

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

PRESENT.

Mr P J Doyle (Chairman), Mr A E Farnese, Mr A Evans, 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). Cllr Haines (WBC). 1 Visitor.

APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS.

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

8627: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

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

8628: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

Mr Fisher said that, as the Treasurer of the Twinning Association, he would have an interest in the Twinning item.

8629: DEFIBRILLATOR.

The Chairman said that there had only been two responses so far about the defibrillator awareness training. Mrs Pownall said that SCC had not come up with a date for the fundraising event but there was a possibility of one in May, an alternative might be to use the School field. Mrs Pownall would establish a sub-committee and would invite all the sports clubs, the School, the Church and other organisations to take part.

8630: CORRESPONDENCE.

Mr Driver – request to reconsider allowing walkway in the Pound. Mr Fisher asked if it would be possible to reinstate the bar if permission was given and the arrangement proved to be unsatisfactory. Mrs Pownall said that the group would maintain the area. The Chairman said that this had already been discussed and a decision had been made. The Chairman said that piles of rubbish had been left after a recent ‘clearing’, which would dry out and become a fire hazard, he had asked Mr Driver to remove the piles but he had refused. Mr Farnese said that this was another instance when SPC had been told about something after it had happened. The Chairman proposed asking Mr Collier to remove the piles but Mr Fisher offered to this himself.

ROSPA Annual Inspection. This was due to take place in April and it was agreed that ROSPA should be asked to undertake it as usual.

Base Station Upgrade RC&HC. This was to improve the service from the existing communications tower on RC&HC land. Cllr Haines said that he had been concerned until he became aware of the location.

Peach Place Plaza – Planning Permission. WBC had approved plans for the Peach Street Plaza which was part of the Wokingham regeneration scheme.

8631: PLANNING.

The Chairman said that the Birchley scheme had been refused but the developers might go for an appeal. The application at South Meadow Cottage, for a large mobile home, had been approved. There had been one only objection on the application to install new wooden gates at Sonning Court. The applicant had however been asked to paint it a different colour to the one that had been proposed. There was a proposal for a dropped curb at Homelea. Cllr Haines had

8631: PLANNING (Cont'd).

asked for the new application for August Field/Acre Field to be listed but he warned that some of the objections had already been overturned by WBC. It was understood that the developer would go ahead and build the previous, approved, plan if this application were refused. The service road at the rear of the site was shown on the new plans. The proposal at Keepers Cottage, to build two semi-detached houses, was in the Countryside/Green belt, where no development was normally permitted. Cllr Haines said that it was likely to be refused but there might be an existing building on site. There was a lot of concern about the safety of the access onto a dangerous, single track road. The Chairman said that Henley were considering a proposal to ban heavy vehicles from the town. Cllr Haines said Reading Bridge would undergo repairs for two weeks during the summer.

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):

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): Sonning Court Thames Street (F/2015/0165): 7 Old Bath Road (CLP/20150128).

The following applications had been approved: South Meadow Cottage (CLP/2014/2379): King George V Playing Field (F/2014/2804): Homelea Sonning Lane (F/2015/0040)

The following applications had been refused. None.

The following new applications had been received. Acre Field, Charvil Lane (F/2015/0235). Erection of seven dwellings with associated access, parking and landscaping following the demolition of existing dwellings and outbuildings: Land Adjacent to keepers Cottage, Sonning Gold Club F/2015/0322). Erection of 2no semi -detached dwellings and associated works: 65 Pound Lane (F/2015/0403). Erection of a detached double garage following demolition and removal of existing garage: August Field and Acre Field Charvil Lane (F/2015/0354). Demolition consent in a conservation area of the existing dwellings, August Field and Acre Field, as defined in the attached plan 2023/0.

Confirmation of S106 Funds. The Chairman said that a substantial amount of S106 money had been allocated to Sonning (details previously circulated) but quotes had to be submitted to secure it. There were several projects where it could be used, although this was limited to the leisure areas. It was clear that the cricket club balls could go into the playground and Henley Contracting had submitted a quotation of £1800 to raise the netting by 1 metre and included trimming surrounding tree, which might require permission from WBC. The drainage scheme would improve the field facilities and some of the money might be used for this. Mr Farnese said that the S106 system would change to CIL on 1 April. Cllr Haines said that Wokingham had negotiated one of the highest CIL in the area, the S106 payable on an average house under S106 was £35-40,000 but under CIL this would rise to £100,000 and 25% would go to the parish council. The CIL system was more flexible and the money could be used more widely. It was also payable on extensions.

