

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the Pavilion, Pound Lane, Sonning, on Tuesday 10 September 2013 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT.

Mr P J Doyle, (Chairman), Mr A Evans, 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.

Mr Farnese was waiting to go into hospital. Cllr Haines had a previous meeting.

8317: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

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

8318: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations.

8319: DEFIBRILLATOR.

Having been initially advised that the Listed Building application for the defibrillator could be carried out by e-mail the Chairman was then informed that a LB application was required. The Chairman had then been given incorrect information and, having completed an application which included drawings and photographs for advertisements and the application WBC had said there was no need to apply for advertisements and that the LB form was not the correct version. The Clerk had been able to apply for LB consent on the on-line and the application had finally been registered and was now on the WBC planning web site. Ms Reeve was completing the purchase application on behalf of the Parson Hall Trustees. The Fire Brigade Trust had agreed to fund the project and had paid the money over to the Pearson Hall. Ms Reeve had asked if SPC would be prepared to make a donation to the Charity who were facilitating the purchase of the defibrillator. It was agreed to put this on the October agenda.

8320: CORRESPONDENCE.

Letterbox on the Bridge. The Clerk had just received an e-mail asking for information about the letterbox. Very little was known about this and the Clerk would respond accordingly.

Resignation. Mrs Hicks had submitted her formal resignation. The Chairman said that Mrs Hicks' contribution was very much appreciated. Mrs Hicks said that she was prepared to continue with the work on the new web site and Ms Reeve had agreed to work with her with the Council's approval. It was agreed that Mrs Hicks and Ms Reeve should continue.

MDD Consultation. WBC were asking for comments on the latest draft. The Chairman said that there was little to say at this stage and it was agreed to leave this for the moment.

WBC Consultation on their Decision Making Arrangements. SPC had very little experience of the WBC Decision making process and it was agreed not to comment.

Asked about the Traffic meeting at Shinfield the Chairman said that the meeting had not been well attended and another meeting was to be arranged.

8321: PLANNING.

The Chairman said that the latest August Field application, with the garages and hard-standing shown in the previous application removed, had been approved by the WBC Planning Committee.

8321: PLANNING (Cont'd).

The Fire Station application had also been approved by the WBC Planning Committee.

The Glebelands application had been approved.

There was a listed building application for Pilgrim's. The work had already been carried out but WBC wanted a LB application with the garage removed as it was not part of the Listed Building.

An application for 1 Greendown Cottages had been refused. A second revised application had addressed SPC's concerns and they had been recommended for approval.

The Palmer Pump had been approved. An application to comply with the conditions was required.

The Chairman said that there were concerns about the way the WBC Planning Committee had handled the application for the Fire Station. The planning committee had ignored the poor sightlines in spite of the Chairman explaining the danger and showing a plan clearly outlining this. WBC highways were prepared to allow the lines to be taken to the crown of the road in spite of Manual for Streets indicating that this should only be used in situations where no overtaking could take place. The Chairman had also explained that, when braking, a car travelling at 20mph would travel 33 metres, and take 4 seconds, before coming to a halt. Using the site-lines for the new access the car would come to a halt 8 metres beyond the new entrance. The committee had chosen to accept the highways view and the only comment had been from one Councillor who had said if the entrance was good enough for fire engines it was good enough for the new house (another member had pointed out that the discussion was not about the existing access). The committee had not asked if the Chairman's comments were true. The highways officer had just said that the proposal was 'acceptable'. In reply to the question of the S106 affordable housing element being reduced to zero, due to the proposal not be 'viable, the planning chairman had said that there was a 'robust' system in place and, having gone to arbitration the result was to reduce this to zero. With August Field paying £40,000 for affordable housing on four new houses it was difficult to see how the system worked. The Chairman had spoken to John Cawdell about the possibility of SPC meeting up with highway and planning officers and he had said that he could arrange this. Following discussion it was agreed that the meeting should be arranged for Tuesday 17 September between 12 noon and 1.00pm. The Chairman, Mr Evans, Mr Fisher and Mr Runnalls all agreed to attend.

The Chairman said that the Society's latest edition of the Bridge stated that the proposed development of the Fire Station had been approved but the proposed new house had been refused. A photograph of cars parked in Sonning Lane was also included but it was a mystery as there was no accompanying article, it was agreed not to comment.

Mrs Hicks said that she had spoken to the family, who were clearing the Fire Station and had lit a bonfire. They had not applied to discharge the conditions and were tidying up on a one off basis.

The following applications were ongoing: 1 Sonning Gate (F/2012/1398) Land facing Duffield Road (F/2013/0634); Pilgrims Thames Street (LB/2013/0924); South Meadow Cottage (F/2013/0801); 11 Hawthorn Way (F/2013/1549).

