

**MINUTES OF THE SPEEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2008 AT STOCKCROSS AT 7.30 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** G Foulkes ( Chairman ) E Vandyk ( Vice Chairman ) R Tolcher  
K Sullivan P Calder A Martin K Phillips A Lees J Ives (Clerk)

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC** 3 including Newbury Weekly News  
**DISTRICT COUNCILLORS** none

1. **APOLOGIES** A Snook L Warner P Bryant

2. **DECLARATIONS** none

3. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 14<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2008** were agreed and signed All in Favour.

4. **MATTERS ARISING:**

a) **Crime in Speen:** Cllr R Tolcher gave an update on the Gating Order now passed by Keith Chopping with an Individual Member Decision, on a 'lock at all times' at Speen Lodge Court. A review would take place in 12 months. Details of the gate and keys would soon be resolved. Many thanks go to local residents, and to our MP Richard Benyon. Cllr R Tolcher will continue to liaise with the construction of the gate, and key situation. The Parish Council thanked him for his hard work with this matter.

b) **NAG Meeting in Kintbury.** In the event no-one was able to attend, but details had just come through that VAS was to be installed in two places in Stockcross, which was very good news. The B4000 still needs further restrictions, particularly with children in mind, and the Parish Council will continue to work on this. West Berkshire Council are making a full Assessment on Stockcross which will be completed in July. A hump has also been installed in Brummel Road Speen. We must make a bid for VAS in Grove Road by July 2008.

c) **NAG Meeting 31<sup>st</sup> January 2008.** Cllr R Tolcher attended this useful meeting, there is now a Newsletter published by Jo Tuttle. There appears to be no problems with the Police if the boundary was altered to encompass Stockcross. The Parish Council must officially apply.

d) **RoSPa work outstanding.** The Clerk updated the Parish Council and was asked to get further Quotes. P Calder will make a survey of the proposed medium/high risk work at Speen.

e) **One mole** had been retrieved at Stockcross and work was continuing.

**5. SPEEN RECREATIONAL GROUND:** 1) The Mosquito is not yet installed. Cllr L Warner has the keys to the Pavilion and is away for a week on holiday. The Parish Council asked why a PIR power pack was necessary? The Chairman agreed that the Parish Council do not settle the invoice until the Mosquito is up and running. 2) It was reported that waste is being tipped from the houses bordering the Recreational Ground, onto the edges of the football pitches boundary. Cllr P Calder said that this has been a problem for some time and he would call in to four houses. The Clerk was asked to write to one house who had a gate access to the Recreational ground, which is not permitted. 3) The light nearest to the Pavilion has been repaired and insurance claimed and banked. 4) Football Invoices have been sent and received back from Brazilliant Fun Soccer with a cheque. 5) The possibility of a Basket Ball Hoop was discussed in some depth – Chris Hook, Chairman of the Speen Fete Committee explained that they had ditched the idea of having it in the Car Park on Health and Safety grounds. They now want to place a hard standing ( special ) in the Recreational Ground for teenagers to use. Cllr A Lees will liaise with C Hook as to location. In principle, All in Favour. The Chairman said it was a good offer and appreciated the contribution from the Fete Committee. 6) The Landscape Contract was discussed and the Clerk instructed to go back to two of the three quotes received. It was hoped to make a decision by the weekend.

**6. BAGNOR – PLANNED MEADOW.** Mr Matthew Conington explained that residents had grouped and decided to improve the area opposite The Blackbird, and turn it back into a natural Meadow. Work has begun, and nettles cleared and willows cut back. Mr Conington said that BBQ Wildlife Fund had been approached and so had Natural England. He felt that adequate permission had been sought for this venture. The Chairman, after much discussion, held the view that we would need letters of authority from both places, and also the Environment Agency before the Parish Council could consider contributing. Three Quotes for work to be done were in the region of £2000 each. Cllr E Vandyk offered to help produce the necessary paperwork for the Council, and this was agreed, and it was decided to bring the matter to the Agenda of the May Meeting .

**7. PLANNING:** The Clerk had circulated a schedule of recent planning applications. She advised that Section 106 moneys were available for WBC regarding Sexton’s Cottage, Church Lane, Speen. She was authorised to obtain the cheque in the sum of £4647.09 and to bank it on behalf of the Parish Council. The Parish Council hoped to spend this money on Barriers for the Travellers, and RoSPa work at Speen.

**8. FINANCES:** The Clerk read the list of Cheques paid since last Meeting and those prepared for tonight.

In future she was asked to send an e-mail of the schedule for the year. The new Auditors have not yet sent paperwork for the end of year returns. The Internal Auditor is prepared to visit the Clerk and check all figures after the y/e at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008.

Cheques drawn:

1347	Thames Water	04/02/2008	16.83
1348	SEC	04/02/2008	172.36
1349	A J Ives - Clerk	04/02/2008	43.99
1349	A J Ives - Clerk	04/02/2008	425.00
1350	A E Butcher	12/02/2008	63.49
1351	ISS Waterers	14/03/2008	2,585.90
1352	A J Ives - Clerk	14/03/2008	425.00
1352	A J Ives - Clerk	14/03/2008	47.78
1353	S Electric	14/03/2008	50.27
1354	A E Butcher	14/03/2008	62.00
	WBC dog bins		
1355	empty	14/03/2008	99.19
			<b>3,991.81</b>

The Clerk brought to the attention of the Parish Council BALC's recommendations regarding storing of archives, and use of home as Office. They suggest a sum of £500 minimum, paid in a lump sum, but the Clerk was happy with a quarterly amount paid in arrears starting in June 2008. The Clerk asked if she could attend a SLCC Course for one Day April 15<sup>th</sup>, and this was allowed providing she gave a report on the Course at the following Meeting. The Clerk thanked the Parish Council.

**9. BARRIERS FOR TRAVELLERS.** A great deal of work by Cllr Tolcher and Cllr Sullivan resulted in two Quotes. A discussion took place on various aspects of these Quotes, and the lower quote of £2070 to include Speen and Stockcross was agreed. The gate already at Speen would be replaced. After discussing the need for galvanised barriers, Cllr Sullivan was asked to get further updated quotes and report back.

**10. CORRESPONDENCE:** The Chairman read out and distributed 8 items of correspondence.

**11. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND INFORMATION:** Mr Chris Hook reminded the Council that the Speen Fete was planned for 7<sup>th</sup> June 2008, and they hoped for a donation from the Council. The Clerk was asked to put this on the next Agenda. It was also noted that St Georges Day Street Fair at Stockcross will also be hoping for a small donation. Also to be on the next Agenda.

**The meeting closed at 9.45 p.m. and the next Meeting – The Parish Assembly – will be at 7.30 p.m. on April 21<sup>st</sup> at Speen.**