

**MINUTES OF THE SPEEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON 17 NOVEMBER 2008 AT STOCKCROSS SUTTON HALL.**

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

**Members of the Public:** Newbury Weekly News

**District Councillors:** P Bryant M Franks

**1. APOLOGIES:** Cllr L Warner. Cllr K Sullivan. Cllr A Lees

**2. DECLARATIONS:** nil

**3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING 22 September 2008:** agreed and signed by the Chairman. All in Favour.

**4. MATTERS ARISING: a) Crime in Speen.** Cllr R Tolcher advised Council that he had attended two NAG Meetings and also the Parish Meeting at WBC. There is little to report on Crime in Speen at present.

**b) Parish Meeting.** At the Parish Meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2008 there was a talk on carbon dioxide emissions. The Parish Council Charter final draft is due for further consultation after April 1<sup>st</sup> 2009. Local Development Framework WBC preferred options by Jan/Feb 2009. **c) NAG Meetings:** Speeding, vandalism and anti-social behaviour are targeted for action. Kersey Crescent flats will not be demolished for 5 years. Consultations are taking place re car parking in Kersey Crescent, and the possible demolition of garages.

**5. Speen Recreational Ground** – Clerk reported work had been done on the roof of the pavilion, and waste bins have been installed. New fascia boards, and all that is needed is the area in the car park to be paved. A quote was offered but the clerk was instructed to get another, to abide by Council's statutes. A previous quote, not like for like, had been too high.

**6. RoSPA work:** The clerk reported that the Mound had been refurbished and the contractor paid. Cllr K Sullivan has collected the bark and the clerk awaits an invoice. A new pair of flat bed swings with chains to fit would cost £404 from Playground Services, and this was agreed. All in Favour. There will be new edging to the bark area, the old has rotted.

**7. Stockcross Recreation Ground:** Cllr Phillips reported that the hedge contractors have planned to visit this week. He has not noticed any football activity at the weekends, and the Clerk was asked to find out what if anything has happened.

**8. Report by Cllr Vandyk on plans by Sutton Estates.** Cllr Vandyk had not yet presented a written report as projected at the meeting of 22 September as he was awaiting (a) a meeting with Sutton Estates and (b) the publication of WBC's revised Core Strategy document in early 2009 – the original Core Strategy proposal from

WBC having been rejected by the Secretary of State. Whilst the Core Strategy would deal with high level issues it would critically only essentially give a steer on whether urban or rural development was envisaged. In mid 2009 WBC will publish their Site Selection list but this will only deal with strategic sites (500+ units). Cllr Vandyk stated his belief that development policy within the Parish was likely to be formulated, and thus fall, between a very high level plan (Core Strategy) on the one hand and yet not be part of the Site Selection process on the other. Cllr Vandyk said that in his view this created a particular risk best ameliorated by Council understanding the intentions of, and working with, the major local land owner, Sutton Estates. Cllr Vandyk went on to describe what he believed to be Sutton Estate's current high level thoughts about potential development sites in Stockcross being the allotments and / or the previous designated sites near to the Lord Lyon. In the event that the allotments were selected new allotments and car parking for the school would be provided to the North of the village. In the past Sutton Estates had made proposals to redevelop and relocate the Village Hall and this did not seem to form part of their thinking currently. Cllr Vandyk also stated that Council needed to recognise that Stockcross had an under utilised recreation ground, principally because of the lack of facilities, and that whilst Sutton Estates had made no proposals in this regard, one trade off could be the Council being proactive and formulating a development plan for part of the site resulting in the provision of proper facilities on the remainder along with an agreed framework controlling development in other areas of Stockcross. Cllr Vandyk said he recognised development was a contentious and difficult subject easier to leave unaddressed but that he believed that it would be inevitable and imposed and, if that were to be the case, Council and the Parrish would benefit from being part of the process and not standing aloof from it. Further Cllr Vandyk said that he believed difficult subjects, such as the long term future of the recreation ground which he accepted would be contentious, were better aired publicly and thus be addressed as part of the widest possible local debate. Cllr Vandyk said he hoped to meet Sutton Estates shortly and report back to Council after that meeting and the publication of the Core Strategy document.

**9. Planning:** part of the latest schedule had been circulated. Section 106 monies in the sum of £1300 to come from Manor Farmhouse, Benham Park Marsha Benham. This has been agreed by WBC to be used on the Marsh Benham swings area.

**10: Finances:** The Clerk read out the balances in the banks, and it was noted by the Council that the Bank of Ireland is guaranteed by the Government.

**CHEQUES PAID SINCE THE LAST MEETING**

06/10/2008 Earth Anchors	1420	259.68
06/10/2008 A E Butcher	1421	62.00
06/10/2008 Southern Electric	1422	187.14
06/10/2008 ISS Waterers	1423	66.87
06/10/2008 SEC	1424	265.81
06/10/2008 Mazars Accts	1425	358.38
06/10/2008 A J Ives - Clerk	1426	435.00
06/10/2008 ISS Waterers	1427	11.70
06/10/2008 B & Q re pavilion	1428	18.96
10/10/2008 ISS Waterers	1429	322.98
10/10/2008 Thames Water	1430	18.09
10/10/2008 Staples	1431	44.16
16/10/2008 garden carpenter	1432	180.00
16/10/2008 NVP Products	1433	61.70
16/10/2008 postage	1434	12.96
04/11/2008 ISS Waterers	1435	322.98
04/11/2008 M W Sutton - tiles	1436	170.38
04/11/2008 A J Ives - Clerk	1437	435.00
10/11/2008 Poppy Appeal	1438	16.50
10/11/2008 A E Butcher	1439	65.69
10/11/2008 Playground Services	1440	1,539.25
17/11/2008 Stockcross Church	1441	300.00
17/11/2008 Sutton Hall	1442	12.00
17/11/2008 CS Wellman - trees	1443	200.00
		<b>5,367.23</b>

**11. Correspondence:** 9 items were read out and circulated, or returned to the clerk for filing.

**12. Matters for consideration and information:** nil

**MEETING CLOSED AT 8.25 p.m. and the next MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 12<sup>th</sup> at SPEEN PARISH HALL.**