

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the Pavilion, Pound Lane, Sonning, on Tuesday 9 April 2013 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT.

Mr P J Doyle, (Chairman), Mr A Evans, Mr A E Farnese, Mrs T Hicks, Mr S D Liddiard, Mrs P Pownall, Mrs L A Bates (Clerk). 2 Visitors

APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS.

Apologies were received from Ms V Reeve (away) and Mr I Runnalls (unwell). The Chairman welcomed everyone.

8230: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

The Minutes, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

8231: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations.

8232: HIGHWAYS PRESENTATION – SONNING AND SONNING EYE SOCIETY.

The Chairman said that he would allocate a total of twenty minutes to the Societies presentation and a question and answer session. Mr O'Callaghan said that as the author of the Societies position statement he would speak on behalf of the Society. It seemed that rather than always reacting to issues, it would be important to clarify long-term aims. These would not necessarily be achievable in the short term but could be worked towards and he wanted to be positive rather than negative. Having walked around the village he felt that there were environmental changes that were achievable in the short term. Residents and visitors (walkers) should be valued rather than cars and traffic and areas could be radically reallocated to achieve this, for instance footpaths could be widened. It was not possible to influence drivers passing through Sonning but it was possible to influence residents, he was aware for instance that residents drove from Sonning Meadows to attend Church. He had tried to understand this and had concluded that the footpaths in Sonning Lane were not attractive to walkers. To reduce the use of cars an attractive alternative had to be in place to encourage walking. The worst hazards to pedestrians were the mini-roundabout and the A4 roundabout. If Public transport options were more user friendly, linking residents to shops etc, this could reduce residents use of cars. Smaller changes could include the introduction of cycle racks to encourage cycling. It was important to get away from the idea that streets were for cars. Mr Farnese said it was important to avoid NIMBYISM. Traffic was at its worse during peak periods, but the rest of the time it was not so much of a problem. Mr Farnese liked the idea of small improvements and agreed it was important for the Society and Parish Council to work together. There were people who come into Sonning to work. Mr O'Callaghan said that there was an issue and those working or being educated at the schools should be encouraged to cycle. Mrs Hicks said this was not always possible. At RBCS many students did not live in or around Sonning. Mrs Hicks asked if Mr O'Callaghan was proposing to conduct a survey, there had been a huge backlash following the previous SPC Highways Survey. Mr Hine said that there was no intention of providing an immediate answer but the Society and Parish Council should work together to look at alternative ways to achieve improvements. If the GO 20 campaign aims could be implemented this would help achieve a better balance of pedestrians over cars. The Chairman said that 7500 vehicles used Pound Lane every day, with the WBC proposed housing developments this was likely to increase. Mr Liddiard said that

8232: HIGHWAYS PRESENTATION – SONNING AND SONNING EYE SOCIETY.

viable alternative were needed but currently there were none. Mr O’Callghan said that traffic had to behave responsibly, he was often overtaken when he was cycling at 20mph in Pearson Road. The Chairman said that Mr Evans had agreed to take over the SPC Highways responsibility and he would speak to Mr Hart in order to arrange the next step. The Chairman said that the engineers report showed that the footpath over Sonning Bridge was dangerous for pedestrians and Mr Liddiard said that this route was an important link between the two communities. Having read the 2004 minutes he noted that Theresa May (MP) had said that WBC should put in a planning application for the new bridge. The Chairman said that Lafarge would have problems when they extended their gravel excavations, Henley would not permit lorries in the town and they were prevented from crossing Sonning Bridge. The Chairman thanked Mr O’Callghan and Mr Hine and Mr O’Callghan left at this point.

8233: CASUAL VACANCY

There had been no applications to join the Council.

8234: CORRESPONDENCE.

Managing Development Examination in Public. This would commence on 14 May.

Neighbourhood Plan. The Chairman, Mr Farnese and the Clerk would attend this information evening on 24 April.

Major Projects Meeting. The Chairman, Mr Farnese and Mrs Hicks would attend this on 16 April.

Adopt a Street. A request to progress this in Sonning had been received.

Campaign Against Waste. Mr Farnese would attend this on 15 April. There had been no progress on the Adopt a Street Scheme in Sonning so Mr Farnese had nothing to report.

Donations. The Clerk had received four letters thanking SPC for the recent donations.

