

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the Pavilion, Pound Lane, Sonning, on Tuesday 10 February 2015 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT.

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

APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS.

Apologies were received from Mr A Evans and Mr J Hargrave. The Chairman welcomed all those present.

8610: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

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

8611: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations.

8612: DEFIBRILLATOR.

The Chairman said that the defibrillator had been installed and registered. Ms Reeve was arranging an awareness training meeting and a suitable venue (possibly Beech Lodge). There would be no fee but a small donation would be appreciated and tea, coffee and biscuits should be provided. The Chairman had obtained a sign at a cost of £21 (no VAT). The Chairman, Mr Farnese and Mr Fisher had checked the concrete bollards, which had probably been installed to prevent cars driving into the area, and agreed that they could be knocked down now that the new fence was prevented parking. The Twyford Advertiser had included an article about the defibrillator, including a photograph of the Chairman with the defibrillator, on its front page. It was agreed that a notice indicating the position of the defibrillator should be put on the pavilion. Mrs Pownall said that it would be difficult to hold the fundraising event on a Saturday during the cricket season (5 May to 5 September). Mrs Pownall would find out if it was possible to hold the event on a Sunday. It would be a lot of work (but it might become an annual event) and it was agreed that Mrs Pownall should involve other organisations in the preparations.

8613: CORRESPONDENCE.

Request for Funding – Sonning School. The School had been in its current location for 50 years and were holding celebrations to mark the occasion. The Chairman of Governors had written asking if SPC would make a donation towards costs. It was agreed in principle to do this but Mr Farnese and Mrs Pownall would make inquiries and bring a proposal to the March meeting.  
Planning Application – 25 Glebe Lane. Notification of approval of this application, which had been submitted in August 2014, had been received. Planning decisions were taking far longer than previously.

Election Information Session at WBC. This had been arranged for 18 March, 5.00pm for Parishes and 6.00pm for Town Councils. The Clerk would attend and collect the election packs for each Councillor. Cllr Haines said that due to the new IER regulations (Individual Elector Registration) 1200 electors were no longer registered across the WBC area.

WBC Reply to Request to extend 20mph Zone in Pound Lane. Michael Horton had replied saying that, in discussions about the matter with Thames Valley Police, TVP's view was that, as average vehicle speeds were relatively low at 25/26mph (south/northbound), this was too high to support enforcement at a new 20mph speed limit under police 'ACPO' guidelines.

## 8613: CORRESPONDENCE (Cont'd).

The local Police Inspector was of the view that speeding (and road safety) was not at a level that warranted enforcement and was more concerned about the impact of school parking on traffic flows. WBC however felt that the school parking helped to keep vehicle speeds low at school times. Mr Horton had also referred to the speed humps. Both the police and he agreed that the speed humps in Pound Lane were not as effective as those in Thames Street, but they wouldn't support any additional speed humps. Any works to, 're-profile', the existing humps would involve resurfacing across the full width of the road and a possible road closure. As this might have a significant impact it would be better combined when the road was next resurfaced as costs would be shared. However no resurfacing was currently planned so the situation should be revisited the next time Pound Lane was due to be resurfaced.

Planning Training 18 March. Mr Fisher was to attend this and anyone wishing to join him should inform the Clerk.

Sonning & Sonning Eye Society. The Society had written to say that they were planning to refurbish the 'Sonning Gates' in Sonning Lane using funding from the Scarecrow Committee.

Pensions Regulator. The law on workplace pensions had changed and every employer who had one or more staff had to enrol those who were eligible into a workplace pension scheme. SPC were required to nominate a contact and it was agreed that this should be the Clerk.

## 8614: PLANNING.

The Chairman said that Mr Driver had raised questions about the 'poly tunnel' on Sonning Farm and if planning permission was required. Reading University had pre application discussions with WBC in 2013 and they had applied for and obtained planning permission in August 2014. The applicants had submitted an extensive Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment and a hedgerow planting scheme was specified which had already been implemented together with fencing. The Parish Council had supported the application. It was agreed that the Clerk should reply to Mr Driver, providing this information.

Neighbours had employed a Planning Consultant to assist them in their objections to the Birchley scheme. WBC would be refusing the application and it remained to be seen if an appeal would be lodged. South Meadow Cottage was still ongoing. An application to install new wooden gates at Sonning Court had been submitted and an objection had been made on the grounds that there was insufficient room for vehicles to pull in. The gates would be 14 yards from the curb allowing plenty of room for waiting vehicles. Excavations for the second driveway at the Fire Station had begun and appeared to be complying with the planning permission. The Chairman and Mr Farnese had met the August Field developer, who now owned the Acre Field site as well, regarding new August Field plans for seven houses. There had been no pre-application consultation with WBC and the developers would build out their existing permission if the new plans were refused. It was understood that the Sonning Society would meet the developers on 15 February. Details to comply with conditions for the gravel extractions at Caversham Quarry, Sonning Eye, had been submitted to OCC. The S&SE Society had objected to the size of the proposed signs for the 'No Cold Calling' proposal. The Chairman had ascertained the size, which was approximately, 1ft by 1ft. Mr Hart said there was concern about the wording. Cllr Haines said there was an application for 25 houses off Park Lane in Charvil, which Charvil PC were objecting to. The Chairman said that SPC had not been consulted. Cllr Haines said that WBC had successfully negotiated one of the most expensive CIL in the area. The CIL process was less onerous than the S106 process.

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): Birchley Old Bath Road (F/2014/1879): The Sharrow Parkway Drive (F/2014/2063):

#### 8614: PLANNING (Cont'd).

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): Sonning Court, Thames Street (F/2014/2617): South Meadow Cottage (CLP/2014/2379): King George V Playing Field (F/2014/2804). Erection of a detached cricket score box

The following applications had been approved: 25 Glebe Lane (F/2014/1874).

