

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the Pavilion, Pound Lane, Sonning, on Tuesday 11 June 2013 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT.

Mr P J Doyle, (Chairman), Mr A E Farnese, Mr J Hargrave, Mrs T Hicks (par time), Mr S D Liddiard, Mrs P Pownall, Mr I Runnalls, Mrs L A Bates (Clerk). By invitation Cllr M Haines (WBC part time). 1 Visitor.

APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS.

Mr A Evans had sent his apologies. The Chairman welcomed everyone.

8274: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

Mrs Hicks said that minute 8271, line one should read '*Mr Evans contact had said £1000 to £2000*' rather than '*£1000 to £1200*'. The Minutes, having been amended and previously circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

8275: MINUTES OF THE 2013 ANNUAL MEETING.

The Minutes of the 2013 Annual Meeting had been circulated for information.

8276: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

Mr Liddiard said that he had been asked to become a Vice President of SCC and was unsure if he should declare an interest. Mr Farnese said that he had been a Vice President but had resigned as he felt there might be a conflict on interests. Mr Hargrave said he was a Vice President. The Clerk would seek clarification on this.

8277: CASUAL VACANCY

The Chairman said that Mr Trefor Fisher would like to be considered as a candidate to fill the vacancy. Mr Fisher said that he had lived in Sonning for 37 years and had an interest in Sonning matters, including planning issues and traffic solutions and he would also be prepared to get involved in practical, hands on, matters. He was also a Vice President of SCC. In the past he had been fully committed with the Scouts and the Thames Valley Ambulance Service but now found that he had time to commit to the Council. Following discussion the Chairman proposed co-opting Mr Fisher at the April meeting Mr Runnalls seconded and this was unanimously agreed.

8278: NEW COUNCILLOR DECLARATION OF OFFICE AND TO ABIDE WITH THE CODE.

The Chairman welcomed Mr Hargrave who signed the Declaration and the Clerk witnessed this.

8279: NEW COUNCILLOR CODE - DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Mr Hargrave had completed the Disclosable Pecuniary Interest declaration and the Clerk would copy it to WBC.

8280: DEFIBRILLATOR.

The Chairman said that, as Chairman of SPC, he was now a member of the Fire Brigade Trust. The Clerk had written to the Trustees requesting funding for the Defibrillator but it was against the Trusts constitution to contribute to a Parish Council project but the Trustees would

8280: DEFIBRILLATOR (Cont'd).

be prepared to offer £2500 if the request came from the Pearson Hall on whose land the defibrillator would be installed. Mrs Hicks asked how members of the public would know there was a defibrillator in Sonning and the chairman explained that if they called the emergency services the ambulance service would provide the location of the nearest defibrillator. The Chairman had spoken to Giles Stephens who had said there was no need for a listed building application as there would be no alterations just internal additions and the 'Telephone' sign would be replaced with 'Information'. Additions would include an information rack and stickers on the back panel. Cllr Haines said that the Ambulance Service would talk anyone wishing to use the defibrillator through the process. The Chairman would circulate a drawing to show the proposals.

8281: CORRESPONDENCE.

Internal Audit. The Clerk had met the internal auditor who had concluded the audit to his satisfaction. The Clerk would circulate some general comments provided by Mr Gilson.

Public Events. WBC had asked if there were any events taking place in Sonning where road works might be an issue, apart from the Sonning Show in September there were none.

RBCS. The Bursar at the School had copied the Chairman in on a letter to Mr Driver regarding the invoice and confusion over the 2012 mowing of the School's wildlife area.

BALC Planning Training 17 July. It had been agreed to change the planning meeting for 17 July to 15 July but the Hall was booked so it would need to revert to the Pavilion on 17 July, clashing with the training. Following discussion it was agreed that Mrs Hicks and Mr Liddiard would attend the training day and to pay the fee themselves.

8282: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR.

