

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the Pavilion, Pound Lane, Sonning, on Tuesday 10 June 2014 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT.

Mr P J Doyle, (Chairman), Mr T Fisher, Mr S D Liddiard, Mrs P Pownall, Ms V Reeve, Mr I Runnalls. Mrs L A Bates (Clerk). By invitation Cllr M Haines (WBC). Lucy Elder (Twyford Advertiser).

APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS.

Apologies were received from Mr A Evans, Mr A E Farnese (work) and Mr J Hargrave (work). The Chairman welcomed all those present.

8487: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

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

8488: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest. Ms Reeve said that her son was a junior member of CFC and wondered if she should have declared an interest in Minute 8482 c. Mrs Pownall had a similar concern as her sons were members of SCC. The advice from BALC was that it was up to individual Councillors to decide but if in doubt to declare an interest. Councillors agreed that everyone might have an interest as parishioners and users of the field and these were not pecuniary interests.

8489: CORRESPONDENCE.

Berkshire Blind AGM 29 September 2.00pm Bearwood College. The Chairman had been invited to attend and took the details.

Objection to SPC Accounts. The Clerk had been copied in on a letter to the Audit Commission from Mr McCulloch objecting to the SPC accounts for the year ended 31 March 2014. This was despite Mr McCulloch not having seen the accounts and the internal auditor's letter to him confirming that the Council's accounting practises were in order. Mr McCulloch was objecting to the accounts (and the expenditure on the Bridge Lights in particular) as SPC had '*failed to convince me that this item of expenditure was lawful*'. The Chairman said that Mr McCulloch stated that he had tried to arrange a meeting with Councillors but had not attended one meeting since raising his concerns and Councillors could not meet at Mr McCulloch's home as he had suggested. The matter had created a lot of additional work for the Council.

WINGS 2014. The Berkshire Scouts would be holding an open day on 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> August at the Windsor International Scout and Guide event. The Chairman and guests were invited to a tour of the camp. Cllr. Haines said that he might attend as he was a former scout leader.

ReadiBus AGM 3 July 7.30pm for 8.00pm, Reading Civic Centre. Councillors were invited to attend.

Lock for Compound. The Clerk had received the lock and chain for the compound but there were only three keys. Additional keys could not be provided for the number of clubs that required access. It was agreed that this would need to be addressed.

Gipsy/Traveller Needs Survey. WBC had carried out a comprehensive survey in 2012 and were carrying out a refresher check. Cllr Haines said that Borough's had to provide sufficient sites.

8490: PLANNING.

The Chairman said that there was an application at South Meadow Cottage for a mobile home in addition to the recently built eco house. They had quoted several precedents in support.

#### 8490: PLANNING (Cont'd).

Cllr Haines had received a phone call regarding development on the T V Park Nature Reserve but no one was aware of this. The only application on the list was a Microsoft proposal for change of use from a car park to a site waste management compound, which dated from 2011. The Chairman said that the roof to the existing fire station building had been removed without a bat inspector present despite the requirement for one to be present to ensure that any bats were moved into bat boxes. Bat boxes had been installed in the adjoining trees after the roof had been removed. Little of the original building remained. Additional work to trees and work to the bell tower had yet to take place. Mr Liddiard said that the cover on the bell tower had been broken and Mr Runnalls asked if the developers had gone beyond their remit. The Chairman said that the existing building had to be converted to match existing building standards and would need to comply with the approved plans. Mr Runnalls said he understood that the building had to be converted not demolished.

The Chairman said that the WBC contractors had cordoned off the damaged area on the Wharf and he had just received a message to say that the work to reinstate the area would be carried on 12 June. In the meantime Mr Collier continued to maintain the rest of the Wharf.

The Chairman said that the faulty light on the Bridge had been replaced and it had been confirmed that it was a unit failure. Mr Runnalls said that they had done a good job, the unit had been removed and replaced with no sign of any disturbance.

The following applications were ongoing: 1 Sonning Gate (F/2012/1398); Land facing Duffield Road (F/2013/0634); 11 Hawthorn Way (F/2013/1549); 32 West Drive Sonning (F/2013/2523); 19 Old Bath Road (F/2014/3060); Elm Gables Parkway Drive (F/2014/0144); Little Court Farmhouse (LB/2014/0465 & F/2014/0465); Sunnyridge Parkway Drive (F/2014/0744); Sonning Farm Charvil Lane (F/2014/0707); Sonning Farm Charvil Lane (F/2014/0815)

The following applications had been approved: 15 Pound Lane (F/2014/0720); Sonning Golf Club Duffield Road (F/2014/0744).

The following applications had been refused: There had been no refusals.

The following new applications had been received. South Meadow Cottage (CLP/2014/0973) Certificate of lawfulness for the proposed replacement of a mobile home ancillary to the main dwelling. 35 Old Bath Road (NMT/2014/1210) Non-material planning consent for F/2013/2546 to allow window to be changed to full length to match other window.

#### 8491: CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT.

The Chairman said that the Society would finish dealing with the document by the end of July. The document could then be checked prior to being submitted to WBC.

#### 8492: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR.

Mr Runnalls asked Cllr Haines if he knew what work had been carried out on the Playhatch Road when it had been closed over the weekend. Cllr Haines said that Wokingham had not been informed. There had been changes at WBC, Keith Baker was now the leader of the Conservatives and would be relinquishing his role as Executive Member for Highways. However he would retain responsibility for the third bridge. Mr Runnalls said that he had noticed holes in the surface of the Playhatch Road and wondered if they had been drilling as part of their investigations for raising the road. Mr Liddiard said that he had read that SODC would not be raising the road in the short term as they needed to carry out studies on the effect it would have on surrounding areas. Cllr Haines said that SODC were not a Unitary Authority and they had to refer everything to OXON CC. The Chairman said that an article in the

Henley Standard said that there had been a meeting to decide if a third bridge was necessary. Cllr Haines said there had been a meeting in March and another was planned for July. Following the meeting in March it had been decided that further study was required. The Chairman said that Henley

8492: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR Cont'd).

