

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

PRESENT.

Mr P J Doyle, (Chairman), Mr A E Farnese, Mr T Fisher, Mr J Hargrave, Mrs T Hicks, Mr S D Liddiard, Mrs P Pownall, Mr I Runnalls, Mrs L A Bates (Clerk). No Visitor.

APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS.

There were no apologies. Mr Evans absence was noted.

8297: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

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

8298: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

Mr Liddiard said that, as he lived opposite the Pound Lane embankment, he would have an interest in item 17c. Following discussion it was agreed that this was not a prejudicial interest.

8299: CASUAL VACANCY

The Chairman said that there no other applications to join the Council had been received.

8300: NEW COUNCILLOR DECLARATION OF OFFICE AND TO ABIDE WITH THE CODE.

The Chairman welcomed Mr Fisher who signed the Declaration which the Clerk witnessed.

8301: NEW COUNCILLOR CODE - DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Mr Fisher had completed the Disclosable Pecuniary Interest declaration and this was witnessed by the Clerk who would copy it to WBC.

8302: DEFIBRILLATOR.

The Chairman said that the Fire Brigade Trust would fund the Defibrillator if the Pearson Hall Management Committee would purchase it, he understood that the Trustees had agreed to do this and had applied to the Fire Brigade for the funding. Ms Reeve would complete the purchase application on behalf of the Parson Hall Trustees. The Chairman would prepare a drawing to show how the defibrillator would fit into the telephone box as Mr Stephens (WBC Conservation Officer) had agreed that the listed building application could be covered by e-mail.

8303: CORRESPONDENCE.

Police Open Day. This would take place on 7 September, 10.00am to 4.00pm at Sulhampstead.

Electrification of Great Western Railway. Network Rail had written to everyone explaining that they were going to electrify the line over the next few years as part of their ongoing safety/improvements strategy.

Safe Communities Survey 2013. WBC would be carrying out their annual survey on behalf of Wokingham Borough Community Safety Partnership.

Councils Vision for Sonning. Cllr Thomas McCann (WBC was asking all parishes for their vision for their parish. The Clerk agree to put this on the agenda for discussion at the next Planning meeting.

8304: PLANNING.

The Chairman said that the revised plans for the Granary addressed most of the SPC concerns. There had been no progress on the August Field application or on the Fire Station application. Cllr Haines had said that progress was very slow and the applications were unlikely to go to the WBC Planning Committee until August/September. 30 Mandwa West Drive and Casamy had been approved. 19 Old Bath Road had gone to the WBC planning Committee for a decision. The officer had said that the building was only two storey as the third floor was below the eaves and the application had been approved. The permission for the physiotherapy unit at the Holme Park pavilion had been extended for a further 3 years.

The application at 1 Greendown Cottage had been refused.

Referring to 19 Old Bath Road, Mr Farnese said there seemed to be little point in SPC making comments when WBC invariably approved the applications that SPC had recommended for refusal. The WBC planning committee members didn't seem to understand about policies and didn't ask questions. Mr Liddiard said that residents had contacted WBC after WBC had removed the tree on the Pound Lane verge. WBC's reply had been pompous and dismissive and the neighbours were likely to contact the local MP's. The Chairman said that Mr Cordell, who had accompanied Claire Lawrence to the SPC planning meeting had said that his job was to liaise between WBC and parish council's, it might be worth the residents contacting him. Mr Liddiard said that the tree officer had declared the tree a 'danger' but when cut down the trunk showed no sign of decay although it was 50 years old. Mr Hargrave asked if SPC would replace the tree. Mr Liddiard said that he would be happy to plant a Hornbeam, which was a native species, to match the one he had planted to replace an earlier tree that had died. It was agreed that Mr Liddiard should do this in November. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to inform Ann Ballard that SPC would be replacing the felled tree with a Fastigate Hornbeam which WBC had recommended as the replacement for the other tree that had died. The following applications were ongoing: 1 Sonning Gate (F/2012/1398) The Granary (F/2012/2440; August Field (F/2013/0140), Former Fire Station (F/2013/0149); Land facing Duffield Road (F/2013/0634); Glebelands Thames Street (F/2013/0825).

The following applications had been approved: 32 West Drive (F/2012/1435); 31 Pound Lane (F/2013/0 Holme Park Sonning Lane (F/2013/0330); Holme Park Sonning Lane (F/2013/0474); Holme Park Sports ground (EXT/2013/ 0796); 19 Old Bath Road (F/2013/0714); 30 Mandwa House (F/2013/0725); Casamy, Holmemoor Drive (F/2013/0414)

The following applications had been refused. There were none.

The following new applications had been received. 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 existing garage; South Meadow Cottage (F/2013/0801) Erection of single storey outbuilding to provide gym and store plus provision of car port. 1 Greendown Cottages Thames Street (F/2013/1048) Single storey and two storey side/rear extensions to dwelling.

8305: CONSERVATION AREA ASSESSMENT.

The Chairman said that things would start to move again after the summer and the Assessment should be completed by October. However WBC were currently involved in the SDL's and wouldn't be able to receive the document until March 2014.

8306: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR.

In the absence of Cllr Haines there were no questions.

8307: PARISHIONERS QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

8308: PROPOSALS FOR QUEENS JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS.