As Cllr Haines wished to leave the meeting early it was agreed to bring this item forward. Cllr Haines said that two sets of travellers had caused disturbances at Mere Oak near junction 11. WBC now had a strong policy for moving travellers on under section 61 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act. Moving them on became more complex if the travellers had children with them. Cllr Haines said that WBC road repairs were ongoing and the Chairman asked about the state of the road outside the Farm entrance in Charvil Lane. He had understood that WBC would be making repairs but they had only done a patch repair. Cllr Haines said WBC engineers were working their way around the Borough. The Reading Road and Western Avenue in Woodley were particularly bad and there had been complaints from motor-cyclists. Mrs Hicks asked about the ugly new bridge in Duffield Road and Cllr Haines said that this would now be painted green.

8283: WEB SITE.

Mrs Hicks would meet Mr Gilmore and Ms Reeve on 25 June to discuss the layout for the updated web site. Mrs Hicks had circulated some ideas (including policies, complaints procedure, information on becoming a Councillor) earlier in the year and was proposing to keep to the same format but to add content. Any additional ideas would be welcome before 25 June. Cllr Haines said there was information on the WBC web site. Mrs Hicks said that Mr Gilmore would make the web site user friendly and would build an initial site for Councillors approval. There were now ten 'likes' on the Facebook page. The Clerk would provide any missing minutes but the Freedom of Information details would be added to the new site.

Mrs Hicks had also looked at the information the Chairman had received regarding the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 under which Town and Parish Councils would be given

8283: WEB SITE (Cont'd).

more powers to submit proposals directly to the government. Hopefully this would help prevent community decline. Town and Parish Councils had originally been excluded under the Act but it was now appreciated that they were well placed to understand what was needed in their locality. Once the powers were granted it would be easier to see how this applied to Sonning. Likely powers were to be able to prevent local facilities closing (pubs, shops etc.) If SPC engaged with the community and together they wished to instigate something that WBC were against it would be possible to go directly to the government. Mrs Hicks asked Cllr Haines if WBC used the Act. Cllr Haines said there was far more to the Act, it would for instance be possible to hold on to public buildings to prevent them from being sold off. There were other changes, Borough Councillors could get behind a scheme without fettering themselves. It was a learning exercise, a first, so there was no precedence or example to follow. NALC had been given the status of Parish Selector so if a proposal were turned down NALC would resubmit and try to negotiate with the government. Mr Liddiard had joined Mrs Hicks in looking at the Act and said that they felt that Sonning was not big enough (or small enough) but it was good to look at the opportunities. Cllr Haines said that some groups were looking at re-instating a village shop, possibly in the local pub. Mrs Hicks said that the Act allowed the transfer of funds from body to another. Cllr Haines said that Parish Councils would be getting a lot more power and their role would be changing in the next five years.

8284: PLANNING.

The Chairman said that there had been no decision on the Granary. There was no decision on Augustfield and therefore it was not known if this would go to the WBC Planning Committee. Mr Liddiard had visited WBC to look at the file and found a reply to Mr Driver's letter but the application had not progressed, Cllr Haines said it was listed in case the officer recommended approval. The Chairman said that the Fire Station proposal was listed and SPC had submitted robust objections. Mr Liddiard had looked at the file and found that the highway report was still referring to the fact that Pound Lane had a 20mph speed limit, which drivers would observe. There was also a letter from Batcheller Monkhouse referring to the fact that WBC had previously approved the application and that the proposal would have no impact on the Conservation Area or residents amenity. The Chairman said that, by reducing the plot, the proposal reduced the amenity area by 50%. It was now under the size requiring a S106 contribution. Mrs Hicks said if the land was subsequently given to the house purchasers then all developers could use this to avoid paying the S106 contribution. The Chairman said there should be a firm policy. Cllr Haines said that the contribution system was changing and would be based on floor area. The Chairman said there had been a case in which the Judge had made the developer pay and agreed to provide Cllr Haines with the details to use at the WBC planning meeting. Mr Liddiard would write to Claire Lawrence to point out that this would set a precedence, which would be hard to resist. Cllr Haines said that the political balance on the WBC planning committee had changed since the recent elections, which could make a difference. The Chairman said that the application to extend the time to implement the Holme Park Sports proposal had been approved. Greendown Cottage, which had not been altered since the 1940's, would be discussed at the next planning meeting. 19 Old Bath Road was likely to be on the WBC agenda for 26 June. If this were correct the Chairman would speak against the proposal. Mrs Pownall had looked at projectors and it was possible to purchase one for £250 to £300. Mrs Pownall agreed to get firm quotes for a projector and a screen.