The following applications had been approved: The Granary (F/2012/2440; August Field (F/2013/0140), Former Fire Station (F/2013/0149; Glebelands Thames Street (F/2013/0825); The Palmer Pump (LB/2013/1271).

The following applications had been refused. 1 Greendown Cottages (F/2013/1048).

The following new applications had been received. 1 Old Bath Road (F/2013/1487). Erection of a two storey gabled front elevation a single storey front extension to existing garage part conversion of existing garage to additional habitable accommodation part single and part two storey side extension following demolition of existing single garage and passageway erection

8321: PLANNING (Cont'd).

of a two storey and single storey rear extensions and alterations to the existing drive layout and erection of new gate post and gates and conversion of existing loft to additional habitable accommodation to include alterations to roof (amendment to previous consent F/2012/1859) 7 Old Bath Road (F/2013/1546) Non-material amendment to planning consent F/2011/2151 to allow for alterations for fenestration chimney position and removal of column to rear of dwelling. 1 Greendown Cottage Thames Street (F/2013/1662). Two storey front/side extension plus single storey rear extensions to dwelling. Pilgrims Thames Street (F/2013/1742) Listed Building Application for proposed removal of internal wall new internal walls removal of spiral staircase reinstating of floor poulting of beams and timbers and lowering an existing concrete floor.

8322: CONSERVATION AREA ASSESSMENT.

The Chairman said that he would be getting in touch with Mr Hart, the Chairman of the Society's Planning and Highways Panel.

8323: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR.

In the absence of Cllr Haines there were no questions.

8324: PARISHIONERS QUESTIONS

In the absence of any parishioner there were no questions.

8325: PROPOSALS FOR QUEENS JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS.

The Chairman said that the work to install the lights on the Bridge would now be carried out between 28 October and 13 November to coincide with the WBC closure. It was not yet clear if the Bridge would be closed for 24 hours or just during working hours. The Chairman had spoken to Scottish and Southern who would liaise with WBC and who had said that they could reduce their quote as less work was involved. The Chairman had provided Balfour Beatty with a drawing of the proposal. Sally Hughes had asked the Chairman for the dates and he had explained to her that, as a temporary traffic order was being used, there would no consultation on the closure and therefore no objections could be made. As the current fundraising would not cover the full cost of the lighting the Parish Council would pay the difference on the understanding that they would be reimbursed as further funding became available. The Clerk would add this proposal to the October agenda.

8326: FINANCE.

- a) Report. The finance report was circulated and noted. A news item had shown a fire caused by a vandal involving safety surfaces and there were concerns about the Council's safety surfaces. The Clerk would check this out.
- b) Investments – Santander. The current business bond matured on 1 October and Santander were offering 1.4% for the new 1 year bond, the current bond was for 3.2%. National Savings were offering 1.99%. Mr Hargrave proposed withdrawing the full £54,358.35 into the Yorkshire bank Mr Fisher seconded and this was unanimously approved. The Clerk would add reinvestment to the October agenda ready to agree the details.

8326: FINANCE (Cont'd).

- c) Payment of Accounts. The Chairman proposed making the following payments for July, Mr Runnalls seconded and these were unanimously approved. Mrs Pownall proposed accepting the following payments for August, Mr Liddiard seconded and these were unanimously approved.

July

Street Furnishings – Additional Bollard	123.17
Mr K Trimmings – Litter June	145.83
Southern Electric – St. Light Energy	467.91
Quadron – Dog Bins	83.58
SSE – St. Light M'tnce 838.86 Repairs 83.08	1012.82
Inland Revenue – NIC 99.99 Tax 167.35	267.34
BALC – Planning Training (x1)	48.00
Mr S Liddiard – Mower Petrol	6.00
Sonning Landscapes Mow Wharf & Playground	
78.00 Cut Pound Hedge – 45.00	149.00
British gas – Pavilion Electricity	<u>302.40</u>
	<u>2606.05</u>

August

Mr K Trimmings – Litter July	145.83
Street Furnishings – Wharf Sign	23.22
Thames Water – Pavilion water	47.12
SCS – Main Mowing	192.52
SCS Mowing SLTC 84.00 SCC 98.40	182.40
Quadron – Dog Bins	83.58
Wicksteed – Skate-park Repairs	1719.60
Sonning Landscapes – Mow Wharf	26.00
Sonning Landscapes Cut Rec Hedge	55.00
Playdale – Repairs Zip wire + New Seat	954.92
Purco Print Newsletter	105.00
Caloo – Outdoor Exercise Machines	<u>11994.00</u>
	<u>15529.19</u>

8327: HIGHWAYS.

