

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the Pavilion, Pound Lane, Sonning, on Tuesday 13 January 2015 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, Mrs P Pownall, Mrs L A Bates (Clerk). 2 Visitors.

APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS.

Apologies were received from Mr P D Morrison and Mr I Runnalls. The Chairman welcomed all those present.

8593: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

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

8594: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

Mrs Pownall said that she might have an interest in one of the items of correspondence.

8595: DEFIBRILLATOR.

The Chairman said that the defibrillator had been installed on the outside wall of Beech Lodge and Ms Reeve had submitted the paperwork in order for it to be registered. A day-glow jacket had been included as part of the equipment. Once registered training would be provided free of charge (St. John's Ambulance Service could charge £40 per hour). Mrs Pownall had a good idea for fundraising. Mr Fisher said that a concrete bollard was limiting access and one of the Scout leaders had walked into it. Mr Farnese would paint it with yellow glow paint and the Chairman would provide florescent tape. An interim code had been given to the school but once the defibrillator was in operation a new code would be given to the caller each time 999 was dialled. The Chairman was obtaining notices to this effect.

8596: CORRESPONDENCE.

Royal Garden Party. BALC had asked for nominations for two tickets for the Royal Garden Party on 12 May 2015. Nominees had to be Chairman or Mayors and each ticket admitted 1 Chair/Mayor and 1 guest. The Chairman was unsure of his commitments for that date but would inform the Clerk if he was prepared to be nominated.

Invitation to NAG Meeting on 21 January 2015. This was to discuss Civil Parking Enforcement but it was agreed that this did not affect Sonning.

White Lines Sonning Lane/Pearson Road Junction. A resident had pointed out that the white lines on this corner had deteriorated and were no longer indicated this dangerous bend. Lines to indicate the pedestrian pathway in Sonning Lane had all but disappeared and cars were now parking too close to the wall making it difficult for pedestrians especially those with baby buggies to walk unhindered and some were resorting to walking on the road. The Chairman said that the white 'SLOW' on Thames Street had also deteriorated. The Clerk would contact Gareth Wiseman at WBC about the problems.

Football Coaching on King George' Field. Concerns had been raised by Charvil FC, who had a Licence to use the field (September to April) for its youth teams to train and play matches, about a new mini training session which was planned to take place at the same time and in the same area of the field that they used. Only two CFC teams had played on 10 January, the first time this had been tested, and only 6 had attended the mini training. Particular concerns were about additional pressure on the limited parking and clashing when all members (120) of CFC

8596: CORRESPONDENCE (Cont'd).

were playing/training at the same as the mini training. There was also concern that the mini training sessions were of a professional nature whereas CFC were non-profit making. However CFC had stressed that they were supportive of the new initiative but the timing could become an issue when all the CFC teams were playing and had asked if Mr Pownall could use the field on a different day or at a different time. Use of the pavilion had been raised but it was understood that Mr Pownall did not need this. Following discussion it was agreed that the policy for the field was sport for all and there did appear to be plenty of room for both sets of footballers. However Councillors would actively monitor the situation.

8597: PLANNING.

The Chairman said that two previous applications, for similar developments at Birchley, had been refused but the planning officer had intended to recommend approval. However a new officer had been appointed and was not supporting it. If the application were refused the applicant would go to appeal. The application for Homelea had been approved and the property had been sold. The application for gates at the Old House had been approved. The application for Little Cottage had been refused.

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): Reading Blue Coat School (F/2014/2116): 33 Little Glebe (F/2014/2285): 29 Sonning Meadows (F/2014/2444): Holme Park Sonning Lane (RBCS) (F/2014/2319).

The following applications had been approved: Homelea/May Tree House (F/2014/1946): The Old House Thames Street (F/2014/2166).

The following applications had been refused. The Little Cottage High Street (F/2014/2390).

The following new applications had been received. Sonning Court, Thames Street (F/2014/2617). Erection of single storey security accommodation for ancillary use: South Meadow Cottage (CLP/2014/2379). Certificate of lawfulness for the proposed replacement of a mobile home ancillary to the main dwelling house: King George V Playing Field (F/2014/2804). Erection of a detached cricket score box.