The following applications were ongoing: 1 Sonning Gate (F/2012/1398) 32 West Drive (F/2012/1435): The Granary (F/2012/2440; Readingensians (F/2012/2425; 31 Pound Lane (F/2013/0117; 15 West Drive (F/2013/0135); August Field (F/2013/0140), Holme Park Sonning

8284: PLANNING (Cont'd).

Lane (F/2013/0330); Holme Park Sonning Lane (CA/2013/0790); Holme Park Sonning Lane (F/2013/0474); Former Fire Station (F/2013/0149); Holme Park Sports ground (EXT/2013/0796); Land facing Duffield Road (F/2013/0634); 19 Old Bath Road (F/2013/0714); 1 Glebelands Thames Street (F/2013/0825); 2 Sonning Meadows (NMT/2013/0780).

The following applications had been approved: 55 Pound Lane (F/2013/0533).

The following applications had been refused. There were none.

The following new applications had been received. Casamy Holmemoor Drive (F/2013/0414) Erection of single storey side extension, proposed pitched roof over existing flat roofed garage creation of front entrance porch new pitched roof dormer on front elevation proposed pitched roof over existing flat roof dormer on front elevation and proposed replacement of existing gable end roofs with hipped roof on rear elevation. Proposed additional velux roof lights on front elevation northwest elevation and 3no on southwest side elevation. Proposed enlargement of first floor window on front elevation (Amendment to previous planning consent F/2011/2210); Pilgrims Thames Street (LB/2013/0924) Proposed internal alterations including removal and replacement of some internal walls removal of spiral staircase reinstatement of floor. Re-positioning and replacing of one external wall. Extension to detached garage; South Meadow Cottage Sonning Lane (F/2013/0801) Erection of single storey outbuilding to provide gym and store plus provision of car port. (Demolition of existing garage); 1 Greendown Cottages Thames Street (F/2013/1048) Single storey and two storey side/rear extensions to dwelling.

8285: CONSERVATION AREA ASSESSMENT.

The Chairman said that he had asked Ms Lawrence about the timing for submitting the assessment to WBC and had been told that WBC were unlikely to be able to progress this until 2014. There was, however, more to do to the Assessment. The Chairman had spoken to Mr Hart, Mr O'Callaghan and Ms Coulter about extending the Conservation Area to include the Eco house and the meadow on Sonning Farm and replacing the 2004 Sonning Design Statement but they had not been sympathetic.

Cllr Haines left at this point (8.55pm) and said that he would keep the Chairman posted on any progress on the Fire Station application.

8286: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR.

There were no further questions.

8287: PARISHIONERS QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

8288: PROPOSALS FOR QUEENS JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS.

The Chairman said that there were no new regulations, which would apply to the work on the Bridge. However Mr Barnwell (WBC) had looked at the proposals for carrying out the work and had concerns over safety. Mr Barnwell had however suggested that, if the installation could wait until March 2014 when the Bridge would be closed for remedial work, he would be happy for it to take place at that time. The Chairman said that this was a good idea, it would allow time to seek corporate funding towards the project, and Councillors agreed. Mr Runnalls said the Bridge closure would be an opportunity to obtain data on the effect the closure would have on adjoining roads. The Chairman would draft a letter informing those who had made a donation or had made a pledge of the delay. Mrs Hicks asked who could be approached about donations and the Chairman said companies in Thames Valley Park. Mr Hargrave agreed to give advice on this. Mrs Hicks left at this point (9.15pm).

8289: FINANCE.