8632: CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT.

Mr Thorpe would hand over the revised CAA, week commencing 16 March.

8633: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR.

Mr Farnese said that WBC had done a good job in Ligure Way – 1 bucket of tarmac! If the August Field development went ahead there would be 220,000 litres of extra sewage going into Sonning drainage system. The Chairman said that despite assurances that the drains would be

8633: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR (Cont'd).

emptied Eddie Napper had not done anything. The Chairman and Mr Farnese would be attending a Major Projects meeting on 17 March and Mr Napper could not avoid them, Sonning paid for WBC services and if they could not speak to Mr Napper, they would speak to his boss Matt Davey. Cllr Haines said that he knew the Sonning drains were poor. The Chairman said that they didn't just require clearing, the gullies were completely blocked. Mr Farnese said that nothing was ever done properly, repairs to the potholes had been cursory. There was a very bad pothole outside the Farm entrance and another by the crossing in Pound Lane, there was also one at Sonning Meadows. The Chairman asked if there was a budget and Cllr Haines said there was a Borough wide budget, not one just for Sonning, lots of other areas were worse. Particularly bad were those on some of the housing estates but Mr Farnese said that these were not major through routes.

8634: PARISHIONER QUESTIONS.

There were no parishioner's questions.

8635: WEB SITE.

The Clerk said that Mr Gilmore was prepared to update the SPC Facebook page but he needed regular updates on the key points that SPC wanted to include. Mr Tom Ruddy (Twyford Advertiser) said he had checked out the SPC web site and Facebook to familiarise himself with the Council. It was essential that Facebook was updated regularly and the SPC Facebook had not been updated for some time. Mr Evans checked out the Facebook page and said that the site had not been updated for some time and there had been very few 'likes' when it had been. Following discussion it was agreed that the Facebook page should be discontinued.

8636: FINANCE.

- a) Report. The Clerk had prepared a report which was noted. Cllr Haines said it had been noted that the Sonning precept had increased while several other parish had maintained their precept at the previous year's level.
- b) Payment of Accounts. Mr Evans proposed accepting the following payments, Mr Fisher seconded and this was unanimously approved.

February

Mrs R Hulley – Litter jan + part Feb.	218.72
Mr P Doyle – Defibrillator Sign	21.00
Play Inspection Company – Cricket safety assessment report	438.00
Sonning Landscapes – Cut allotment hedge	200.00
Quadron Dog Bins	<u>84.24</u>
	<u>961.96</u>

8637: BRIDGE LIGHTING

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

8638: HIGHWAYS.

Mr Evans said that he had circulated a draft to Mr Hargrave and the Chairman but he needed some figures on vehicle movements to complete it, which the Chairman would provide. Mr

8638: HIGHWAYS (Cont'd).

Evans said that over 50% of residents had been in favour of 'no cold calling'. Two thirds of the votes had to be in favour and then Trading Standards could go ahead with the signs.

WBC Request for Mirror on Wharf. This was to provide a view of traffic to vehicles exiting the access to the Lock. Following discussion it was agreed to allow this with the proviso that full details were provided to SPC prior to installation.

8639 RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G.

- a) Report. Mrs Pownall said that there had been a request from a new football team to play at KGV Field. Unfortunately the field was well used by the two existing Clubs and it was felt that another team could lead to overuse. For this reason the request was refused. Mrs Pownall said that the Chairman had been a scheme operated by Jewsons under which the community could receive up to £50,000 to improve community facilities. Mrs Pownall would apply online for assistance with improving the pavilion showers. If anyone had any other suggestions they should inform Mrs Pownall. Deadline 12 April.
- b) Safety Checks. Mrs Pownall had checked the exercise equipment.
- c) SCC Scoreboard & Safety Report. The planning application for the scoreboard had been approved. The Chairman read out the quote from Henley Contracting to raise the playground fencing by 1 metre. This included 28 posts but was plus VAT. It also included trimming the branches of nearby trees, which might require permission from WBC but the quote could be submitted as part of the S106 request.
- d) S106 money was available for a new piece of equipment in the playground and it had also been suggested that a 'walkway' between each piece of equipment would be user friendly for the disabled. Mr Farnese said that the senior swings had not been renewed when the playground had been updated and suggested that they should be replaced and extended. In order to do this the tree stump would need to be removed. Earlier quotes had been in the region of £500. The Clerk would contact the manufacturers for a quote.