The following applications had been refused. None.

The following new applications had been received. 7 Old Bath Road (CLP/20150128).

Certificate of lawfulness for the proposed erection of detached outbuilding: Sonning Court Thames Street (F/2015/0165) Part retrospective application to erect gate posts and erection of new timber gates to The Red House, Falcon House, Falcon Cottage, Manor House, Hobbs House and Sonning Court: Homelea Sonning Lane (F/2015/0040). Widening of vehicular access drop kerb by 2.5m.

#### 8615: CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT.

The Chairman said that this should be ready by mid-February.

#### 8616: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR.

Mr Farnese said that he understood that there was £12M of S106 in the WBC coffers, was there any chance of Sonning receiving any of this. Cllr Haines said there was not a lot for Sonning. The Chairman explained that most of the gillies in Sonning were blocked. Eddie Napper had said on 5 January that three had been cleared and that the rest would be cleared within 28 days but nothing had happened. Cllr Haines said that WBC had to make savings of £7m, Sonning was not the only parish likely to be affected. Mr Farnese said that the drains in Sonning were Victorian and very poor and could create dangerous conditions in bad weather. Cllr Haines agreed that the drains were very poor but WBC had to decide on a case by case basis. The Chairman said that gullies were the main problem, they were all silted up and Mr Napper did say that they could be done. Cllr Haines said that lots of new buildings were being erected in the Borough and the situation was worse in other areas. Mr Fisher said that there had been discussions about a new bridge but David Nimmo Smith was now saying that there was no funding. The Chairman said that £250,000 had been earmarked to investigate a need for a bridge. Cllr Haines said this cost was being shared by the four authorities involved.

#### 8617: PARISHIONER QUESTIONS.

There were no questions.

#### 8618: WEB SITE.

Mrs Hicks had the passwords for the SPC Facebook page and would like to pass the responsibility on to a Councillors to update. The Clerk would ask Mr Gilmore if he would be prepared to do this and Mrs Pownall said that she might consider it if not.

#### 8619: FINANCE.

- a) Report. The Clerk had prepared a report which was noted.
- b) Payment of Accounts. Mrs Pownall proposed accepting the following payments, Ms Jacobs seconded and this was unanimously approved.

## 8619: FINANCE (Cont'd).

January

NJH Electrical - Install Defibrillator	111.71
SSE Enterprise – St Light Repairs 39.50: M'tnce 727.92	767.42
Mrs R Hulley – Litter part Nov + Dec	218.75
Inland Revenue – Tax	181.85
Henley Contracting – Cut SLTC Hedge	725.00
Sonning Landscapes - Mow Wharf 26.00 Cut Willow	<u>51.00</u>
	<u>2055.73</u>

## 8620: PROPOSALS FOR QUEENS JUBILEE

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

## 8621: HIGHWAYS.

In the absence of Mr Evans and Mr Hargrave there was no update. Mr Runnalls said that he had been overtaken by two cars in Pound Lane. Cllr Haines said that the police did monitor the average speed in Pound Lane but, although there was pressure to keep the speed to 20mph, this might not always be possible. The Chairman said that the speed humps were not effective. Cllr Haines said that if the humps were more than 400mm high cars could damage their exhausts and WBC were no longer introducing speed humps but were using chicanes. The Chairman said that the cameras on the bridge were not monitored but were trackers. One or two overweight lorries were still using Sonning bridge. Cllr Haines said that there would be problems for the gravel lorries if Henley became pedestrianised as Reading bridge required repair. Discussions were continuing on a third bridge and Cllr Rob Wilson had said that a new bridge could begin in 5/7 years. The Chairman said that Gareth Wiseman had arranged for the large potholes to be repaired. The Clerk would chase Mr Napper about clearing the gullies.

## 8622 RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G.

- a) Report. Mrs Pownall said that she had been monitoring the football situation. There were few players the first week and there was plenty of room on the second week. The two team leaders had had discussions with each other.
- b) Safety Checks. Mrs Pownall had checked the exercise equipment.
- c) SCC Scoreboard & Safety Report. No decision had been made on the planning application. The safety survey had essentially recommended that no further improvements were made, including to the fencing, except for perhaps some notices. Mr Farnese said that the existing fence should be repaired and perhaps raised by 2ft or 1metre. The Chairman agreed to speak to Henley Contracting as he understood they undertook fencing work.
- d) Dog Bin Pound Lane. It was agreed that a new bin should be installed at the junction of West Drive and Old Bath Road next to the Noticeboard. The Clerk would price dog bins.

## 8623: TECHNICAL SERVICES...

- a) Safety Checks. Mr Farnese said that these had been carried out.
- b) Allotment Hedge. Ms Jacobs said that some residents thought that the hedge was dying but this was probably due to the winter and she would take another look in the spring.
- c) WBC Lighting Proposals. Mr Farnese was putting a proposal together to submit to WBC.
- d) 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.

8624: TWINNING ANNIVERSARY 1995-2015 – OFFICIAL GIFT

The Chairman said that an official gift for the French Council was needed, ideas/costs were discussed. The Twinning Chairman, Mrs Green, had asked if SPC would fund an official welcome for the Twinning delegation from Liguge. This would take the form of a drinks and nibbles reception in the Hall. Numbers were expected to be in the region of 96. This would be considered but a suggestion that SPC pay for the visitors and that everyone else should be asked to pay for tickets had general support. The Twinning Association were hosting a supper at the Great House, to which Councillors were invited. The Association would pay for the visitors and other invitees would be asked to pay for themselves.

8625: ACTION LIST.

The Action List was reviewed and updated.

8626: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next Meeting would be held on Tuesday 10 March 2015 at 7.30pm.

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