

**MINUTES OF THE SPEEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT
STOCKCROSS ON 19TH MARCH 2007 AT 8.15 p.m.**

Present: G Foulkes (Chairman) H Ashburner (Vice Chairman) D McAlister
R Tolcher L Warner A Snook K Phillips P Calder E Vandyk
K Sullivan A Martin A Lees J Ives (Clerk)

Members of the Public: one

District Councillor: M Franks

1) **APOLOGIES:** P Bryant (District Councillor) M. Lavelle

2) .. **DECLARATIONS:** NIL

3).. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** – The Minutes of 15th January 2007 were agreed and signed. All in Favour.

4).. **MATTERS ARISING:** a) A report on Neighbourhood Policing by M Franks. A team of PCSO's and a van were quite expensive, although grants would help from WBC and Sovereign Housing. Speen should push to share with other areas – but it would cost Speen approximately £10k at least.

b) Dog bins have been ordered for Church Car Park and Grove Road. Invoice will be despatched to Clerk.

c) The hedge has been cut at Station Road at the back of the Speen Rec. Pavilion. There are poles left and K Sullivan said he would look into the matter. The hedge at Bagnor Road needs more cutting back – the Clerk to contact Streetcare.

5).. **STOCKCROSS CAR PARK AND SPEEN CAR PARK:** A sub committee had worked hard on this matter and quotes had been obtained . After consideration, work was awarded to two firms, one to level the car park at Stockcross, and gravel, plus a retainer fence for the sum of £4884.00 plus VAT and Speen to be tarmaced in the access with edgings to retain for the sum of £2231 plus VAT. Proposed and seconded. The Chairman thanked the working group for their hard endeavours.

6).. **STOCKCROSS CHANGING FACILITY:** Apparently the AFC Juniors are keen to refurbish the decaying Pavilion at Stockcross. It is necessary to link up the sewage or install a new septic tank. A Snook would make enquiries and report back to the next Meeting which will be the AGM.

7) **CRIME IN SPEEN.** A meeting had taken place on 19th March and Speen Lodge Court footway problem was discussed. It was agreed that Gating was necessary and WBC Planning & Transport would authorise. The pre-consultation stage was to commence. Funding for this in the region of £2000 would be sought.

8).. **FOOTBALL IN SPEEN/STOCKCROSS.** An increase in rents was confirmed to £20 per session for Speen. Rents for AFC Juniors yet to be agreed. L Warner to liaise with the Clerk.

9) **LANDSCAPE CONTRACT:** One cut has taken place and cuts will start again end March, thus allowing for extra cuts for Speen Fete June 9th.

10).. **INTERNAL AUDITOR:** A Vacancy exists 2007-2008 and four letters were read out declining the position. It is felt that our current Internal Auditor lives too far away and our Standing Orders say that a new Auditor should be sought after 3 years. The Clerk has someone in mind and will report back.

11) **DONATION REQUEST** – The Council felt that they were not in a position to make donations at present.

12)..**PLANNING:** A Snook reported on 07/00358/FULD Manor Farm House, Beenham Park. A Snook to visit. 07/00001/FULD Land Adjacent to Sextons Cottage – application had been granted by WBC. 07/00301 The Coach House, Speen Lane a two storey rear extension is being discussed.

13).. **FINANCES:** Balances in the banks: Current: £1,459 Deposit: £25,611

CHEQUES MARCH 2007 SPEEN

09/02/2007 M & C Landscapes	1032	211.50
09/02/2007 A E Butcher	1033	66.00
10/02/2007 Clerk	1034	487.80
24/02/2007 Southern Electric	1035	751.17
19/03/2007 A E Butcher	1036	65.75
19/03/2007 Newbury Internet	1037	916.50
27/03/2007 Clerk	1038	501.32
		3,000.04

The Clerk advised the Parish Council that the Branch of the Bank of Ireland at Kingston on Thames had now merged with 20 Berkeley Square W1. The Precept office has been notified.

14).. **DISTRIBUTION OF THE NOMINATION PAPERS** for the forthcoming Election.

15).. **CORRESPONDENCE** – 12 items were read out and circulated/distributed.

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

a) Is there a Mole man at West Berks Council? If so we need him at Speen Recreation ground. Clerk to seek. b) Section 106 monies – Clerk read report and it was agreed to ask P Bryant to look into claims. c) There is a gate at Stockcross which needs painting/varnishing. d) D McAllister has a stock of dog fouling notices for distributing.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10.20 P.M. AND THE NEXT MEETING IS THE PARISH ASSEMBLY ON APRIL 16TH 2007 AT 7.30 p.m.