8639: DOG BIN POUND LANE.

It had been agreed that this should be positioned next the noticeboard at the West Drive/Old Bath Road junction and several designs were discussed. The Chairman proposed and Mr Farnese seconded, that the Fido 35 bin in green should be purchased at a cost of 217.09, plus VAT. This was unanimously approved.

8640: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

- a) Report. Mr Farnese said that there was nothing to report except that the Wharf was looking very good, there had been no flooding, which had helped. The traffic light signal box was very unattractive.
- b) Safety Checks. Mr Farnese said that these had been carried out.
- c) Lighting Proposals. Mr Farnese said that he would be submitting proposals for three new lights. The light nearest the A4 in Pound Lane was shaded by overhanging greenery and Mr Collier had cut this back. Other lights obstructed by overhanging greenery were located alongside the Deanery in High Street, in Guard Roa from some residents in the adjoining bungalows about loss of privacy due to the d and in Thames Street.
- d) Allotment. Ms Jacobs said that allotment holders could become members of the Caversham Allotment Association for £2 per annum, £1 for OAP's, and would provide access to good discounts on compost, seeds etc. The Clerk would send the information with the Tenancy agreements. The Chairman said that Mr Collier had received complaints about loss of privacy from some residents while he was hedge trimming, but the hedge would grow back

8640: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

grow back and thicken in the spring.

8641: TWINNING ANNIVERSARY 1995-2015 – FUNDING FOR DRINKS/ OFFICIAL GIFT

The Chairman said that Mrs Green had thought that the proposed drinks in the Hall could be funded by SPC, however this was not in the budget. Mrs Pownall said that there had been support for the idea that SPC could pay for the visitors from Ligure and that everyone else should pay for their ticket and that Mrs Green would work out the cost. The Chairman said that up to 96 people would be attending and it was unrealistic for SPC to cover all the costs. Mr Farnese said that if everyone else paid then the ticket price could include the Ligure visitors. Mr Fisher said that the costs would involve two glasses of wine per person, a few nibbles and the hire of the Hall and Mrs Pownall said the Twinning had begun with SPC. The Chairman said that the Association should have thought ahead, they didn't have a lot of funds but residents might question why SPC were paying for the event, and the Fire Brigade Trust had made a contribution towards the Twinning anniversary. Mrs Pownall suggested that a nominal amount could be given towards both the Twinning and the School anniversaries but this would be decided after discussing the School request.

8642: REQUEST FROM SONNING SCHOOL.

Mrs Pownall said that she had spoken to Mrs Green about the level of funding required, but she had not come back. Having asked others involved in the arrangements they had suggested £100 or £200 but any amount would be welcome. The Chairman asked if the parents had been asked to contribute. Mr Farnese said that the parents already helped the school a lot. The Chairman asked if Councillors were prepared to make a contribution. Mr Farnese said that the school did more in the community than Twinning did. Mr Evans said that not everyone in Sonning had sent their children to Sonning School and he couldn't see the difference between the request from the Twinning Association and Sonning School. SPC might be seen as an easy touch, other sources of funding, such as the Scarecrows, were available. The Chairman agreed that other sources of funding were available. Mr Farnese said that the School might have already approached the Fire Brigade Trust and Mrs Pownall said that she would ask about this. The Chairman then asked if Councillors would support making a donation towards the Twinning and Sonning School anniversaries but the majority (five against, three in favour and one abstention) of Councillors said they would not support either. The Chairman said that people did not understand that the Council had a budget and worked for the benefit of the whole community. Mrs Pownall said that she thought that a good will gesture in both cases would have been a good idea.

8643: ACTION LIST.

The Action List was reviewed and updated. The Chairman said that the Defibrillator training would take place in the pavilion on 26 March. Mr Farnese agreed to paint the bollards next to the Defibrillator as it had proved to be impossible to remove them.

8644: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next Meeting would be held on Tuesday 14 April 2015 at 7.30pm.

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