

## THE PARISH OF BERRICK SALOME

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 27 May 2003 at the Berrick Salome Village Hall at 8.00 p.m.**

### **1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Chairman Chris Kilduff, and a number of other parishioners.

### **2. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 13th May 2002 were read by John Radice, and approved and signed by Derek Shaw.

### **3. Matters arising**

Millennium Stone: This had been inspected by David Pelling, and no signs of cracking found.

### **4. The Annual Report of Parish Council**

This was presented by Derek Shaw, in the absence of Chris Kilduff. He conveyed Chris Kilduff's thanks as outgoing Chairman to the Parish Councillors for their help and support in the previous 4 years, and to the District and County Councillors Tony Crabbe, David Turner and Carol Heath-Whyte for their help and assistance.

There had been 7 Parish Council meetings during the past year and of the planning applications considered, most were of a minor nature. The most controversial application was for a grain store in the middle of the field in Roke, which was refused by SODC.

Other points mentioned:

- During the year a mains sewage system has been installed in Berrick Salome to the majority but not all houses. This involved road closures during which time the Chequers suffered a loss of business and the Parish Council has written to Thames Water requesting they reconsider the issue of compensation to the Chequers for the loss.
- The state of Church Lane still remains unresolved although pot holes were filled with scalpings as a temporary measure during the winter.
- The new children's playground equipment has been installed and completed. It is a major success and thanks to Karen Bateman and Selwyn Petterson for their efforts in organising installation and raising finance.
- The Parish Council elections took place in May and for which 9 candidates from the Parish stood for 5 positions. This was an exceptional turnout. The newly elected Councillors are: Derek Shaw, Ian Glyn, Karen Bateman, Sam Clayton and Sarah Hicks.
- The Parish precept submitted for the year was £3,000.
- The Parish has been without a Clerk since the end of January.

Appreciation was expressed for the work of Chris Kilduff and Jan Snaith, who retired as Clerk in January.

### **5. Statement of the Parish Council's accounts for the year ending 31 March 2003 and observations**

There was a closing balance of £2,554.82. The precept remained at £3,000.

## **6. The accounts and report of the Berrick Salome Quarry Charity**

David Pelling explained the nature of the Quarry Charity, which receives income of £2,000 per annum from Wilkinson's woodyard, and whose disbursements are controlled by Charity Commission rules. The policy of the Management Committee was to support projects of lasting value.

Over the last year the Charity had disbursed £6,500: £4,000 towards the new playground, and £2,500 towards the new church organ.

There was a balance in the account of £2,743.

There were at present no requests for grants pending. The Charity was at liberty to accumulate funds.

## **7. Election of Committee of Management of the Berrick Salome Quarry Charity**

The management committee comprising Chris Kilduff, David Pelling, Tim Clayton, Tom Curran, Marion Shaw and Norman Willifer was re-elected en bloc on a proposal by Peter Percival, seconded by Sue Clayton.

## **8. The accounts and report of the Berrick Salome Relief in Need Charity**

The Administrative Officer was Norman Willifer. Chris Cussens was now a trustee, joining Ian Cohen, Chris Whittle, Sally Pelling and Sue Clayton.

The capital balance of the fund stood at £14,676.10.

## **9. Report of the Berrick and Roke Village Hall Management Committee**

Derek Shaw reported on behalf of Ruth Coffey, who was unwell.

The Hall was in a good financial state, with an income of £2,091.22 including rent from Chunkey Monkeys of £1,082.50. There was a surplus for the year of £668.98 after paying for repairs, cleaning, heating and insurance costs of £1,422.24, which it was intended to spend on some re-decoration. Assets at the year end amounted to £7,696.98.

It would be desirable to publicise the Hall better, and volunteers were being sought to do this.

At present, the Hall is a separate legal entity. Comments from the Parish were invited as to whether the Council should take more of a responsibility for the Hall, and thus consolidate the two organisations.

## **10. Appointments of Representatives to other organisations**

Chris Whittle was re-elected as parish representative to the Millstream Day Centre, Benson.

## **11. Playground Project**

Selwyn Petterson presented a report.

After the old playground was condemned as unsafe, councillors Karin Bateman and Selwyn Petterson were tasked with getting quotations to re-equip the playground and raise the required funds.

The total cost of £15,500 was met by £2,000 from the Parish Council, £4,500 landfill grant, £4,000 from the Quarry Charity, and £5,000 from SODC.

A small opening event was being planned, with contributing organisations invited.

## 12. Other Business

### 12.1 Sewer works

Sue Clayton said that the Parish Council should put more pressure on Thames Water regarding compensation to the Chequers for loss of business during the sewer works.

### 12.2 Church Lane

Marion Shaw proposed a joint letter from the PCC and the Parish Council to Oxfordshire Highways, reminding them of the poor state of Church Lane. Ian Glyn said he had contacted OCC, and the matter was in the current year's budget.

### 12.3 Village Hall entrance

In answer to a question from Chris Cussens, Derek Shaw confirmed that plans were in place to improve the approach to the Hall, in particular dealing with the puddle. The possibility of re-siting the entrance was also being explored.

### 12.4 Verge posts

David Pelling said that the reflective verge posts had been damaged. The Village had originally contributed to their cost, and OCC Highways should be chased.

### 12.5 Green waste

Sarah Russell raised the issue of green waste. David Pelling said the skip service from SODC should be reinstated. Contacts will now need to be made through the Benson district councillors. John King reminded parishioners of their right to put out 2 bags of green waste a week.

### 12.6 The Link

Chris Cussens said that contributions to the Link were welcomed. It was agreed that John Radice would email a report from the AGM to Marion Shaw.

### 12.7 Gravel extraction

Rob Marsh and Derek Shaw reported on this matter.

It had been recently learnt that it was proposed to designate the Benson / Warborough / Stadhampton / Berinsfield area for the extraction of gravel in the Oxfordshire 2011 Structure Plan.

Apparently the matter arises every 10 years or so, but has always previously been turned down. This time it looks more serious, since existing sources are getting exhausted and there is pressure from development in Didcot. Hanson have the rights to the gravel extraction near Berrick.

Rob Marsh offered to keep in touch with developments on behalf of the village.

**There being no other business, the Meeting concluded at 10.00 pm.**