

**MINUTES OF THE SPEEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 18TH NOVEMBER 2009 AT STOCKCROSS AT 7.30 pm**

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

Members of the Public: 1 plus Newbury Weekly News (part).

District Councillors: nil

1. **APOLOGIES:** M Franks (District Councillor)

2. **DECLARATIONS:** Nil

3. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21ST SEPTEMBER 2009.**

These Minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman. All in Favour.

4. **MATTERS ARISING:**

a) **Crime in Speen.** Cllr R Tolcher reported several break-ins in the Bath Road area. A number of items were stolen and damage to property. A new Police Officer has been appointed to the Neighbourhood Policing Team, and a temporary appointment for a Sergeant in the area. It was suggested that we invited them to come along to the January Parish Council Meeting. The local NAG Group have met and they strongly support the placing of a Warden in the Speen area. This position would be funded by Sovereign Housing, West Berks Council, other funds and local businesses. A Warden would deal with graffiti, childrens' behaviour, cars etc but would not have the power to arrest. Cllr R Tolcher suggested that the Speen Parish Council support financially but this would have to be discussed at the January Meeting as the Precept would have to be adjusted if it was agreed.

b) **Bell Ringers.** The Clerk advised that she had received two letters from St Mary's Church Bellingring Group thanking the Council for the £360 donation to bell-ropes after the last Meeting.

5. **RICHMOND HOUSE PLANNING APPLICATION:** The Consultation Meeting between West Berks Council and the local residents is planned for 30th November at 7 p.m. in the Speen Village Hall. All residents welcome. Cllr L Warner explained the situation so far, but Cllr Vandyk wished it to go on record that he did not agree with the approach the Parish Council has made, as he would have done it differently.

6. **BT KIOSK AT STOCKCROSS – REMOVE OR ADOPT?** After discussion it was agreed to keep it, and the Clerk was asked to write the necessary letters.

7. **SPEEN RECREATIONAL GROUND:** Cllr L Warner updated those present with the details of the new Playbuilder Grant of £50k and the work on the new installation and equipment will take place in January 2010. He also advised that more

funds from the same source would be available next year and he urged that Stockcross submit a claim for a new Pavilion at their playing fields. This was warmly received by the Stockcross Councillors.

8. STOCKCROSS VILLAGE REPORT: Other than to propose the above submission there was little news to report. The Lord Lyon Public House is planning to close for business December 2nd, but there are contrary reports.

9. PLANNING: Some plans have been submitted with no objections – however Taylors at the rear of the garage on the Bath Road had concerns. 09/02257/HOUSE Bramley and 09/01979/LBC Watermill Theatre were both being reviewed by the Planning Committee at present.

10. DONATION TO STOCKCROSS CHURCH: A sum of £300 was proposed in line with last year's donation and agreed for the upkeep of the Churchyard. All in Favour.

11. FINANCES: The Responsible Financial Officer (Clerk) reported that £25k had been received into the Bank from the Playbuilder Grant, and the remainder (£25k) will arrive in March upon the completion of the work at Speen Recreational Ground. The Balance at the Bank is £69,396.76. Routine cheques had been signed during the month and two more (Southern Electric and RBL Poppy Appeal) were signed at this Meeting.

12. CORRESPONDENCE: Four items were read and circulated including the Major Incident Strategy from WBC which Cllr E Vandyk took to peruse. An e-mail from Mr Viccars regarding the Moors Walk and the need for financial support for a Notice Board (£400) was read out, and it was decided to put this on the January Agenda.

13. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND INFORMATION: The Clerk reported on the demise of the Notice Board at Speen and pointed out that unless the wind damage was repaired this could cause an injury to a passer by. It was agreed to ask Tony Butcher to put in new strengthened legs and base, and the Clerk was asked to contact him.

**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.45 p.m. AND THE NEXT MEETING IS
PLANNED FOR JANUARY 11th 2010 AT SPEEN AT 7.30 p.m.**