

THE PARISH OF BERRICK SALOME

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 1st May 2007 at the Berrick Salome Village Hall at 8.00 p.m.

1. Apologies for absence

None were received.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 22nd May 2006 were read by John Radice, and approved and signed by Sarah Hicks.

3. The Annual Report of Parish Council

This was presented by the chairman, Sarah Hicks:

At last year's Parish AGM we heard from some people their concerns regarding the speed of some cars through the villages and how this impacted on people who walk, cycle or ride around this area. Accordingly we took up the challenge to see what, if anything, could be done about this situation.

Ian Glyn took on the task of liaising with the Oxford County Council Rural Environment department who could advise us on what was possible and what the relevant costs involved. It appeared that there was money in the budget, which could cover some alterations to our roads.

Various suggestions were heard from the very basic to the very elaborate – anything from widening verges to recreate the single lane effect to painting big bright red areas of tarmac to alert drivers to the area. We held extra meetings where some residents attended and during these great discussions ensued. The biggest concern that arose from this was trying to give notice to passers-by and residents alike that this is not a "rat-run" where speed is everything, whilst maintaining the rural atmosphere.

At the same time, we discussed the notion of footpaths or pavements to run in places considered to be the most dangerous, in particular from Green Lane down to the Village Hall. This introduced problems of its own, for example the width of pavement and the requirement of lighting that path would inevitably make this segment of the village look like mini-suburbia.

As a result of all of this, we decided the best way forward initially would be to introduce new signs at the beginning and end of the village, welcoming drivers and asking them to drive carefully, the reverse side thanking them for taking care. Tony Crabbe offered to put us in touch with the department that will lend the Parish a speed-gun for a few days. No tickets would be issued as a result of this but it would serve to alert offending drivers to their speed. This has not happened as yet, but hopefully will do shortly.

Whilst on the subject of roads, we were approached by residents of Green Lane to help in their on-going discussions with Thames Water regarding the condition of the lane following the work carried out to connect those houses to mains sewers. We arranged a meeting with representatives from Thames where they agreed that the state of the surface of the Lane was unacceptable and offered either to put the work right, or pay towards getting the work done. An offer of some £6,000 was made. Since then, Ivor Allum has been obtaining quotes from various contractors for the work, all of which seem to be coming in at almost double Thames' offer. The current situation is waiting for more quotes and a meeting to be arranged between residents of Green Lane to establish which direction to go in. This is obviously to be continued so anyone requiring more information in the future should contact Derek.

There is nothing out of the ordinary to report in regard to planning matters. We were presented with ten planning applications, all of which were granted permission by SODC.

Finally, following the sad loss of Tom Curran, it was suggested and agreed to replace the bench at the Millennium Stone area with a new teak bench with a dedication to Tom. This is in the course of being organised and will hopefully be erected as soon as possible.

4. To receive the observations of the County Councillor and the District Councillors

None of the Councillors were able to attend.

5. Statement of the Parish Council's accounts for the year ending 31 March 2006 and observations

Derek Shaw tabled the accounts as follows:

**SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENT ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING
31/03/2007**

2005/2006 RECEIPTS	2006/2007
£3,000.00 Precept	£3,000.00
£13.55 Interest	£13.27
<u>£3,013.55</u> TOTAL Receipts	<u>£3,013.27</u>

PAYMENTS

£108.75 General administration	£108.75
£531.16 Insurance	£554.46
£670.00 Clerks fees	£670.00
119.85 OALC membership	£122.79
£1,010.00 Running costs - grass cutting etc.	£890.00
Play ground	£70.50
*-£54.53 Dog bin installation & emptying	£300.33
£50.00 Rental of rooms for Parish meeting	£75.00
<u>£2,435.23</u> TOTAL PAYMENTS	<u>£2,791.83</u>

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS SUMMARY

Balance brought forward 01/04/06	£3,674.07
Total receipts	£3,013.27
Total payments	-£2,791.83
	<u>£3,895.51</u>

REPRESENTED BY

Current account	£2,409.04
Business Premium account	£1,386.17
Community account	£97.30
Cash	£3.00
	<u>£3,895.51</u>

The precept remained at £3,000.