8598: CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT.

The Chairman said that he and Mr Thorpe had met Ms Coulter and Mr Hart to discuss the proposed editing. Mr Thorpe would have the edited document ready for SPC to check by mid-February and hopefully WBC would adopt the document in April. WBC would help with the graphics and the maps. A new Supplementary Planning Guidance document did explain about Neighbourhood Planning. Mr Farnese said that some parishes wanted to have a Plan and some did not. The new CIL, which would replace S106, had higher rates than S106 and were likely to add £4,000 to the cost of a new house, details were on the WBC web site. £13M remained unspent from S106 payments although they had all been allocated. If money remained unspent for five years under CIF it had to be repaid to the developer.

8599: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR.

In the absence of Cllr Haines there were no questions

8600: PARISHIONERS QUESTIONS

The Chairman invited Mr George to speak. Mr George said that he was concerned about

8600: PARISHIONERS QUESTIONS (Cont'd)

the speed of traffic in Pound Lane particularly near the crossing. He lived in Little Glebe and walked his dogs regularly on King George's field and used the crossing on a daily basis. The speed of traffic coming from the Pearson Road direction made this very hazardous, some vehicles didn't stop even in he was already using the crossing and most ignored him if he was waiting to cross. This would also be hazardous for children, particularly as there was no 'lollipop' lady at the moment. Ms Lowther said that she would be prepared to join the speed watch team and would send her contact details to the Clerk. Mr George said that he was also concerned about the dog waste on King George's field, which had increased recently, he was a responsible dog owner himself and the field was being spoilt by irresponsible owners. Responsible owners were concerned that dogs would be banned if the situation didn't improve. The Chairman pointed out that dogs should be on leads so that owners could monitor any fouling by their dogs. The floods in 2014 had seen more owners walking their animals in Sonning due to flooding in other areas. Mr George said that he had observed mothers collecting their children from the school also taking their dogs into the field and allowing them to foul. Mr Farnese agreed to ask the head teacher to send out a request for parents in the weekly school newsletter. Ms Lowther said that she had written an article and would be pleased to supply it. Thirdly Mr George asked if the rec gates could be open more often. Mr Farnese said the gates were unlocked on at 7.30am by the breakfast club ladies during term time and at the week-ends if he was in Sonning and this was done on a voluntary basis. If another volunteer came forward he would be delighted to give them a key.

8601: WEB SITE.

Following a request from the Flower Club, to publish their monthly report on the SPC web site, Mr Gilmore had suggested a 'Community Noticeboard', where local groups could be made aware of upcoming events and regular local session. This would operate on a small separate website, which would still be part of the Council website. Mr Gilmore would be prepared to set up the new site and operate it (monthly updates etc.) free of charge. Following discussion it was agreed to accept Mr Gilmore's offer.

8602: FINANCE.

- a) Report. The Clerk had prepared a report which was noted.
- b) 2015/16 Budget. Mr Hargrave had circulated the draft budget and said that he was budgeting for a deficit and the £3000 for the lighting would come out of capital. The Chairman said that the Council were spending a large proportion of the annual budget on recreation, the clubs needed to be aware of this. Mr Farnese said that he would like to see what WBC were proposing as part of their lighting proposals but the lighting money might be better spent on a long term lighting programme. The Chairman proposed accepting the budget and setting a precept of £37,000. Following discussion about the effect this could have on band D council tax, Mr Farnese proposed accepting the budget and setting a precept of £34,400, Mr Fisher seconded and this was unanimously approved. Mr Hargrave would make the agreed changes and circulate the final budget, amounting to £42,672.

8602: FINANCE (Cont'd).

- c) Payment of Accounts. Mrs Pownall proposed making the following payments, Ms Jacobs seconded, and this was unanimously approved. The Chairman said that Mr Collier had made an excellent job of renovating the Wharf.

