

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the Pavilion, Pound Lane, Sonning, on Tuesday 9 December 2014 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT.

Mr P J Doyle (Chairman), Mr A Evans, Mr A E Farnese, Mr T Fisher, Mr J Hargrave, M/s S Jacobs, Mr P D Morrison, Mrs P Pownall, Mr I Runnalls. Mrs L A Bates (Clerk). 2 Visitors.

APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS.

There were no apologies. The Chairman welcomed all those present.

8576: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

Ms Jacobs asked that the Minutes be changed to record that her family had been in Sonning since 1854. The Minutes, having been corrected and circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

8577: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations.

8578: NEW COUNCILLOR DECLARATION OF OFFICE AND TO ABIDE WITH THE CODE.

The Chairman welcomed Ms Jacobs who signed the declaration of office and the Clerk witnessed it. Ms Jacobs had also completed the Disclosable Pecuniary Interests form, which the Clerk would copy to WBC.

8579: DEFIBRILLATOR.

The Chairman said that the defibrillator had been delivered and he was arranging installation. Once it was installed it could be tested and registered. Barclays would provide match funding and Mr Fisher said that the Scouts would top up if necessary. Mr Farnese said that Mrs Farnese would arrange for the Scouts to carry out some fundraising. Cllr Haines said that WBC were asking, they could not insist, that all schools in the WBC area install defibrillators following the death of a child at Willow Bank. WBC could arrange bulk buying to bring the cost down.

8580: CORRESPONDENCE.

Amenity Waste Service. Mr Bavystock had confirmed that the waste collection service operating five times a year in the Little Glebe/Paddick Close areas was to be discontinued from 1 February 2015. The service was not cost effective and none of the waste was recycled, it all went to landfill. In addition the service was often used by businesses, there were safety concerns and it breached the 2011 Waste Regulations, effective from 1 January 2015.

Cricket ball in the Playground. The Chairman said that a cricket ball had narrowly missed a young girl and her father when they had been at the Pound Lane end of the playground. The incident had happened in September but had only just been reported due to recent publicity. SCC had £5m public liability insurance but they were the Council's tenants. It might be necessary to raise the safety netting by an additional 5-8ft from the existing 20ft and this would not be cheap. SCC needed to assess the situation. It was agreed that quotes were required and SCC would need to make a financial contribution. Mr Evans said that guidance was required regarding the height and Cllr Haines said that WBC had gone through a similar exercise and could provide information on contacts. The Chairman said that SCC needed professional advice to ensure that they could play safely.

## 8580: CORRESPONDENCE (Cont'd).

Letter from Resident. A letter had been received regarding comments made at the November meeting. This had been circulated for information to Councillors.

Carol Services. The WBC Mayors Carol Service would be held in St. Peters Wokingham on 19 December and the Annual Primary Schools Service would be held on 14 December.

Speeding Traffic in Pound Lane. Mr Runnalls had recently had a phone call from Mrs Cherry of Glebe Lane complaining, in very strong terms, about the speeding of vehicles in Pound Lane at school drop off time, especially those northbound from the A4. Apparently two police officers had been present outside the school recently and one of them was narrowly missed by a speeding vehicle. Ms Cherry had asked why the enforceable 20 limit could not be extended to the roundabout itself and then properly policed. Mr Farnese said the situation had not been helped by the fact that, currently, there was no school crossing lady and parents parking in Pound lane rather than using the car park. Mr Runnalls said that a 20mph speed limit was enforceable and if it extended to the A4 it would provide better cover. The Clerk would write to Mr Davey ask if this could be arranged.

Mr Fisher said that the new bus appeared to wider than the previous one making it even more difficult for it to pass though the village.

## 8581: PLANNING.

The Chairman said that the planning officer had been planning to recommend approval for the scheme at Birchley. However a new officer had been appointed and was not supporting it. Cllr Haines said that he had asked for the provisional listing to remain in place as amended plans would be forthcoming. The Chairman said that the applicants at August Field now had approval for the conditions attached to their approval. There had been a lot of opposition to the proposed extension to the Little Cottage in the High Street and a provisional listing had been applied. There were some reservations about a new application at the RBCS and a list of these were being drawn up in order to submit a recommendation for refusal. These included concerns about the drainage, additional traffic to the site when the new media centre was let to the public, rubbish being dumped on high ground near the River, loss of trees from the site and no on-site parking for students. The Chairman said there had been no consideration about the effect the development would have on the Parish and there had been no consultation with the Parish The Planning Committee had no objections to the proposed new gates at the Old House but a new entrance was being installed at Sonning Court without permission and this would affect the street scene. Cllr Haines said that WBC had put a TPO on a Red Oak tree in Pound Lane.

