

**MINUTES OF THE SPEEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 17TH 2007 IN SPEEN VILLAGE HALL.**

Present: G Foulkes (Chairman) E Vandyk (Vice Chairman) A Snook K Phillips
R Tolcher K Sullivan J Ives (Clerk)

Apologies: A Martin A Lees

Members of the Public: 2

District Councillors: nil

1. **DECLARATIONS:** K Phillips declared a personal interest in the proposed Footpath at Stockcross.
2. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (July 16th)** were agreed and signed by the Chairman.
3. **MATTERS ARISING**
 - a) **Hedge cutting:** The Clerk was asked to contact the Landscape Contractors with a view to cutting the hedge at the back of Speen Pavilion right down to the wire fence. The hedges at Lambourn Road/Grove Road are too overhanging and A Snook would contact WBC Streetcare to discuss a way forward, without re-painting the white line in the middle of the road.
 - b) **Speen Lodge Court – gating order.** This is a precedent for WBC and will take some time to get the paperwork in order. R Tolcher reported that there had been no objections by the utilities and BT. The District Councillors are researching the Development Contribution and Speen agreed in principle to contribute.
 - c) **Speen Recreational Access:** The Clerk updated the Parish Council on the situation with the Contractor and said that the work would be completed soon.
 - d) **Crime in Speen:** this is still happening. R Tolcher had attended a NAG Meeting recently.
 - e) **Ladywell:** A Butcher was thanked for the clearing up of the Ladywell before the Blessing on 9th September. He was also authorised to paint the seat.
 - f) **Speen Grange Pathway:** WBC had made contact with R Tolcher to ascertain where the pathway was, and R Tolcher will check and see that it has been cleared.
 - g) **Code of Conduct:** The Clerk advised that all the Financial Interests have been sent to WBC Legal Department, and she had had acknowledgement of receipt.

The Chairman advised those present that he would take the Agenda items to suit R Tolcher who was ill.

- 4 **PROPOSED FOOTPATH TO SCHOOL AT STOCKCROSS.** The Chairman read a letter from Jon Winstanley Highways and Transport at WBC, and his proposal was to build a 2m wide path from the Car Park to the School. A lengthy discussion took place and the Council heard that residents backing on to the proposed area were not keen. The Car Park is not being used at present – this project would therefore not help at all. Suttons would have to be contacted and may not agree. The Parish Council did not oppose the principle but did not think the Footpath would solve the problems. Two Councillors are planning to speak to the Governors of the School. The Parish Council could not support financially. The parents do not like to leave young children in the car at the car park, whilst taking the older children into the school – they therefore still use Chapel Road to drop off. The Proposal for a negative response was seconded and agreed 5 in favour.
- 5 **SPEEDING IN GROVE ROAD:** After discussion the Clerk was asked to write to Highways and Transport and ask for VAS equipment in Grove Road, Ermin Street Stockcross, A4 Speen and Speen Lane. Thanks to R Tolcher for all his research into the situation and to the member of the Public who had alerted the Parish Council to this issue.
- 6 **STOCKCROSS RECREATIONAL GROUND:** K Phillips reported on a good day of Cricket in August. Letter from Ian Evans/Tennis Club regarding the need for new netting. The Parish Council would like to help and in theory could contribute towards a Grant – which they should seek.
- 7 **STOCKCROSS CHANGING FACILITIES:** We have no facilities to attract football clubs, other than Juniors. After discussion this item was postponed to the next Meeting.
- 8 **ROSPA:** The report has been circulated and K Sullivan offered to help move such items as bark, at Marsh Benham. This item will be discussed at the next Meeting when Councillors have had time to absorb the Report. There are no ‘High’ Risks.
- 9 **BASKET BALL SITE at Speen Recreational Ground Car Park:** After discussion this was refused. Clerk to write to Mary Lavelle
- 10 **PLANNING:** A Snook reported as Planning Committee Chairman and said that he had one to discuss – Bradfords Farm (Suttons) at the A4 Halfway. 07/01600/FUL Proposal for Free Range Poultry units. The Parish Council Objected.
- 11 **FINANCE:** The Clerk advised balances in the Bank: £20,459.55 Treasury and £3759.02 Current. UHY Hacker Young have signed off the Accounts for year ending 31st March 2007. A Bank Mandate was passed to K Sullivan and K Phillips, for new signatories. The Clerk noted that she had spent over £1k on computer technicians in the last year and she felt that there should be provision in the budget for this expense, next year. This was agreed in theory but E Vandyk updated the Parish Council with new, soon to be available software which could help us. He would report back at the next Meeting. The new Internal Auditor Mick Linn was introduced to those present and agreed to look after the Accounts, with the assistance of the Clerk. He was welcomed and thanked.

CHEQUES PAID SINCE 16TH JULY:

27/07/2007	1071 Post Office	41.68
18/08/2007	1072 A J Ives - Clerk	452.28
13/08/2007	1073 A Butcher	64.99
03/09/2007	1074 Hacker Young	158.63
03/09/2007	1075 Post Office	42.64
03/09/2007	1076 Staples	19.99
10/09/2007	1077 A Butcher	72.00
10/09/2007	1078 Playsafety Ltd	211.50
10/09/2007	1079 A J Ives - Clerk	452.28
10/09/2007	1080 S Electric	37.00
		1,552.99

12. **CORRESPONDENCE:** 7 items of correspondence received by the Clark were read out and distributed.

13. **MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION:** nil

The Meeting closed at 9.25 p.m. and the next Meeting is scheduled for 19th November 2007 at Stockcross Sutton Hall.