6. Report of the Berrick and Roke Village Hall Management Committee

In the absence of Denis Cooper, Pam Marsh provisionally reported to the Meeting (see also Minutes of Extraordinary Meeting):

The Wallingford Bridge Club provided a good rental income, using the Hall for 4 evenings and 2 afternoons per week. Funds were good.

It was intended to improve the kitchen fittings, for which a grant would be applied for (with matching funds from the parish).

Derek Shaw asked for a copy of the accounts to be submitted to the Council.

7. Any Other Business

7.1 *Election of Parish Meeting Officers*

Sue Clayton clarified that the only separate office is the Parish Clerk. The Chairman is automatically the Chairman of the Parish Council.

7.2 *Parish Council*

Answering Nicol Glyn, it was explained that with only four nominees for the Council, they would go on automatically. A fifth person will be co-opted in due course to make up the numbers.

7.3 *Allotments*

Derek Shaw said a separate account should be set up with established authority and signatories. It should not be mixed up with Council accounts.

Ian Glyn proposed that Council look after this account on behalf of the vilagers. Sue Clayton seconded the motion which was passed.

7.4 *Retiring Chairman*

A vote of thanks was given to Sarah Hicks for her work as Chairman.

There being no other business, the Meeting concluded at 8.40 pm.

THE PARISH OF BERRICK SALOME

Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Meeting held on 29th May 2007 at the Berrick Salome Village Hall at 8.00 p.m.

1. Apologies for absence

Ruth Coffey, Pam Marsh, Sarah Hicks, Neville Gill

2. The accounts and report of the Berrick Salome Quarry Charity

David Pelling reported to the Meeting:

The Trustees of the Quarry Charity administer the income received in rent from the wood yard which the village owns adjacent to the Home Sweet Home turning on the B4009 (Wilkinson's Wood Yard). The income received is currently £2000 per annum. This is the charity's only source of income other than a small amount of interest on any bank credit balances.

During the year monies awarded during the previous period but held on account until the projects which they were supporting were completed were paid: namely £2000 to the Village Hall (mainly for new flooring) and £1,500 to the Parish Council for fencing around the swings and slides area of the recreation field. £1,084 was used to purchase a robust portable public address system, for use for village/community events etc. The Charity will hold the equipment and make it available on request.

Currently the charity has cash assets of just over £4,600 and there are no tabled requests for funds, although it is understood that an application may be made shortly by the Parish Council for 'shortfall' funding for the proposed new signs at the portals of the villages in the Parish.

The Quarry Charity currently has no Treasurer (since the sudden demise of the late Tom Curran). As Chairman I have recently received from Midge Curran the books and files relating to the finances of the charity. For reasons that are unclear, the stewardship of the banking arrangements has gone awry (fortunately financially not too seriously). Although the Savings Account has always been in credit, inexplicably funds were not transferred appropriately to meet expenditures from the Current Account. Hence for several "quarters" penalty interest charges have been applied to the tune of some £264 in total. A suitable transfer has now been made to stop further unnecessary interest charges and steps will be made in an attempt to re-coup (on a good will basis) at least some of the losses. However the charges are legitimate and any refunds will be entirely at the discretion of the bank (Barclays).

It is traditional at this point to ask for the meetings approval for the Trustees to continue to look after the Charity's affairs during the forthcoming year. The following will be happy to continue in office: David Pelling, Tim Clayton, Marian Show and Neville Gill. The current Chairman of the Parish Council is also automatically a trustee of the Charity during his/her office.

The Trustees will be looking for someone to co-opt as Treasurer to the Charity and would be pleased to hear from anyone willing to undertake this task.

In answer to a question from Ian Glyn, David Pelling advised that the Trustees were not planning to raise the rent level. Wilkinson's lease ran out last December. It was not thought likely that more income could be received from another tenant – the permitted use is agricultural.

In answer to a question from John Radice, David said that the Trustees responded to requests, rather than sought particular projects. Grants must be of benefit to the community. They could be small sums frequently, or larger ones occasionally.

3. Election of Committee of Management of the Berrick Salome Quarry Charity

The current management committee comprising David Pelling, Tim Clayton, Marian Shaw and Neville Gill was re-elected en bloc.