The following applications were ongoing: 100 Thames Valley Park Drive (A/2014/1668): 100 Thames Valley Park Drive (CLP/2014/1606): South Lodge Sonning Lane (F/2014/1832): 25 Glebe Lane (F/2014/1874): Birchley Old Bath Road (F/2014/1879): The Sharrow Parkway Drive (F/2014/2063): St. Andrews Church (NMT/2014/2083): St Andrews Church (C/2014/2110): Homelea/May Tree House (F/2014/1946): Reading Blue Coat School (F/2014/2116): The Old House Thames Street (F/2014/2166).: 33 Little Glebe (F/2014/2285).  
The following applications had been approved: Holme Park Sports Ground (F/2014/2196): 33 Little Glebe (F/2014/2285): August Field (C/2014/2112).

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

The following new applications had been received. The Little Cottage High Street (F/2014/2390). Erection of first floor rear extension to dwelling: 29 Sonning Meadows (F/2014/2444). Conversion of existing loft space to additional habitable accommodation to include erection of a rear and front dormer extensions to dwelling: Holme Park Sonning Lane (RBCS) (F/2014/2319). Erection of new Performing Arts Centre, Grounds Maintenance & Activity Centre, Design & Technology Centre, temporary Drama Studio, plus the formation

#### 8581: PLANNING (Cont'd).

of new vehicle drop-off lane & turning point and associated alterations to parking & landscaping. Demolition of Music Centre, ICT Centre, Way Hall Drama Studio, Design Technology building, CCF Building and Grounds & Maintenance buildings.

#### 8582: CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT.

The Chairman said that Mr Thorpe was editing the draft CAA and he and Mr Thorpe would meet Ms Coulter in January. There would also be a further meeting with Mr Stephens.

#### 8583: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR.

Cllr Haines said that WBC were under extreme pressure financially and needed to save £7m a year over the next three years. This was the result of some government cuts and extra expenditure. A lot of authorities were in serious financial difficulties. There were new rules about how much savings a person could have before going into a care home. WBC were one of 100 authorities writing to the government on the situation. WBC were looking for ways to make money and were to build 60-70 new homes on the Phoenix Estate, a multi-million pound redevelopment of modern flats and homes that would replace two blocks of 1960s-built flats in a run-down area of Wokingham. The Park and Ride at the Showcase Cinema was to be transferred to the Winnersh Station and at last Mere Oak would make a profit. There was a question as to whether or not WBC should adopt newly built roads as before and there was a proposal to replace the WBC stock of street lights with LED, as was being done across the country. WBC were also proposing to replace those street lights which were in poor condition. The Chairman asked if Planning Officers were self-employed. Cllr Haines said that there was a shortage of Planning Officers across the country so WBC were using contractors. Planners could make serious money and if the Council could not offer enough planners would go elsewhere.

#### 8584: PARISHIONERS QUESTIONS

The Chairman invited Mr McCulloch to speak. Mr McCulloch said that there had been an accident involving a cyclist and a car in Thames Street close to his access and he had assisted her. The lady had not been badly hurt but had been shaken. The car was likely to have been speeding, having overtaken a van parked outside Sonning Court. Mr Peters had undertaken a lot of work on traffic management in Sonning, and he had operated an effective lorry watch. Mr McCulloch asked if anyone had examined Mr Peters work. The Chairman said that WBC's road maintenance in Sonning was non-existent, lots of work had been identified but had not been carried out. Mr McCulloch said that he had not seen anything tangible coming out of Mr Peters work. The Chairman said that the Bridge was now classed as a weak bridge and the number of lorries using Sonning as a route was now negligible. Mr McCulloch asked what SPC had done. Mr Runnalls said that most of the traffic proposals had been thrown out by WBC Highways and the only one they supported had not been supported by residents. Mr McCulloch said the question still remained, what had SPC done. The Chairman said that they had identified problems with the drains but WBC had not carried out any of the promised work. Mr McCulloch said that he didn't see that SPC were doing anything and the Sonning and Sonning Eye Society agreed with him that Mr Peter's efforts had been squandered by SPC.

#### 8585: WEB SITE.

The Chairman said that this was up and running successfully. Thanks were due to all those Involved.

## 8586: FINANCE.

- a) Report. The Clerk had prepared a report which was noted.
- b) Payment of Accounts (Oct and Nov). Mrs Pownall proposed making the following payments, Mr Fisher seconded, and this was unanimously approved. The Chairman said that Mr Collier had renovated the Wharf at a cost of only £200. Mr Collier had suggested that concrete slabs could be laid in convenient positions to allow barbeques to be lit without damaging the grass.

