

Minutes of a meeting of Caversfield Parish Council, held on Wednesday 20th July 2011, in the small hall at Southwold Community Centre.

Present: Mr J Gilmore, Mrs J Nisbet, Mrs O Phipps (Chair), Mrs G Sutcliffe, Mr D Wood.

In attendance: Mrs Catherine Fulljames (District & County Councillor).

Members of the public: Nick Wise, Penny Wood (Parish Clerk), Nathan Wright (Secretary & Director, Caversfield Management Company Ltd.).

1. Cllr Phipps welcomed everyone to the meeting, and introductions were made.
2. No one had sent apologies.

Declaration of interests

3. Cllr. Phipps declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the NW Eco Town proposals.

Public Participation

4. Cllr Phipps invited members of the public present to contribute to the discussion, if they wished to do so, as the meeting went through the Agenda items.

Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 May 2011.

5. It was **RESOLVED** that these be accepted as a true copy subject to one amendment under 'Any Other Business' – namely, "The Clerk indicated that she wished to resign from post as soon as a replacement could be found. Councillors asked the Clerk to publicise the vacancy to the Clerks of neighbouring Parish Councils, through OALC, and on the notice boards in the parish. **Action – Clerk.**" The Minutes were then signed by the Chair.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

6. Bus Shelter at Caversfield Turn – the Clerk had ascertained from Oxfordshire County Council that a county engineer is currently producing drawings for the construction team to price up; he hopes to have got that completed and ready by September. Once construction has taken place on site the shelter will be installed. The bus shelters from 'Bus Shelters UK' have a perch bar seating arrangement in them. With regard to the request that in the meantime lines could be painted to mark the bus stop, it is not likely that the County could do this before the lay by is redesigned. The cost of painting a clearway box at a bus stop is around £500 and it needs to be signed correctly to be legally enforceable; the County does not have sufficient funds to paint lines that would then be surfaced over and repainted in a few months time. Councillors asked the Clerk to push the County to move this project forward as quickly as possible so that the bus shelter is up by the autumn. **Action – Clerk**
7. VAS installations – there are two VAS locations in Caversfield: (1) at the point where Springfield Road joins the old Fringford/Bicester Road; and (2) on the B4100, on the left, driving towards Bicester, between the entrance to Caversfield House and the entrance to Home Farm. (Small yellow triangles painted on the road indicate where they are.) **Action – Clerk to ask Highways if, and when, the VAS installations will be put to use, and also**

to ask what the installation (with solar panel) on the left hand side of the old Bicester/Fringford road going north, is.

Report from County & District Councillor

8. Cllr Fulljames updated the meeting on the following matters:

- The Proposed Incinerator at Ardley – “Ardley Against the Incinerator” took their case to the High Court, but lost their appeal. Understandably the AAI group, which has fought the proposal tirelessly (along with CDC), is very angry and distressed. Unfortunately, the incinerator will now be built and rubbish will be brought to it from all over the county, and from further afield.
- The Development of the MOD site on Skimmingdish Lane – the applications for planning permission will be considered by the CDC Planning Committee on 11 August. Cllr Fulljames urged the Parish Council to speak at the meeting, if at all possible. Cllr Phipps said Caversfield Parish Council has supported the application, though it has drawn attention to a number of concerns expressed by some residents. The Parish Council felt the developers have taken trouble to consult the public and to take views into account as far as they could. Cllr Phipps suggested the Parish Council should write a further letter of support. Cllr Fulljames thought this would be helpful. **Action – Clerk.** Cllr Fulljames said that, since there was no meeting room in Caversfield, she wondered whether in due course it might be possible for the Parish to be allowed occasional use of the old decontamination bunker which is to be preserved as it is and opened to the public from time to time. It was agreed this could prove useful if it were possible.
- NW Bicester Eco Town: Exemplar – Cllr Fulljames said the planning application for the Exemplar had been discussed at Planning Committee for three hours on 14th July. There had been strong opposition from the County Council on numerous grounds; in particular, because the financing does not seem at all sound, and the education side is very weak; there seems to have been little consideration of how the proposals fit in with all the other developments in the area. Altogether it is a huge application and the issues should not be fudged. In the end the Committee had asked for a decision to be deferred until there were some answers to the major questions being raised. The County and District Councils have employed an independent financial consultant to look at the financing of the project, and it does not make sense to take any decision before the report from the consultant has been received and ‘digested’. However, it is possible that CDC will try to put the application on the Agenda for the Planning Committee meeting on 11 August. If this happens, Cllr Fulljames urged the Parish Council to try to send someone to speak at the meeting.

9. In relation to the recent, very large, planning applications which have come to the Parish Council, Cllr Nisbet said she found it extremely difficult to look at applications as big as that on line. She felt that parishes should be sent at least one paper copy. Not everyone has the most advanced software, and even if they do, it is still extremely difficult to read everything, particularly maps and drawings, using a computer. Other Councillors fully agreed with Mrs Nisbet and asked the Clerk to write to the Head of Planning requesting a hard copy of all large applications in future. **Action – Clerk.**

Co-option to Parish Council

[The two members of the public- Mr Wise & Mr Wright - left the room while this item was discussed.]