With Tom Curran's death, a new treasurer will need to be co-opted.

4. The accounts and report of the Berrick Salome Relief in Need Charity

Chris Cussens reported to the Meeting:

The Charity was set up to provide grants of money, provision of items or provision of facilities for persons in need living in the Parish of Berrick Salome. After many years of accumulating funds, the Trustees were now successfully finding people to help, and were presently spending more than the income.

Income is received from rent from a parcel of agricultural land and a fixed interest investment plus interest on accumulated income. Five grants to the total value of £1858.12 have been made over the past year.

The Trustees of the Charity are

Rev. I. Cohen (ex-officio as The Vicar for the time being of St. Helen's Berrick Salome)

Nominative trustees appointed by the Parish Council of Berrick Salome

Mrs. J. Franklin (Chairman)

Mr. C. Cussens (Treasurer)

Co-optative trustees appointed by special resolution of the Trustees with special knowledge of the Parish

Mrs. S. Clayton plus one vacancy

Mr. C. Cussens (Mokes Corner, Berrick Salome, Oxon OX10 6JR) acts as administrative officer.

He tabled the accounts as follows:

Financial Statement for the year ended 31st August 2006

Receipts and Payments Account

Receipts	y.e. 31.08.06	y.e. 31.08.05
Interest on 195 M&G Charibond shares	14.84	14.84
Rents from Chalgrove charity y.e. 31 December	309.01	309.01
Interest on COIF charities Deposit A/c	739.59	744.94
	<u>£1,063.44</u>	<u>£1,068.79</u>
Payments	y.e. 31.08.05	y.e. 31.08.04
Grant for educational expenses	100.00	100.00
Grants for special needs recreational & educ opportunities	150.00	150.00
Grant for disability equipment	1,208.12	
	<u>1,858.12</u>	<u>250.00</u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments	-794.68	818.79
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 31 Aug 2005	16,868.55	16,049.48
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 31 Aug 2006	<u>£16,073.59</u>	<u>£16,868.55</u>

5. Report of the Berrick and Roke Village Hall Management Committee

Denis Cooper reported to the Meeting:

Planned projects include solving the external flooding problem, improving the carpark, and having better facilities for the disabled. For the latter, grants were available. However, he had been advised by SODC that compliance with the DDA was not obligatory. John Radice expressed surprise: it had been brought in for all public buildings in phases between 1999 and 2004.

There has been a defect in the new sheet flooring, due to damp in the underlying slab. Carpet tiles have been laid in the Small Room instead.

The Hall is little used apart from the Wallingford Bridge Club.

He tabled the accounts as follows:

Financial Statement for the year ended 31st March 2007

Receipts and Payments Account

Receipts	y.e. 31.03.07	y.e. 31.03.06
Hire of Village Hall	715.00	646.50
Quarry Charity donation	309.01	2,000.00
Bridge Club rents	6,525.00	6,105.00
	<u>7,240.00</u>	<u>8,751.50</u>
Payments	y.e. 31.03.07	y.e. 31.03.06
Cleaning	1,004.00	906.00
Refurbishment	2,707.85	4,058.03
Oil / heating	554.50	385.75
Furniture / fittings	120.48	170.28
Insurance	579.36	738.96
Electric	333.72	623.45
	<u>5,299.91</u>	<u>6,882.47</u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments	1,940.09	1,869.03
Capital: Lloyds Bank	5,183.88	3,314.85
	<u>£7,123.97</u>	<u>£5,183.88</u>

6. Appointments of Representatives to other organisations

Dot Cussens was re-elected as parish representative to the Millstream Day Centre, Benson.

It was noted that Karin Bateman is undertaking maintenance of the playground.

7. Any Other Business

7.1 *Speeding through the village*

Ian Glyn reported that 'Please drive slowly' signs would be going up soon.

7.2 *Village Hall rubbish*

Ray Perfect asked that users ceased putting out black plastic bags, which got ripped open by animals. Could the Hall Committee purchase more bins or a wheely bin.

7.3 *Verges*

John Radice commented that more and more people are closely mowing the verges, which seemed to him out of character with the village's rural character. This view was not supported by others.

There being no other business, the Meeting concluded at 9.10 pm.