

Sunningdale Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 15th December 2009 at the Pavilion, Broomhall Lane, Sunningdale

93/09 **Present:** Christine Gadd (Chair), Robin Booth, Jon Read, Nick Dawson, Paul Diluce Brown, Rodney Stubblefield, Rose Adams, Jamie McCaul

Apologies for absence. Alison Ellwood, Kate Webb

94/09 **Declaration of interest.** There were none

95/09 **Minutes of Council 10th November 2009** were approved as a true record and signed.

Matters arising:

82/09 Bedford Lane housing. Discussions continue with the Housing Association Radian. There is every indication that RBWM will look favourably on an application for this site, with Councillors backing the idea. The Chair is pressing this for the benefit of Sunningdale.

85/09f Planning – electronic viewing of planning applications
Council accepted the need to proceed with the new computer and projector so as to be ready for electronic viewing of planning applications from February, and agreed to the additional spend which would exceed the £1500 in current year budget. The 2009 budget had been looked at to see where the additional £500 could come from and it was suggested that the bins would not be implemented this year. Christine stressed the need for a regularised time of preparation for Planning meetings on a Tuesday so that the analysis of applications had been thoroughly done prior to Committee. RS urged caution to ensure that the right equipment was purchased, and remained concerned that the on screen viewing would not be adequate for large, complex documents. An A3 printer is on the list of possible equipment required.

89/09 **Pavilion Project.** The Planning application had been submitted. Two cheques had been sent as the planners believed the total floor area exceeded the minimum covered in the first payment. If planning approval is given in January, a start date of 22 February has been provisionally agreed with Loft Plan.

90/09d Future projects:Landscaping. The Borough have responded that there is no money in the budget. The Chair and Paul DB will continue to see what can be achieved.

91/09 Waste facilities. Terry Gould, Head of Public Protection and Sustainability, had informed us that an agreement is almost reached with the neighbouring boroughs on accepting waste from Sunningdale residents to be finalised by the new year. A Press Release is expected imminently. RS said that he had deemed that a letter to the MP was inappropriate and it was better to wait for the Borough's negotiations to be complete. Sunningdale residents are not being refused access to the site in Surrey so the immediate problem is alleviated.

92/09f Emergency Plan. Marshals have been sent a complete copy of the Emergency Plan and a meeting with the Marshals and the Borough's Emergency Officer is planned for January

96/09 **Finance**

Council received the Financial report and noted that the final payment from the BRE would be payable after February when additional statistical information on carbon savings had been collated and presented with the evaluation form.

Council resolved to approve income and expenditure for November 2009.

The RFO gave a presentation on the budget 2010/11. Council had accepted the LoftPlan quote for £44877 with work commencing in February (this budget year) and completing in next budget year. In addition £1k will come from this year's budget for skips and £4k for completion costs next year.

IT upgrade will cost over £2000 with only £1500 allocated in this year's budget so additional £500 needed to be found, probably taking the money allocated for bins/seats which had not been spent.

The year end cash flow left £15361 which is equal to 3 months of usual expenditure. In 2010 the exceptional items were £23277 for completion of front extension, £4k for completion costs, £600 for casual labour to mow during peak times, £400 for new logo and £800 for grants.

The Precept set at last years level of £91500, the total anticipated income is £109,900 against a total expenditure of £109,322 . Net difference £578 but leaving £19102 in reserve. The cashflow for 2010 showed the weak point in September 2010 which might be overcome by asking for Precept in advance. The year would end with £19102 in reserve so leaving no room for additional projects in 2010/11. If the Precept was maintained at that level in 2011/12 the reserves could be rebuilt and projects identified and costed in the coming year could be implemented.

There was some discussion on lack of contingency sum, as against general reserves. While some Councillors would prefer to have a contingency built in, others considered that the level of financial management was now strong thanks to input from Robin Booth and Alison Ellwood plus training of the clerk. With cash flow projections it was possible to anticipate risks. Furthermore we are working to a fixed term contract with LoftPlan who had proved to be reliable.

Council resolved to approve the budget for 2010/11

97/09 **Sustainable Sunningdale**

The Clerk gave the presentation she had previously given to the Sustainability Panel of the Borough showing what Sunningdale had achieved. It would next be given to the Parish Conference to other Parishes. She was thanked for her presentation

98/09 **Clerk's report**

The Clerk's report on business continuity and risk Paper 98a was received. Council noted the various points on insurance and other risk management. This will return to Council.

Council received the Clerk's report Paper 98b on current complaints received and other matters. Regarding the extended closure of the railway barrier, Council highlighted the danger of traffic using the wrong side of the road to avoid congestion when the barrier is down. Given that the junction/crossing is one of the busiest in the UK, Council should continue to press for long-term remedial action.