10. Cllr Phipps explained that the two vacancies on the Parish Council had recently been advertised in the proper way on the Parish notice boards. No one has come forward seeking to stand for election. It is therefore open to the Parish Council to co-opt members onto the Council. The co-optees will hold office until the next election (which is in 2012).
11. Cllr Phipps said that Mr Nick Wise, a resident, has expressed interest in being co-opted. He has provided some information about himself, which was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. Councillor Sutcliffe, seconded by Councillor Gilmore, proposed that Mr Wise be co-opted onto the Parish Council. The proposal was accepted unanimously. *[Mr Wise and Mr Wright returned to the meeting.]*

Finance

12. The bank balances were reported:

Post Office Account	£2268-25
Community Account	£330.04
Business Saver	£2827.61

Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve the following invoices for payment (proposer was Cllr. Wood, seconder Cllr. Gilmore):

Payment to:	Cheque Number	Amount
Southwold Community Association Inv. No. 1271	100615	£16.00
Mrs P A Wood Clerking Duties (March to July 2011) Land registry search Photocopying & Postage	100616	£394.69
Zurich Municipal (Annual Insurance Premium)	100617	£319.40

There was some discussion about entering into a three, or a five, year agreement with Zurich Municipal. However, the difference in the amount of premium to be paid was minimal, so the Council decided not to get locked into a long term agreement, and to pay for one year only.

Planning Applications

13. There were no applications to consider. Councillors noted a planning **Decision** - Application 11/00108/TCA Land rear of 2 Skimmingdish Lane, Barnfield Close, T1 to T20 Thuja Plicata – reduce height to 10ft.

Parish Matters

14. The Council considered a request from Caversfield Management Company Ltd for the bench at the corner of Skimmingdish Lane and Turnpike Road to be moved away from the estate entrance, because of loitering and vandalism, and to be refurbished/painted because

of its poor condition; and for the neighbouring bin to be moved with bench/replaced with new. Also, for the nearby bushes to be removed as they are endangering a protected dry stone wall. Councillor Phipps said the bench did belong to the Council; it had been put up in the Jubilee year. After discussion it was decided to leave the bench and bin in situ for the time being, but Cllr Phipps volunteered to arrange for the bench (and its 'partner' on the Fringford Road) to be refurbished. It was further explained that any bushes outside the boundary of Caversfield Management Company's land were the responsibility of the County Council's Highways Department. The land does not belong to the Parish. Mr Wright said he would check the boundaries and then contact the County Council.

15. There was a general discussion about anti-social problems arising in that part of the village from the people using it as a right of way through to the recreation field and on into the Americans' housing area. In fact there is no right of way through the estate, and Caversfield Management Company (CMC) is planning to fence off the ways through, and to put up lockable gates. Cllr Gilmore suggested CMC write to the Commander of the base at Croughton asking for help dealing with these security issues. Cllr Phipps recommended Mr Wright should also contact WPC Caroline Brown and raise all matters of concern with her. Mr Wright thanked the Council for their suggestions and said he would keep them informed of any developments.
16. The Council next considered a request from Stoke Lyne Parish Council to Caversfield PC to support a proposal for (a) having a 50mph speed limit imposed on the whole stretch of the B4100 from Bicester to the Baynards Green Roundabout, and (b) banning HGV's (any vehicle over 7.5 tonnes) from the stretch of the B4100 from Bicester to the Baynards Green Roundabout, except where access to individual properties is required. The Council decided it supported (a), but not (b). **Action – Clerk to reply to Stoke Lyne Parish Council.**

Correspondence

17. Correspondence received in the last two months had already been circulated and dealt with. However, Councillors have been invited to the Cherwell Countryside Forum, on 6 September, at Kirtlington Village Hall starting at 6.30pm. Cllr Phipps said she might be able to go but would like to see an Agenda first. **Action – Clerk to obtain Agenda for Cllr Phipps,**

Reports from Meetings

18. Cllr Phipps said she and Cllr Nisbet had attended a Parish Liaison Meeting at CDC. The meeting had been very dull; the best moments happened afterwards (a) when they met the new Chief Executive and had the opportunity of a conversation with her, and (b) when Cllr Barry Wood asked them for suggestions for improving the Council web-site (some of their points appear to have already been adopted).
19. Cllr Wood reported on a meeting about the Big Society, held at Exeter Hall in Kidlington. The special speaker at the meeting – Kelvin Thomas from Oxford United – had been interesting, talking about OU's work in the community. It was clear from the meeting that in the future more work will be put on Parish Councils and less on District Councils. Parish Precepts will have to be increased to enable the Parish Councils to do this work.

Any other Business

20. Cllr Gilmore asked if Highways could be approached to put in a dropped kerb by Springfield Road, and to cut back the bushes overhanging the pavements on the east side of the old Fringford Road, as they encroach on the pavement, bench and bin. **Action – Clerk.**
21. Cllr Sutcliffe said that at a recent meeting of the Neighbourhood Watch it was explained that a security marking product ‘Smartwater’ can be bought in more cheaply if at least 10 people order it. She asked everyone to spread the word, and tell anyone interested to contact her.

Dates for Future Meetings

22. . The following dates have already been agreed:

- 21nd September
- 23th November.

Note: The Clerk has found out that Southwold Hall has no free evening slots which would enable Caversfield PC to start its meeting earlier. It would only be possible to change the meeting day if the Council met during the holidays, and this is not feasible.

The meeting ended at 9.45pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....