

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the Pavilion, Pound Lane, Sonning, on Tuesday 14 January 2014 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT.

Mr P J Doyle, (Chairman), Mr A Evans, Mr A E Farnese, Mr T Fisher, Mr J Hargrave, Mr S D Liddiard, Mrs P Pownall, Ms V Reeve, Mr I Runnalls, Mrs L A Bates (Clerk). Cllr M Haines (WBC). No visitors.

APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS.

Apologies were received from Mr A Evans, who was unwell and Cllr M Haines (WBC). The Chairman welcomed all those present.

8389: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

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

8390: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest.

8391: CORRESPONDENCE.

Pearson Road/Sonning Lane junction. Mrs Rimell had written regarding this junction following another accident when a car had collided with the bollards outside Mrs Rimell's house. WBC had installed these after a vehicle had demolished the front of her property some years previously. Although relatively minor, the accident had reminded Mrs Rimell how vulnerable the corner was and she had suggested that the cat's eyes be improved to show there was a corner and that the white line delineating the curve should be repainted. Following discussion it was agreed that the Chairman should speak to Nick Rose at WBC.

Letter from EA. The EA had written to all riparian landowners reminding them that they should display the accommodation licence so it could be viewed from the River. Mrs Pownall had already done this some time ago.

Bridge Lights Financing. Mr \*\*\*\*\* had written asking a number of questions. The Chairman said that anyone with an interest could have attended all/any of the meetings where this had been on the agenda (all main agenda since 12 October 2011) to ask questions, discussions about the matter were recorded in the minutes and reports were included in the newsletters (which were circulated to every household). The Chairman was not minded to provide details of those who had made a financial donation or the amounts they had donated. Mr Farnese said the writer was out of order.

Petition for a new river bridge. A petition asking the government to build a new bridge to the east of Reading been lodged and was causing a lot of interest.

8392: PLANNING.

The Chairman said that three new applications, 32 West Drive, 35 Old Bath Road and Model Farm Barn, had been received and would be discussed at the next planning meeting. The advertisement permission for the telephone kiosk had been approved and the stickers could now be installed. The planning committee had dealt with four applications at their last planning meeting, 4 West Drove, Farmhouse Charvil Lane, Sonning Cottage and Star Court.

Fire Station Bell Tower. The Conservation Officer had confirmed that removal of this structure would require planning consent and would inform the owner of this.

WBC Enforcement Report. The planning committee would look at this on 22 January.

## 8392: PLANNING (Cont'd).

Reading BC Enforcement had been declared unfit for purpose.

Request for clarification of S106 process for affordable housing. Clare Lawrence had responded to the Council's enquiry and said that the document from the outside valuer, who had reduced affordable housing contribution to nil, was not a public document. The question why this had happened needed to be answered. £180,000 S106 money was due on the August Field development, £40,000 for affordable housing and it was difficult to see how the Fire Station development's contribution had been reduced to nil, particularly as the site had been sold for £1.25M.

The following applications were ongoing: 1 Sonning Gate (F/2012/1398); Land facing Duffield Road (F/2013/0634); 11 Hawthorn Way (F/2013/1549); 4 West Drive (F/2013/2296).

The following applications had been approved: Pearson Hall (A/2013/2036).

The following applications had been refused: 35 Little Glebe Sonning (F/2013/2150):

The following new applications had been received. Farmhouse Charvil Lane (CLP/2013/2498) Certificate of lawfulness for the proposed erection of a two storey rear extension with balcony single storey front extension to form front entrance single storey infill extension single storey extension to existing annexe plus conversion of existing loft of dwelling to additional habitable accommodation to include rear dormer extension with balcony and changes to existing fenestration and demolition of existing rear single storey extension and linked passage to existing annexe. 35 Old Bath Road (F/2013/2546) Erection of a single storey front extension to dwelling. 32 West Drive Sonning (F/2013/2523). Erection of one detached dwelling (amendment to planning consent F/2012/1435). Model Farm Barns Bath Road (F/2013/2526) Erection of single storey rear extension to existing building for B1(a) office use. Sonning Cottage Pound Lane (F/2013/2190) Construction of a second storey front and rear extension with patios under new side porch new garage and moving the front retaining wall following the demolition of the existing garage and rear conservatory. Star Court Thames Street (F/2013/2455). Erection of two storey side extensions to dwelling plus part demolition of an existing single storey extension.