### October

Henley Contracting – Mow Pond Area	400.00
Henley Contracting- Mow main Field	240.00
Henley Contracting- Mow Outfield	60.00
Henley Contracting - Weed Control	395.00
Mrs L A Bates – Honorarium less Tax	2472.20
Mrs L A Bates - Telephone	40.00
Inland Revenue - Tax	175.30
Quadron Dog Bins	84.24
Environment Agency	51.01
RES	106.20
Sonning Landscapes Mow Wharf 26.00: Mow Playground 52.00	78.00
Sonning Landscapes Clear Wharf & Seed	220.00
Mr K Trimmings	<u>145.83</u>
	<u>4467.78</u>

### November

Tony Thorpe & Associates – CAA Input	250.00
BALC – Councillor Guides	12.80
Henley Contracting – Main Mowing	720.00
Quadron – Dog Bins	84.24
Playdale – Safety Surface Repairs	<u>714.00</u>
	<u>1781.04</u>

- c) Draft 2015/16 Budget. The Clerk would provide a hard copy of the 2014/15 budget for Mr Hargrave who had not received the e-mail from the Clerk so that he could prepare and circulate the draft budget. Mr Farnese said that WBC would not be giving a grant to Parishes as they had done for the past two years. Mr Farnese also said that the bus shelters needed to be cleared.

## 8587: PROPOSALS FOR QUEENS JUBILEE.

Mr Fisher and Mr Hargrave were continuing to seek further contributions for the lighting.

## 8588: HIGHWAYS.

Mr Evans said the new Lafarge site would generate a lot of lorries, it wasn't clear which route they would take. The proposals included a bridge over the Spring Lane and overall the extraction would create a lot of mess, making a good case for an additional crossing. Mr Evans suggested writing to Theresa May (MP) and to the Henley and Reading MP's. Mr Hargrave would draft a letter and the Chairman would provide information.

#### 8588: HIGHWAYS (Cont'd).

Mr Evans said that the Neighbourhood Watch wanted Sonning to be classed as a 'no cold canvassing at the door' area and had asked if they could put postcards with the information in with the SPC Newsletter. Trading Standards would provide the postcards and it was agreed to include these in the Newsletter drop.

#### 8589: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G.

- a) Report. Mrs Pownall said that there was little to report.
- b) Safety Checks. Mr Farnese said that he had checked the playground.
- c) Quote for Beech Trees. A second quote had been received for grinding out the Beech stump in the Playground. Henley Contracting would charge £300 as opposed to Canon Tree Care who would charge £475. Henley Contracting required more information about the trees before quoting. Following discussion it was agreed to ask Canon Tree care to go ahead with the work to the trees at £1805 plus VAT but not to proceed with the stump grinding.
- d) Quote for Water Management. It was agreed that this was not a good time to consider implementing this.
- e) SCC Scoreboard. The Chairman said final drawing were required.
- f) Dog Bin Pound Lane. Quadron had quoted £70.85 plus VAT per week to empty all three bins already being emptied. It was not clear if the same rate would apply to a bin in a different location. The Chairman said that the location for a new bin would have to be checked out, perhaps at the junction with West Drive.  
Mr Fisher and Mr Liddiard would install the new litter bins in the recreation ground.

#### 8590: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

- a) Safety Checks. Mr Farnese said that these had been carried out.
- b) Report. Mr Farnese said that the Great House were making a mess and these seemed to be an additional bin in the area.
- c) Condition of Allotments. Mr Farnese said that there had been a complaint about the hedge, he and the Chairman would look into this. A shed had deteriorated and needed to be taken down, the Clerk said the tenant was about to do this.
- d) E A Survey. The Chairman said that The Environment Agency were carrying out a survey of the riverbed with a view to dredging. The River was very high preventing work on several occasions.
- e) Drains. The Chairman said that he had met Eddie Napper following his reply to the SPC submission on flooding. Mr Napper had said the drains were OK however, on inspection Mr Napper agreed that all the drains were blocked solid and that they should be attended to. The Clerk would write to confirm the discussion and ask when the drains would be emptied. The Chairman said that he had met a representative of Thames Water and agreed that they should put their own lock on the Wharf gate but nothing had happened.

#### 8591: PREPARATIONS FOR TWINNING ANNIVERSARY 1995-2015

The Chairman said that this was progressing.

Mr Farnese said that Sonning Primary School would be celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, should SPC support this.

The Chairman had confirmed the booking for the SPC Christmas Supper at the Great House. There was no cost to the SPC but Councillors would pay £28.50 per head.

8592: ACTION LIST.

The Action List was reviewed and updated.

8593: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next Meeting would be held on Tuesday 13 January 2015 at 7.30pm.

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