contracts:** The new ones have been passed by BALC. They are to be used the next time we need to raise them. Cllr D McAlister pointed out that her copy said £15 per session, and the Clerk thought it had gone up to £20. Clerk to check with Cllr L Warner on his return from holiday. Cllr A Snook said that there was an adult team playing every fortnight at Stockcross – he would try to find out who it is!
6. **Dog Bins:** Cllr D McAlister suggested we put more dog bins in Grove Road where people and their dogs come out of Donnington Grove Golf area. £268 to install and £129 per annum to empty on a weekly basis. Church Lane should have one too – Cllr McAlister proposed that two dog bins be purchased and this was seconded by Cllr A Martin and all in Favour.

7. **Landscape Contracts:** Three quotes had been received and after discussion it was agreed that the Contract year 2007-2008 should go to ISS Waterers. The Clerk to advise and complete paperwork. Payment would be in November plus VAT. They have a local office. It was noted that they were also the cheapest.
8. **Frequency of Council Meetings:** Cllr D McAllister asked if the Parish Council could meet every month. She finds the amount of e-mail traffic in between meetings, onerous. Cllr M Lavelle said that some councillors are linking their replies to already sent memos – thus making a long print out. This is not necessary and confuses. All agreed. Cllr R Tolcher said that we should trust our Committees, and let them work freely and report at the next meeting. It was agreed that there would be too much pressure on the Councillors if meeting monthly. Cllr D McAlister was happy at this discussion and times of planned meetings for the year, stand.
9. **Clerk's monthly phone bill for £91.38.** The Clerk explained that she has now paid the bill, but it had come as a shock. She asked if the Parish Council could contribute as many of the calls had been on their behalf. She explained that she had had some misunderstandings with Tiscali, whom she had recently joined. The Council were sympathetic and Cllr A Snook proposed that £40 be a Loan, which she should try and get back from Tiscali, and Cllr K Phillips seconded. Cllr R Tolcher and Cllr H Ashburner voted against, all others in Favour. The Clerk thanked the PC.
10. **Internal Auditor.** The Clerk reported that A Kirke (present Internal Auditor) was willing to stand again for £160 p.e. and Brading Cryer in Hungerford had said that they could manage £200 for the first year reviewing thereafter. Freeman Baker in Hungerford need £450. The Clerk was told that this was not good enough for their needs, and the Chairman offered to visit her to explain in details what to do. Cllr H Ashburner then would convene a Working Party to examine the results.
11. **Vote on Standing Orders.** Cllr Ashburner presented the information and read out the details. This was mainly regarding the ability to spend over £500 on any one cost, with Parish Council to approve. Proposed by R Tolcher and seconded by A. Snook. All in Favour.
12. **Speen Recreational Ground.** The Chairman said that progress had been made when discussion on Stockcross earlier in the meeting, and grants would be sought for work at Speen.
13. **Crime in Speen:** Cllr R Tolcher reported calm in the area – despite a man being accosted for his wallet, when the youths ran off with nothing. The CCTV has not been put in place, disappointingly. There is still late night vandalism. Cllr Tolcher said that he would attend the Newbury Area Forum on 17<sup>th</sup> January. Apparently the Speen Crime figures for last year were the lowest recorded, in the Newbury area. This comes as a surprise.
14. **PRECEPT:** A group meeting at Christmas time had established a draft proposal and after discussion, it was decided to increase two amounts - £1000 on to Speen Recreation, and £1000 on to Stockcross. This made the total Precept for 2007-2008 to be £18365.00. Proposed by Cllr M Lavelle and seconded by Cllr H Ashburner. All in Favour.
15. **Planning:** 6/02159/FULD Land adj Sextons Church Lane discussed  
06/02744/REM 6 Majendie Close Speen - Cllr R Tolcher took to work on. Cllr M Lavelle hoped to be consulted.

It was noted that 2 Speen Lane the Appeal had been dismissed.  
16. **FINANCES:** The Clerk reported the Balances in the Bank at 31/12/06 were Treasury £26,125.81 and Current account £2,433.37.

**CHEQUES PAID SINCE LAST MEETING**

06/12/2006 A E Butcher	1317	65.49
06/12/2006 BALC - books	1318	24.00
12/12/2006 S & J - Clerk	1319	468.48
06/12/2006 S.Electric	1320	147.16
03/01/2007 SEC	1021	220.09
03/01/2007 Hall Speen	1022	15.90
03/01/2007 MCD - stny	1023	27.26
15/01/2007 A E Butcher	1024	62.00
15/01/2007 A E Butcher	1025	100.00
15/01/2007 A E Butcher	1026	42.00
15/01/2007 S Electric	1027	149.68
15/01/2007 SEC	1028	43.17
15/01/2007 S & J - Clerk	1029	490.68
15/01/2007 A J Ives - phone	1030	40.00
18/01/2007 Water	1031	17.62
		<b>1,913.53</b>

**17..CORESPONDENCE** 4 items were read and circulated.

**18.. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND INFORMATION:** Cllr H Ashburner reminded council that they had not yet finalised the matter of the hedge cutting at the corner of Speen Recreational ground. Cllr R Tolcher proposed M & C Contractors at £180 and this was seconded by Cllr D. McAlister.

Cllr A Snook described a hazard spot with over hanging hedge in Bagnor Road Speen, and the clerk was asked to contact Streetcare. It is on our boundary.

The Meeting closed at 9.30.p.m. and was followed by a private meeting of Councillors.

The Next Meeting is scheduled for March 19<sup>th</sup> at Stockcross at 7.30 p.m.