TC wanted to pedestrianize the town centre, which would affect businesses. Cllr Haines said that he'd had an interesting conversation with Mr O'Callaghan about what would need to happen to Sonning bridge if a third crossing went ahead in order to prevent traffic using it. Mr Runnalls said that there was less traffic in the village and wondered if it was to do with the traffic lights. The Chairman said fewer heavy lorries were coming through but a six wheeler Lafarge cement vehicle had been seen heading for the Bridge. Cllr Haines asked about plans for the Speed Watch but there was no update due to the absence of Mr Evans.

8493: PARISHIONERS QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

8494: DEFIBRILLATOR.

Ms Reeve said that the defibrillator had not been used and no news about training dates.

8495: WEB SITE.

Ms Reeve said that Mr Gilmore was working on the web site but there was nothing else to report. Mr Liddiard said that he had volunteered to put a short history of Sonning together but felt that there might be someone better qualified to do this. Cllr Haines suggested Mr van Went. Cllr Haines reported that someone had carried out a study on the gravestones in Sonning Graveyard.

8496: FINANCE.

a) Report. The Clerk had prepared a report which was noted.

b) Payment of Accounts

The Chairman proposed making the following payments. Mr Fisher seconded and this was unanimously approved

May

Quadron – Dog Bins April	84.24
Sonning Landscapes Mow Wharf 26 + mow Playground 52	78.00
Mr K Trimmings Litter – April	145.83
Glasdon – Litter Bins	518.40
Blandy & Blandy – Legal Advice	1140.00
Henley Contracting Field M'tnce 2430 Mowing 240	2670.00
SLCC – Annual subs	147.00
Sonning Landscapes mow Wharf 52 + mow Playground 52	104.00
Playsafety ROSPA Report	210.00
P J Doyle – Bolts for bollards	19.99
L A Bates – ZEN Web 57.46 + Progmasis lock & chain 128.35	183.81
L A Bates – Pavilion TV Licence	<u>145.50</u>
	5446.77

c) Annual Return. The Clerk had circulated copies of the Annual Return. Following discussion Mrs Pownall proposed accepting the completed Annual Return, including the

Governance Statement, Mr Runnalls seconded, and this was unanimously approved. The Chairman signed the Return in the appropriate boxes.

#### 8497: PROPOSALS FOR QUEENS JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS.

Mr Fisher said that he and Mr Hargrave would continue to seek further contributions for the lighting.

#### 8498: HIGHWAYS.

In the absence of Mr Evans there was no report. The Chairman said that there had been complaints about the number of large vehicles in Henley. The Chairman asked Cllr Haines about parking on pavements and verges. Cllr Haines said that there was a lot more to parking than was understood. The police would only enforce poor parking if it was causing an obstruction. The Chairman said that the police did not enforce the weight limit on the Bridge. Cllr Haines said that the police were keeping an eye on matters. Mr Runnalls said that he couldn't understand why the cameras on the bridge could not be used to identify overweight vehicles.

#### 8499: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G.

- a) Report. Mrs Pownall said that a car had gained access to the field and that an additional wooden bollard was needed. Mr Liddiard agreed to install a new one. Mrs Pownall said that the work carried out on the field by Henley Contracting had produced good results. The zip wire seat had been returned to the manufacturers for inspection and agreed to put a notice up to say the equipment was out of order and not to use. Mr Runnalls asked if WBC had ceased their mowing programme as verges etc. were looking unkempt and overgrown. The Clerk said that this seemed to be the same across the Borough. The Chairman said that the new mowing contractor had said that Sonning was the worst site for dog waste. A campaign would be set up. The Clerk said that the dog warden would visit if it could be established when the offences took place.
- b) Safety Checks. Mrs Pownall said Mr Farnese had carried these out and would be cleaning some equipment in the near future.
- c) Scoreboard. Mrs Pownall said that the architect was producing a drawing, which would be shown to SPC.
- d) Thames Water. The work to install a new water supply to Beech Lodge had been completed with little disturbance to the playground surface.
- e) Request from Great House. There was no update but the Chairman said they were designing a suitable gate.
- f) Condition of Allotment. In the absence of Mr Farnese there was no update.

#### 8500: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

In the absence of Mr Farnese there was no update.

#### 8501: WW1 CELEBRATIONS 4 OCTOBER.

The Chairman said that the Hall had been booked for 4 October and asked Mr Runnalls if he would be prepared to do a short talk on the Flying Corps, which had been in its infancy in WW1. Mr Runnalls agreed and said that the headquarters of the Flying Corps had been in Wantage Hall and suggested that the Chairman's scarecrow 'Tommy Atkins' should be on

8501: WW1 CELEBRATIONS 4 OCTOBER.

display. Mrs Gascoine would organise songs and verses and there would be photographs. Mr Fisher said that twenty six men from the parish died during WW1 and he had been researching the records.

8502: ACTION LIST.

This was reviewed and updated.

Mr Liddiard suggested that an article asking users to report any owners allowing their dogs to foul on the field should go in the next Council Newsletter.

Mr Liddiard said that the sports clubs should be reminded that they could use the school car park rather than parking on Pound Lane.

The Chairman said that a security meeting in the Hall had been poorly attended. One suggestion for battery operated security lights, to give the impression that someone was in occupation, might be used to deter interest in the store shed.

Mrs Pownall agreed to get advice about the ceiling in the home showers.

8503: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next Meeting would be held on Tuesday 8 July 2014 at 7.30pm.

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