Hawthorn Way Hedge. The Chairman said that Cllr Haines was aware of this. Although it had been resolved a car was now parking on, and obstructing, the pavement.

Disabled Parking – Pearson Hall. The Chairman said that Ed Day had asked if the Parish Council would be in agreement with disabled on street parking outside the Pearson Hall. Following discussion it was agreed that there were no objections.

8235: PLANNING.

Planning List. The Chairman said that there had not been a decision on the Granary. WBC had agreed the materials for the new development at Greendown.

August Field. The Chairman said that revised plans had been received, which included removal of the garaging. Deadline for comments was 17 April and the Augustfield application would be on the next planning agenda along with 55 Pound Lane and the RBCS applications.

Fire Station. The revised application, which had been withdrawn, had shown a reduced plot size, which would not attract the £150,000 S106 payment but no further application had been submitted. WBC was still displaying the incorrect OS map on their web site. Mr Liddiard said that that he had been invited to meet the planning and highways officers to discuss his highway concerns, but, as WBC had still not changed their highway maps, Mr Liddiard had cancelled the meeting.

1 Old Bath Road. There had been a four metre high sign on this site, which had now gone. Mr Mann had visited the site, which was in a poor state, with the roof being completely removed

8235: PLANNING (Cont'd).

and the side wall being partially demolished, both without planning permission.

The stone seats at Sonning Lock had been taped up, and there were a proliferation of signs advertising the tea gardens.

WBC was consulting on the Community Infrastructure Levy, which would work along side the S106 scheme for smaller development.

The following applications were ongoing: 1 Sonning Gate (F/2012/1398) 32 West Drive (F/2012/1435): Greendown Pearson Road (C/2012/2390)

The following applications had been approved: Old Forge Cottage Pearson Road (F/2012/2384 & LB/2012/2385): 15 West Drive (F/2013/0135): 2 Sonning Meadows (F/2013/0137): 19 West Drive (F/2012/1468).

The following applications had been refused. There were none.

The following new applications had been received. August Field (**F/2013/0140**) Erection of 4 no dwellings with gardens parking and improved access following demolition and removal of existing dwelling and outbuildings, Holme Park Sonning Lane (**F/2013/0330**) Demolition of a existing single storey side extension to 'The Cottage' construction of a single storey extension to form a boiler/plant room removal of two chimneys installation of 4no. roof-lights and associated elevational changes.

8236: CONSERVATION AREA ASSESSMENT.

The Chairman said that the consultation had closed on 24 March. There had been a number of responses and a good attendance at the exhibition. The audio visuals had been shown again at a recent Society talk and it was hoped to have this available on the web site. The Chairman had discussed the next stage with Ms Coulter and agreed that the report had to be fleshed out and then it could be sent to WBC at the end of the summer. It was hoped that WBC would have a mechanism for receiving it in place by then.

8237: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR.

In the absence of Cllr Haines there were no questions.

8238: PARISHIONERS QUESTIONS

Mr Hine asked about the Conservation Area Assessment. The recent article in the Parish Magazine had stated that it would replace the Sonning Design Statement, which was a concern as several elements in the Design Statement were not included in the Conservation Area Assessment. The Chairman said this was correct; the Design Statement was out of date. Mrs Hicks asked what were the main issues and Mr Hine said that he would get back to the Council on this.

The Chairman said that he proposed asking Mr Driver to write a short conservation piece for the Conservation Area Assessment which would be a much larger document once it was fleshed out and could include proposals for Conservation Area policies.

8239: PROPOSALS FOR QUEENS JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS.

The Chairman said that there had been a further appeal for funding in the latest Council Newsletter and reminding residents of the project. Other applications for funding, including the national lottery, were also in hand.

The Scarecrow Committee had asked that their £3,000 donation be returned. There had been no deadline attached to the donation and some of the money had already been spent. It was agreed that the Clerk should circulate a draft letter asking the Scarecrow Committee to reconsider their request and explaining that SPC were totally committed to the project.

8240: FINANCE.

- a) Report. The finance report was circulated and noted.
- b) Payment of Accounts. Mrs Pownall proposed making the following payments, Mrs Hicks seconded and these were unanimously approved.