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

May

Mr K Trimmings – Litter	145.83
PHMC – Office Rent	221.00
Playsafety – ROSPA Inspection	181.20
Quadron – Dog Bins	166.42
Street Furnishings – Safety Bollards	703.12
CJD Consultants – New Computer	900.35
SCS – Mow Rec 192.52 Mow SLTC 42.00	234.52
Mr P J Doyle – Paint, Security Bolts etc Safety Bollards	96.34
Sonning Landscapes Mow Wharf 26.00 Mow Playground 52.00	78.00
Mrs L A Bates – ZEN Hosting repayment	57.46
Plumbnation – Pavilion Water Heater	810.00
Quadron – Dog Bins	167.16
Supagrass – Rec Mtncce	2184.00
PHMC Hire Hall CA Assessment	<u>90.00</u>
	6035.40

- c) 2012/13 Annual Audit Return. Mr Farnese proposed approving the Annual Audit Return, Mr Liddiard seconded and these were unanimously approved. Mr Hargrave agreed to look into the Santander situation.
- d) Purchase Financial Package. More information was required and Mr Hargrave would look into this.

8290: HIGHWAYS.

In the absence of Mr Evans the Chairman said that there would be a Highways meeting on 24 June between SPC and the Society to discuss future policies. Sonning Bridge would be closed for eight days in March 2014. Mr Farnese would attend the Major Projects meeting on 18 June and would raise the issue about the poor condition of the roads and would thank the SEC representative for ensuring that the new lamps were painted.

8291: KING GEORGE’S FIELD

The Chairman said that when he had met Mr Driver to look at the work carried out on Ali’s Pond and Mr Driver had said that it was inappropriate for SPC to use the pavilion, as this was a non-sporting activity. The Chairman said that SPC had signed the Deed of Trust and was the Trustee of King George’s Field, which was a public playing field for public use. SPC had drawn up the Licences with the agreement of the Playing Fields Association but there was no obligation to give these Licences to any group/club and the Pavilion was used for the good of the community. SPC could not give exclusive use of the field to any club/group, although SCC had roped off the cricket square, it was a two way street and it was fair to point out that SPC could use the pavilion and give SCC a Licence at their discretion.

8292: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G.

Mrs Pownall said that the water heater had been installed and was working well. Awards for All had made a conditional offer for the exercise equipment and the surveyor had said that the

8292: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G. (Con't)

position by the pagoda was acceptable but Mrs Pownall felt that the position near the basketball was preferable. Having spoken to residents she was recommending this position and installing signs to point out that the equipment should not be used during cricket matches. Installation would probably take place during August providing the order was placed immediately so that the date could be set. This was agreed, as there would be no cancellation fee if the grant did not materialise.

SCC Request for Additional Mowing. SCC felt that it was necessary for the grass to be cut weekly during the present weather conditions in order to maintain the correct standard for cricket. SCC would pay for the additional mowing and it was agreed that the Clerk should instruct the contractor to mow weekly until further notice.

Safety Checks. Mr Farnese said that there was some wear on the swings; the Clerk would check the recent report.

8293: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

a) Report. Mr Farnese said that Mr Collier had completed the work to the path and had done an excellent job. There had been a lot of additional work and materials involved but his invoice was under £2,500. Mr Collier would now clear the ground under the Willow tree. Mr Liddiard had removed the old plastic gate and would renovate the seats. The Chairman thanked Mr Liddiard on behalf of the Council.

The Chairman said that one of the safety bollards in Liguge Way had been knocked and cars had been parked between the bollards and the bus shelter. The Chairman proposed purchasing an additional bollard to fill the gap, Mr Liddiard seconded and this was unanimously approved. It was agreed that a more permanent solution was likely to be required.

b) Safety Checks. Mr Farnese was carrying these out.

8294: POLICE AND SECURITY.

In the absence of Mr Evans there was no report.

8295: ACTION LIST.

This was reviewed and updated.

8296: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next Meeting would be held on Tuesday 9 July 2013.

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