December

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| Thames Water Rec. 64.69: Pay. 185.78: Allot. 81.13 | 331.60 |
| Sonning Landscapes Mow Wharf 52.00: Mow Playground 26.00 | 78.00 |
| Mr A E Farnese – New lock & keys main gates | 66.02 |
| CJG Consulting – web site | 1800.00 |
| Quadron – Dog Bins (Nov) | 84.24 |
| Mrs L A Bates – Newsletter (March) refund | 175.00 |
| Sonning Landscapes Mow Wharf 26.00: Mow Playground 26.00 | 52.00 |
| Cardworks – New sign exercise area | 96.00 |
| PurcoPrint – Newsletter (Dec) | 220.00 |
| Quadron – Dog Bins (Dec) | 84.24 |
| Mrs L A Bates – Honorarium less Tax | 2465.90 |
| Mrs L A Bates - Telephone | <u>40.00</u> |
| | <u>5493.00</u> |

8603: PROPOSALS FOR QUEENS JUBILEE.

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

8604: HIGHWAYS.

Mr Evans had drafted a letter to Mrs May (MP) and the Henley and Reading MP's. He would copy to the Chairman and Mr Hargrave for feedback and then circulate to everyone else. Mr Evans said that the damaged sign outside Garden House had been repaired without a request to WBC but the potholes were getting much worse. The Chairman said that he had spoken to Keith Baker (WBC Leader of the Council) and had been told that Sonning were not on the list for urgent repairs and there were already 500 highways projects in the Borough. Mr Evans thanked everyone for their assistance in delivering the .no cold calling information sheets. The police would like there to be seven volunteers in order to set up the speed watch in Sonning.

8605 RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G.

- a) Report. Mrs Pownall said that water was flowing off the field into the road and offered to video this to illustrate the problem in order to get Mr Napper (highways officer) out to inspect it and provide advice. The Chairman said that a large drain might be the answer and suggested sending the video to Mr Collier as well.
- b) Safety Checks. Mrs Pownall had checked the exercise equipment.
- c) SCC Scoreboard. The Chairman said that the planning application had been submitted. It was agreed that SPC would pay the fee for the SCC safety inspection of £438 inc. VAT in order to claim back the VAT.
- d) Dog Bin Pound Lane. Mr Farnese said that Mr Bavystock had suggested that Council's should contact him about installing new dog bins. It was agreed that one of the new litter bins should be placed by the skatepark and the other would replace the broken one next to the car park. The Scarecrows were installing a new seat on the towpath. The Environment Agency had written to George Clooney to say that a gap was required at the bottom on the new fencing he was installing and that it was too close to the River.

8605 RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G.

- e) Defibrillator Funding. Mrs Pownall said that she thought it would be good to involve all the organisations in a fund raising event on the recreation and school grounds. This had happened successfully in the past and would include side shows and a raffle. Mrs Pownall would progress the idea and bring to the February meeting having checked dates with SCC to avoid a clash with their fixtures. The Chairman suggested involving local companies, Barclays had already agreed to back the event. Mrs Pownall said that a child had found a very large nail in the playground but it was a mystery as to where it had come from.

8606: TECHNICAL SERVICES...

- a) Safety Checks. Mr Farnese said that these had been carried out.
- b) Great House. Mr Farnese said that there were no updates.
- c) Allotment Hedge. Mr Farnese said that Mr Collier was in the process of cutting this, it was a long job. The Clerk had been asked if one of the allotment holders could erect a poly tunnel on his allotment and had supplied a drawing. The proposed height was 6ft 10in, width 6ft and it would be 16ft long. Following discussion it was agreed that this was too big and would set a precedent. Low cloches were acceptable.
- d) WBC Lighting Proposals. Mr Farnese said that he was putting a proposal together to submit to WBC.
- e) Proposal for Pound. The Chairman said that Mr Driver wanted permission to create an opening in the fencing around the Pound, next to the bus shelter, for a gate. Following discussion it was agreed not to give permission as the proposal stood.

8607: PREPARATIONS FOR TWINNING ANNIVERSARY 1995-2015

The Chairman said that he would attend the next Twining Association meeting in order to clarify what was needed.

8608: ACTION LIST.

The Action List was reviewed and updated.

8609: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next Meeting would be held on Tuesday 9 February 2015 at 7.30pm.

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