March

P J Doyle – Materials for CAA Exhibition	235.61
Thames Water – Allotment Water	32.21
Mrs R Hulley – Litter Feb & part March	182.29
BALC Postage for Guides	4.00
L A Bates – Honorarium less tax	2643.50
L A Bates Telephone	40.00
L A Bates Purchase SPC mobile phone	17.95
Air Ambulance – donation	200.00
Age Concern – Donation	200.00
Berkshire Blind – Donation	50.00
PCC – Donation to Churchyard	60.00
PCC – Donation to Parish Magazine	600.00
ReadiBus – Donation	150.00
Twyford Volunteers – Donation	50.00
CAB – Donation	50.00
Sue Ryder - Donation	100.00
Keep mobile – Donation	50.00
Mr K Trimmings – Litter part March	109.37
Mrs L A Bates – refund Pavilion TV Licence	145.50
Cannon Tree Care – Fell allotment trees	324.00
Post Office Counters - investment	<u>4353.87</u>
	9598.30

8241: HIGHWAYS.

The Chairman said that he would obtain a WBC Highways Design Guide for Mr Evans. This included parking positions, layouts etc. The Chairman said that there seemed to be confusion about who could drive over the Bridge. Mr Evans said that he would be having discussions with Mr Hart and that he understood that speed trials had taken place over the country.

8242: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G.

Safety Checks. Mr Farnese was now carrying these out.

SCC Licence. A draft had been circulated and was approved.

Field Maintenance. Mrs Pownall said that Supagrass had quoted the same price as in 2012 subject to a site visit. Following discussion the Chairman proposed spending up to £1800 on the Supagrass work (including rolling, weeding, feeding and aeration), Mr Farnese seconded and this was unanimously approved.

Annual Mowing. SCS had quoted £80.22 to cut the whole field. Mr Liddiard had agreed to cut the edge of the field so it would not be necessary for the contractor to do this. Following discussion it was agreed that SCS should mow the whole field every two weeks to coincide with the SCC 1st X1 fixtures and that they should be asked to roll the field as requested by the footballers at a cost of up to £300.

8243: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

- a) Report. Mr Farnese said that he would report the damaged tree on the A4 to WBC.

8243: TECHNICAL SERVICES (Cont'd).

- b) Wharf Refurbishment. Mr Collier had quoted £1500 to extend and resurface the path, which had been previously approved.
- c) Area near Pound Lane/Liguge Way Bus Shelter. The Chairman had an example of the type of post, which could be used to prevent parking in this area. These came with concealed padlocks and could be folded down or removed if necessary. This would address the concerns over pedestrian safety at school opening and closing times. The Chairman proposed purchasing six posts plus padlocks at a cost of 83.74 plus VAT each, Mr Farnese seconded and this was unanimously approved. Mr Farnese would ask the school to inform parents and adjoining neighbours.
- d) Pearson Road Telephone Box. Mr Farnese said that there was a scheme whereby defibrillators would be provided free of charge and he would ask the ambulance service about this. Mr Evans said that there would need to be a 1st provider list and these people would hold the key, Mr Evans had undergone training and would be willing to be involved. The Chairman said that the telephone box could also be used as an information centre to provide tourists with local information and he would look into this.

8244: POLICE AND SECURITY.

Mr Evans had spoken to Mrs Bradley and Mrs Bell of Neighbourhood Watch and would be meeting Mrs Bell to discuss ways to move forward.

8245: RENOVATIONS TO HIGH STREET WATER PUMP.

The Clerk said that, currently, there was no update.

8246: NEWSLETTER.

Mrs Pownall said this had gone to the printers on 5 April and would be distributed for circulation as soon as the printers had delivered them.

8247: WEB SITE.

Mrs Hicks said that the current set up, based on Namo Web Editor 8, was not user friendly and it was proving to be very time consuming. Mr Hicks would like to upgrade the web site to include information about the Council and Councillors responsibilities and a fault finding/reporting page. It was agreed that Mr Evans would discuss this with his designer/contact and Mrs Hicks would ask Mr Gilmore for a quote.

The Chairman suggested that the Clerk asked Mr Gilmore about a business computer, the purchase had been agreed in January 2012.

8248: ACTION LIST.

This was reviewed and updated.

Mrs Pownall said that two areas other had been identified as possible locations for the outdoor exercise equipment as Mr Driver had highlighted the danger from cricket balls landing in the previously agreed location. Councillors would look at the options ready to agree in May.

8249: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next Meeting would be held on Tuesday 14 May 2013. The Annual Parish Meeting would be held on Tuesday 21 May 2013 in the Pearson Hall.

Signed..... Dated.....