Mr Evans said that he had been away for two months and there had been no activity. He had set up a meeting with the Society but they had cancelled and he was endeavouring to set up another. Mr Runnalls said that a lorry watch was needed, lorries were ignoring the weak bridge restriction and the 20mph speed limit needed to be enforced. Mr Runnalls asked how much an illuminated speed sign would cost and Mr Liddiard said that it was possible to purchase a hand held speed gun. Mr Runnalls agreed to speak to Mr Hulley, who had all the information about the speed watches and was keen to see these re-established. The Chairman said he would like to see lorry and speed watches set up. Mr Liddiard agreed to cost speed guns and the Chairman would ask about the cost of an illuminated speed sign at the major Projects meeting on 17 September. Mr Runnalls would also ask Twyford PC if they had any information.

8328: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G.

- a) Report. Mrs Pownall said that the exercise machines had been installed and the company would be returning to collect their skip. The basketball needed to be removed. Repairs had been made in Liguge Way after the Clerk said she had chased WBC, Property Services were

8328: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G (Cont'd).

responsible for the area. Repairs to the zip wire and the skate-park had been carried out. SCC had asked if SPC would allow them to install a clock tower on the pavilion. It was agreed in principle, but SPC would like to see the proposals prior to installation (this was likely to require planning permission as it was in the Conservation area). The Chairman said that thanks were due to Mr Liddiard who had repaired and replaced the wooden bollards around the car park. The Clerk said that a tree on the edge of the car park had been broken off. Mr Liddiard said that he had a Plane tree and it was agreed that Mr Liddiard should plant it as a replacement. The Chairman said that the Henley Contracts would be mowing the Nature Reserve, their price was slightly lower than the main contractor's and they would trim the area where the Nature Reserve met the main field. Henley Contracts had said the field had been cut too short at the request of SCC. This was not good for the field and was only acceptable if the field could be watered and fed at the same time. SCC were making annual repairs to the practice run.

- b) Outdoor Exercise Machines. Mrs Pownall had produced a disclaimer sign, which the Chairman would laminate. The Chairman said that congratulations were due to Mrs Pownall, the new machines were a welcome addition and were being well used. Mrs Pownall said that a free plaque and stickers were available from the Awards for All web site and she would put an article in the Newsletter. A new bin was probably necessary as the area was so well used. Possibilities for an official opening were discussed and the Chairman agreed to think about a sport personality who might do this. Mr Evans suggested a 'fun day' event and Mrs Pownall agreed to discuss this with Sonning School.
- c) Safety Checks. With Mr Farnese indisposed Mr Fisher agreed to take over the safety checks for the time being.

8329: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

- a) Report. The Chairman explained that the lock on the Wharf Gate had been broken off and removed on several occasions in recent months. The code on the lock had also been changed (Mr Liddiard found that it could be opened, but it was very difficult to line the numbers up) which had resulted in an unauthorised car being locked in. The Chairman had sourced an almost indestructible lock and chain (which the Clerk had purchased due to urgency) and had secured the hinge end of the gate. The Chairman said there was a lot of dead wood on the Willow tree. The Clerk had asked Canon Tree Care to carry out an inspection and prepare a report so that a plan of work could be made. Mr Clark was currently abroad but would inspect on 28 September. Mr Collier was clearing the Wharf. Mr Evans said that a huge branch had fallen onto a car parked alongside Shelvingstone, no one had been hurt on this occasion but there were several trees in need of attention in the same part of the garden. The Clerk would write to the owner recommending that professional advice was sought. Mr Evans said that the Willow on the opposite bank was leaning over Sonning Bridge The Chairman would provide the Clerk with a contact at the Environment Agency.
- b) Safety Checks. Mr Fisher would carry these out.
- c) Ash Tree Pound Lane. This had been covered earlier, it was in fact a Thuja tree.

8330: WEB SITE.

Mrs Hicks said that the web site was up to date including details about the exercise equipment and a photographs taken by Mr Fisher. A photograph of Mr Hargrave was needed. A productive meeting had taken place with Mrs Hicks, Mr Gilmore and Ms Reeve. Mr Gilmore had started

8331: WEB SITE (Cont'd)

work and proposed to make the web site interactive and to cascade from one area to another. It might be necessary to purchase some stock photographs for illustrative purposes. Mrs Hicks agreed to do this. Mrs Hicks had discussed the situation with Ms Reeve who would be happy to update the web site and Mrs Hicks would continuing helping until the new web site was up and running.

8332: POLICE AND SECURITY

The police were now producing a regular crime update by e-mail.

8333: ACTION LIST.

This was reviewed and updated.

8334: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next Meeting would be held on Tuesday 8 October 2013.

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