

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Environmental Committee  
Held on Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2008  
At 7.30 p.m.**

**Present:**

Cllrs. Mr. Young (Chairman), Mr. Cousins, Mrs. Aston

Mr. Roger Hannaford – Street light co-ordinator  
Mr. Trevor Shurmer, Swan Rider Transport Services, BCC.  
Mr. Adrian King – ACE Pest Control Services

1. Apologies – Mr. Wheeler – taking an exam. Accepted.
2. Mr. Shurmer was welcomed to the meeting. Information was given as to how communities can hire Swan Rider buses. They are similar to that used by the Red Cross Day Centre. However, their bus is leased from BCC and is for their use only. Swan Rider has a fleet of 40 vehicles. Mini buses can take 16 passengers. They also have buses which can accommodate 2 wheelchairs plus 12 passengers. These buses are for hire by older people services, children/youth and children with special needs to take to school. They could be hired by organisations such as Darby & Joan, Youth Club etc. They are for hire in the middle of the day when not being used for their normal activities, but with some negotiating they can be hired from 9 am – 6 pm.

The buses can be hired with driver/driver plus escort or if own driver is provided must hold a D1 licence (ie passed driving test before 1997). To drive a self drive vehicle a County Authority to Drive “Pink Card” will be required. Tests cost £80.

Cost to hire:	
Bus without driver per evening	£70 + VAT
Per day	£70 + VAT
Weekend	£120 + VAT
Bus with driver midnight to 10.30 am & 2.30 pm – 6 pm	£32 per hour
10.30 am – 2.30 pm.	£30 per hour

Different charges for Sat/Sun/Bank holidays.

Additional cost if wheelchair access is required.

There is a requirement to affiliate to Swan Rider which would entail completing a form with a cost of £10. Bus is picked up from Griffin Lane and to be returned with fuel.

3. Street light report – Allotment footpath between Sheerstock and Townside needs trees and bushes cut back as they are shading light and it is becoming a tunnel. Mr. Ayers to be asked to cut back as far as he is able. It will then be ascertained as to whether further work is required by a tree cutter. Trees also blocking light on Townside opposite Bartons Farm and Anvil Cottage – these also to be cut back where possible. A request has been received for an additional light on the footpath from Sheerstock alongside the railway to Thame Road. Trees of 16 Sheerstock are blocking the path and resident will be asked to trim back away from footpath. Quotes have been requested for new lantern for 1 Quakers Mede and for bracket for new Ely lantern for Townsend Green but to date have not been received.

4. Quote received from ACE Pest Control Services for rat problem at three ponds and allotments. Mr. King explained the bait used and how he would proceed.

Rudds/Banks/Church ponds – 8 visits per year £15 per site = £45 visit. Total £360 per year + £60 for bait = £420 per year. There would be an additional cost in the first year for the provision of 4 bait stations at each site at a cost of £32 per site. Total £96.  
Total cost during first year £516.00.

Allotments – 8 visits per year @ £20 per visit = £160 + bait £60 + £220 per year.  
There would be an additional cost in the first year of 12 bait stations at a cost of £96.  
Total cost first year £316.

A booklet would be provided for recording visits and would be kept in the Parish Office and maintained by Mr. King. We would be invoiced after each visit.

Quotes have been requested from other companies but not yet received.

5. Commuter parking – BCC are still looking into the possibility of painting “Hockey Stick” lines at junctions of Wykeham Way/Thame Road and Sheerstock/Thame Road. Letter has been sent to residents in Sheerstock from Waddesdon Police Station informing them of rules regarding rights to park on public highways. The Fire Service do have notices which can be placed on cars regarding accessibility. A supply will be obtained.
6. Snakemoor access – Mr. Young, Mr. Thorogood and Mrs. Brandis are meeting on site on 8th December.
7. Tree works – Mr. Rankin had looked at the trees which were reported as in need of attention at the rear of 142 and 144 Sheerstock. He recommended that 2 trees are reduced in height by 50% at the rear of 144 as they are very close to the boundary of the property. Mr. Rankin was going to recommend their removal but the resident wished them to be retained. Budget for tree work has been overspent this year. A decision would be taken after the precept meeting has been held and a quote received.
8. Precept for Env. Committee/Allotments & Snakemoor was discussed.

Allotments – Water to remain at £400. Pest control to be added at £320.

Snakemoor – Cut & bale £250. Tree works £50.

Env. – alterations to be made:

Street light energy – E-On to be asked if there is likely to be an increase in energy charge for next year.

Church lighting to be reduced to £500.

Tree works to be increased to £1500.

Hire of Eurobins to be increased to £600.

Cost of gang mower of £4000 to be taken out.

Duck food to be reduced to £50.

Include Misc. expenses £500.

9. Quote being requested from BCC for the provision of 3 dropped kerbs in the village.

10. Haddenham/Thame cycleway. Babi has undertaken a feasibility study and has suggested 3 routes:

A. Scotsgrove Mill to Moored Lane

B. Thame Road, Haddenham & A418 Route to Thame Bypass

C. Tythrop – East Route