Paul DB asked that we seek to accredit those who had contributed to the greater good in some way, so they can be acknowledged and thanked.

ND registered his objection to larger signs down Dry Arch Road which are unlikely to deter lorries from using the road.

War memorial. Council were pleased with the cleaning achieved but noted that the top could not be further improved as the stone work is flaking away. ND will look into possible sources of grants to repair the top. Since the War Memorial is Council's responsibility we should ensure that wreaths are put back in place or removed. ND to find out the correct procedure and time when the wreaths should be removed.

Cemetery. There was a discussion on photos of deceased being put on headstones. While small, discreet temporary pictures will not attract attention, pictures on headstones are against the rules. JR agreed to look at where the pictures were present and discuss with the Clerk where rules might have been breached and report back to Council.

Log boiler - the dispute between the installers continues. The Clerk will write to warn Bio Energy that she will contact the licensee organisation, GEMSERV, and REAL Assurance if they did not resolve the problems of payment to Future Heating.

99/09 Reports and Representatives

a) Chairman and Christmas Celebration

The Chairman reminded Council that the Council Christmas party was at 7pm on 21st December. Drinks and finger buffet at Northcote House

Garry Mumford wishing to run horticultural courses at the Pavilion, with the adjacent land to be turned into a community garden. We are currently negotiating the days and conditions for January/February before we close for redevelopment.

Christmas celebration. Councillors paid tribute to Christine for the great organisation of a very successful event which had been greatly enjoyed by many of the public. Thanks were also expressed for Graeme who had worked extremely hard for the event. Christine thanked all for their stewarding and programme selling. Nick Dawson emphasised that the relocation of the stage to higher up that area would greatly help visibility of performances on stage.

b) Village Hall AGM. Jamie McCaul spoke to Paper 99b that recorded what was said at the VH AGM to inaugurate the new lease, new trustees and new operations team. This paper was accepted as an accurate record of current arrangements and legal agreements for the Village Hall. Jamie recorded that full credit be given to Christine for her vision of the arrangement with the CMI, backed by Council, which had put the VH on its present secure footing. Jamie paid tribute to Jane O'Kill who organised an excellent centenary event for the AGM, which was well supported by the community. It was noted that the Parish Council is backing the plans and therefore responsible for half the costs should the financial projections prove to be wrong. JMcC felt that the forecast on income can be achieved with the marketing to bring in additional business but agreed that a current financial forecast should be written and the PC will regularly monitor progress of the venture.

c) Recreation. ND explained the thinking from gang mowers, which had been discarded on cost grounds, to additional casual labour to mow the recreation ground

during peak growing season. He mentioned the community tree planting which had taken place on 4th December when 300 young alder and oak trees had been planted along the edges of the Rec to eventually replace the ancient alders. He spoke of the plans to revamp the area behind the fence and clear the area for a community garden, as previously raised by the Chair.

No progress had been made on assessing tennis court fees. Councillors were asked to bring costs of fees in neighbouring areas to the Clerk for discussion at next Council.

CG added that a bulb planting session had taken place in October when 3000 bulbs given by the Marie Curie charity had been planted below the tennis courts enabled by many community volunteers. Furthermore, the Scouts had requested to plant an oak tree at the Rec for their centenary in February followed by a party in the Pavilion. Approval was given for this to take place.

- d) Planning. JR summarised the decisions taken at the Planning Meeting. It was noted that a letter should go to the Planners to claim S106 money from the Larkshill Court development. A letter had gone to Planners reference 33 Station Road "outbuilding" and we had heard that the Planners were minded to refuse this.
- e) Allotments. CG noted that Brian King, our allotment representative, is standing down in February at which point daily management of affairs at the allotments will revert back to the Parish council. Council gave a generous vote of thanks to Brian for all he had done. He will be severely missed. Paul asked if there is any more land for allotments but the Chair had looked but not found any land.
- g) Police liaison. Robin had met with Becky and looked at the graffiti and various problem areas in Sunningdale, discovering a number of things that need addressing. Paul DB mentioned that he had seen a dope dump at the end of Cedar Drive which should be reported to Becky.
- h) Carnival is scheduled to take place on Sunday 19 September. **Council agreed** to permit Carnival to use the Recreation Ground and have a beer tent as normal but did not give them right to the Pavilion at this time.
- i) RS suggested that consideration be given to producing a self-financing official guide to Sunningdale, following the example of Ascot and Sunninghill. This would be fully discussed at a future meeting when we consider the implications on staffing etc. Paul DB had considerable experience of producing such a guide in Truro and was pleased to support this idea.