## 8393: S & S E SOCIETY HIGHWAYS POSITION PAPER.

The Chairman read out parts of the position paper. It included an aspiration that pavements should be 1.5 metres wide to allow mobility vehicles to use them. This could not be achieved in most areas in Sonning and introduction of such widths would have a visually negative effect in the Conservation Area. Mr Fisher said that he had followed up his responsibility by speaking to Mrs Argent, who understood the difficulties the narrow pavements represented to parents with pushchairs and/or young children. Traffic speed continued to be a hazard and Mr Fisher suggested that Sonning Primary School might be aware if there had been any incidences involving parents and speeding vehicles. Mrs Argent would not consider allowing her children to walk to school until they were at least of secondary school age. Many parents parked in Pound Lane as the car park could not accommodate all the cars. The Chairman said that he had contacted WBC for clarification over pavement widths, there was no suggestion that the 1.5 metres standard would be applied to Sonning's narrow footpaths. The Chairman had also e-mailed Dr O'Callaghan who felt that SPC was too solution focussed. Mr Farnese suggested Charvil Lane as one area where it might be possible to install a new pavement although this would involve purchasing the land from the University Farm. The Chairman said that hedges and other wildlife habitat would need to be removed. More information was required.

## 8394: CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT.

The Chairman said he was hoping to get some feedback from the Society, it might be necessary

8394: CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT (Cont'd).

to involve an expert in writing up the final document. An e-mail had been received from the newly appointed WBC Neighbourhood Planner, Rebecca Bird, who was under the impression that SPC had contacted WBC about the possibilities of producing a Neighbourhood Plan. The Chairman had replied to say this was not currently under discussion but he would be in touch if the need arose. Mr Liddiard said this was likely to be an expensive exercise and no development land appeared to be available.

8395: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR.

In the absence of Cllr Haines there were no questions.

8396: PARISHIONERS QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

8397: DEFIBRILLATOR.

The cabinet, which would hold the defibrillator, and the defibrillator were on display and Ms Reeve gave a demonstration to show how the defibrillator worked and agreed to find out the cost of a replacement battery. Ms Reeve said that the cabinet would be fixed inside the telephone kiosk and wired up to the electricity supply. This would take place at the beginning of February. The ambulance service were offering to hold information sessions for interested residents, possibly in the Pearson Hall depending on availability, and Ms Reeve would check out dates. Each session could accommodate up to 40 people and two sessions might be available. Ms Reeve was keen to establish another defibrillator point, possibly at Beech Lodge. Ms Reeve would draft a letter for the Clerk to circulate to Beech Lodge, the sports clubs etc. Mr Farnese asked how soon after a heart attack should the defibrillator be used and Ms Reeve said 5 minutes, after that the person's life expectancy/full recovery reduced drastically. The Chairman said that there would be an additional cost for connecting to the electricity supply (which would include a light in the cabinet and a light sensor in the ceiling) and for the stickers/display units. He was obtaining estimates and would bring them to the February meeting for approval. The Pearson Hall Management Committee would pay up to £190 towards the electrical installation, the amount remaining from the Fire Brigade Trust contribution. There would be space for some advertising. Once installation had been completed the Chairman would inform the press about an official opening.

8398: WEB SITE.

Councillors agreed to provide Ms Reeve with some information about themselves for inclusion on the web site. Ms Reeve was leading one group and Mrs Hicks the other. Mr Liddiard was assisting Mrs Hicks and this included making contact with sports clubs etc. Ms Reeve said there were several pieces of information that she would like the Clerk to provide and agreed to provide a list. The Chairman would provide information about the planning process, Mrs Pownall would provide information about KGV Field and the playground, Mr Farnese on the Wharf, Technical Services and the Litter Pick, Mr Evans on Highways, Mr Hargrave on the Sonning Regatta and the Clerk on the allotments. The Clerk would ask Ms Robinson to provide information about the Sonning Scarecrows and Mr Bates about the R.N.L.I. Mr Hargrave would speak to the RBCS about their I.T

Department designing a new SPC logo. Ms Reeve said it would be important to get all the information in by the end of January to allow Mr Gilmore sufficient time to put everything together by the end of February.