The Chairman said that the work to install the lights on the Bridge would be carried out in March to coincide with the 8 day WBC closure. There was a need for corporate financing and Mr Hargrave agreed to investigate and to bring ideas to the September meeting. The Chairman had also spoken to Mr Reilly (Peter Brett & Associates). The Chairman said that David Sherriff was working on proposals for a Park and Ride off the Henley Road beyond the turning into Caversham Park village. This would attract traffic to that part of the area and would require a one lane bus route. Mr Sherriff had said that plans had also been drawn up for a new road, which should reduce traffic in Sonning, from the Wee Waif roundabout, curving across Sonning Farm and onto the Henley Road.

8309: FINANCE.

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

June

Mr A E Farnese – APM Refreshments	42.50
SSE - New Light Charvil Lane (part)	652.60
Suffolk Acre Insurance Admin 820 Pav. 650 Play equip. 575 SLTC 178.50	2223.50
Thames Water – Rec. 30.18 Allot. 21.69 Pav. 83.08 less credit 77.30	57.65
Mr K Trimmings – Litter	145.83
Twyford Mowers - Repairs	60.98
Sonning Landscapes Mow Wharf 26.00 Mow Playground 52.00 Wharf Path 2332.00	2410.00
SCS – Mow Rec 288.78 Mow SLTC 84.00	372.78
Mr C Gilson – Internal Audit	45.00
BALC – Planning Training x 2	96.00
Mrs L A Bates Honorarium less tax 2480.15 Tel. 40.00, Pav TV Licence 145.50	2665.65
	<u>8772.49</u>

Mr Fisher would attend the planning training and would pay the £48.

- c) Purchase Financial Package. The Scribe 2000 was £199 including SQL for windows 8 plus VAT. Mr Hargrave proposed purchasing the system, Mr Liddiard seconded and this was unanimously approved.

8310: HIGHWAYS.

In the absence of Mr Evans Mr Farnese said that WBC did not have any funds for road repairs in Sonning, the ‘dusting’ carried out two years ago was already deteriorating. Mrs Pownall said that WBC had agreed to carry out repairs in Liguge Way but this had not happened so far. The Clerk would chase this up. The Chairman said that the new bollard in Liguge Way had been installed but some of the existing were loose. The Chairman said that a lorry was continually parking in Little Glebe. This was not unlawful but was causing some concern. Mr Farnese agreed to speak to the PCSO about this.

8311: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G.

- a) Report. Mrs Pownall said that the zip wire seat had come off. The Clerk agreed to get the manufacturer to replace this and the wire. Mr Collier was clearing the debris from the Wharf. The rubbish bin was overflowing, the Clerk would ask for an additional bin. The Chairman would produce and erect a sign.
- b) Repairs to Skate-park. The manufacturers, Wicksteed, had quoted £1,433 plus VAT, to resurface the area with smooth high strength concrete, remove the ramps weld the end caps to the small ramp and cut out and relay concrete at the grind rail feet. Following discussion Mr Farnese proposed accepting the quote, Mr Liddiard seconded and this was unanimously approved.
- c) Safety Checks. Mr Farnese had carried out the checks. The fungi on the old tree stump had reappeared, the Clerk would ask Mr Collier to deal with this.
- d) Request to Use the Field and Pavilion for Fundraising Event. There had been a request to use the field and pavilion. This would be a day time event and would not interfere with cricket. Following discussion it was agreed to allow this, there would be no charge as it was for fundraising but they would be asked to leave the area tidy. Mrs Pownall agreed to be the contact.
- e) Outside Exercise Equipment. Mrs Pownall said that the money had been deposited at the Yorkshire Bank. The equipment was scheduled for installation on 12 August and the approximate location had been agreed. A sign to say the Awards for All had financed the project was required as part of the agreement and it was agreed to include a disclaimer to say 'at own risk' when cricket was being played.

8312: 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.
- b) Safety Checks. Mr Farnese was carrying these out.
- c) Ash Tree Pound Lane. This had been covered earlier, it was in fact a Thuja tree.

8313: WEB SITE.

Mrs Hicks said that she would be meeting up with Mr Gilmore and Ms Reeve to discuss progress. Mrs Hicks wanted to create a cascade with one item leading to another. Mr Gilmore was working out a scheme and felt it would be better to completely redesign the web site, rather than trying to alter the existing one, in order to make it interactive and using photo images to open it up. Mrs Reeve would attend the September meeting and Mrs Hicks would stand down from the Council at the same meeting. Mrs Hicks felt that it would be preferable if more than one person took on the responsibility of updating the web site in order to share the workload, possibly someone from each committee. Mrs Pownall said that she would consider assisting. The Clerk said that it had been previously agreed that one person would have responsibility for updating the web site in order to prevent any 'unauthorised' input. It was agreed that it would be necessary to have a policy covering input onto the web site.

8314: POLICE AND SECURIT

In the absence of Mr Evans there was no report. The Chairman said that everyone received the Police Alerts, which provided up to date information. Vehicles had caused damage to the walls of several properties in Thames Street.

8315: ACTION LIST.

This was reviewed and updated.

8316: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next Meeting would be held on Tuesday 10 September 2013.

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