

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SPEEN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 9TH MARCH 2009 AT STOCKCROSS 7.30 p.m.**

Present: G Foulkes (Chairman) L Warner K Sullivan R Tolcher A Martin
A Lees K Phillips J Ives (Clerk)

1. Apologies: nil

2. Declarations: nil

3. MINUTES: Minutes of 17th November 2008 were agreed and signed. Minutes of 21st January 2009 were agreed and signed. All in Favour.

4. MATTERS ARISING: a) Crime in Speen – following more vandalism of the lock at Speen Lodge Court, residents have formed a strong group supporting the installation of the gate and want it to remain in place.

b) Cllr R Tolcher had attended the recent NAG Meeting and has copies of the Minutes should anyone like to read them. The date of the next Meeting has not yet been announced.

c) Cllr A Lees is not yet ready to report on the state of the Play Area at Speen.

5. Suttons Estate Development: Cllr E Vandyk was not present at tonight's meeting.

6. St Marys Church – Heritage Weekend. Cllr R Tolcher said that St Mary's Church would be playing a large part in the Heritage Weekend Celebrations on September 12th. It was proposed and seconded that Brian Nobes, Churchwarden, comes to speak to us about it, before a donation could be given. Any money given would go towards new bulbs, and grass cutting and planting. The Clerk was reminded to tell A E Butcher regarding the Ladywell on that date. The Church is mentioned in the Domesday Book, and the bells are 18th Century.

7. Speen Recreational Ground: The Clerk reported a hole in the fence by Grove Road, and the swings, and this has been repaired by A E Butcher. Cllr L Warner said that the anti-climbing paint would be put up soon, in the better weather. The Clerk was asked to contact Playground Services regarding the uprooting of their mats near The Mound. The Clerk reminded the Council that there is an area near the Pavilion needed paving stones, and she produced two tenders, and the cheapest Pave with Care was chosen at £1950. It was not clear whether this was plus VAT or included VAT. Proposed seconded and All in Favour.

8. Stockcross Highways and safety. A discussion took place following the circulation of a letter from resident Gillian Creswell. It was felt that each one of us should take responsibility when crossing the roads in Stockcross, and that the village was not a 'mini-Bracknell' and did not require lighting. Cllr K Phillips said that West Berks Council are fully aware of the situation and problems, but in summarising he said that he felt that all should be left as it is – with new signs and lighted school boards enough was enough. This was agreed by the Parish Council.

9. Letter from ISS regarding proposed increase of prices. Cllr E Vandyk had sent round a copy of the e-mail from the local Manager last year saying that ISS would hold the prices for the next 2 years, the Contract being for 3 years. The Clerk was instructed not to pay any more than last year.

10. Planning: Cllr K Sullivan reported visiting Dairy Farm Marsh Benham. Cllr R Tolcher was looking after 24 Speen Lane. The Schedule of the recent planning had been circulated before the Meeting.

11. Finances: The Bank of Ireland : £2732.90 Lloyds C/A: £36,098.10 The Clerk reported that she had called on Newbury Building Society to enquire rate of interest and found that it was 1.5%. Cllr L Warner said that Skipton BS was a higher rate 2.5% and the clerk was told to get more information with a view to transferring £30K from Lloyds. The ease of access would be important and Mandates would be signed by the Chairman and Cllr L Warner and the Clerk. A final decision would be made by e-mail to the Clerk, and when a quorum obtained she would action.

Cheques paid:

1459	01/02/2009	Thames Water	21.35
1460	03/02/2009	A J Ives Clerk	435.00
1461	05/02/2009	GPO Re direction	24.90
1462	17/02/2009	A E Butcher	62.00
1463	17/02/2009	Postage	25.92
1464	28/02/2009	SEB	35.57
1465	06/03/2009	A J Ives Clerk	435.00
1466	09/03/2009	A E Butcher	62.00
			1,101.74

12. Correspondence: 8 items were read out and discussed and circulated.

13. Matters for Consideration and information: a) Cllr K Phillips asked if our Website could be linked to Sutton Hall, Stockcross. All in Favour. b) Parish Assembly is on 20th April and the Clerk was asked to get a speaker from the Police, to talk on Neighbourhood Policing and Community Engagement.

The Meeting closed at 8.30 p.m. and the next Meeting is the Parish Assembly on April 20th 2009 at Speen at 7.30.p.m.