#### 8399: FINANCE.

- a) Report. The Clerk had prepared a report which was noted. The Clerk would write to the allotment holders advising them that there was a need to maintain their plots.
- b) 2014/15 Draft Budget/Precept. The Clerk said that WBC had written to explain that the government subsidy for Council Tax had been reduced to £100,000, from £150,000 in 2013/14 and would be reduced to £50,000 in 2015/16. The 2014/15 grant would be £809.69. Following discussion the Chairman proposed setting the Precept at £31459 plus the grant of £809.69, Mr Farnese seconded and this was unanimously approved.
- c) Payment of Accounts. The Chairman proposed making the following payments Mr Runnalls seconded and these were unanimously approved.

#### December

SCS Mow main field 288.13 + SLTC 84	372.13
Mrs L A Bates (Refund Bridge Official Opening expenses)	163.70
Quadron – Dog Bins	83.58
Sonning Landscapes – Mow Playground 26.00 + Wharf 52	78.00
Canon Tree Care – Wharf Willow – main part	1080.00
Mr A E Farnese – Christmas meeting - Refreshments	29.74
Thames Water Allot 157.45, Pav. 151.67, Rec 181.13	490.25
G D Contracting – Lights Ground works	11190.00
SSE Light Installation	5570.00
Scribe – Accounts Package	<u>234.00</u>
	<u>19291.40</u>

- d) Barclays Bank. The Clerk would accompany Mr Farnese and Mr Runnalls to Barclays bank in order to set up the account. Mrs Pownall would visit the bank separately.

#### 8400: PROPOSALS FOR QUEENS JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS.

The Chairman said that the most suitable place for the memorial plate was on the traffic light power cabinet. Mr Hargrave and Mr Fisher were continuing with plans for the additional funding requests. The Chairman said there had been one or two negative comments about the lights but the majority had been supportive.

#### 8401: HIGHWAYS

#### 8402: HIGHWAYS.

In the absence of Mr Evans the Chairman said that there was some feeling that the Council could not continue with some of the proposals put forward by the S&SE Society as they were unrealistic with little prospect of them being achieved. The Chairman had spoken to Nick Rose (WBC Wokingham Highways Partnership) who had said that WBC had to accept that

there was no likelihood of achieving the new regulatory widths for pavements in small historical villages. Introducing such widths would also be out of keeping with such areas.

8403: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G.

- a) Report. Mrs Pownall said that the exercise machines were being very well used and were standing up well. A written inspection sheet was required for Awards for All.
- b) Safety Checks. Mr Farnese had carried these out.
- c) Field Condition and maintenance. Mr Farnese said that the ditches needed to be cleared to allow water to run off the field. The manhole in Liguge Way was a problem allowing water to spill onto the sloping surface and down onto Pound Lane where it tended to sit and puddle. It was like an ice rink on frosty mornings. The ditches needed to be cleared possibly over half term. The Chairman said that everything was very wet and very little could be done.
- d) SCC Request. Mrs Pownall said that she still hadn't received the plans from SCC for the storage shed to house the scoreboard.
- e) Poppy Seeds. The Clerk said that B & Q still couldn't supply the poppy seeds to support the British Legion initiative. Following discussion Mr Liddiard agreed to locate a garden centre that could supply the seeds. Several locations for planting were identified.

8404: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

Report. Mr Farnese said that there was nothing to report, the Wharf was under several feet of water. The Chairman said that the new footpath had stood up well to the weather.

8405: NEWSLETTER.

Copy for publication was to be with Mrs Pownall by the end of February. Mr Farnese would check the dates for the Spring Clean. A report on the installation of the defibrillator would be important.

8406: ACTION LIST.

This was reviewed and updated. The Chairman would speak to WBC about the lack of progress on the repairs to the road from Sonning Lane to the tennis courts.

8407: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next Meeting would be held on Tuesday 11 February 2014 7.30pm.

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