

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the Pavilion, Pound Lane, Sonning, on Tuesday 14 April 2015 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT.

Mr P J Doyle (Chairman), Mr A E Farnese, Mr A Evans, Mr J Hargrave, Mr P D Morrison, Mr I Runnalls, Mrs L A Bates (Clerk). 1 Visitor.

APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS.

Apologies were received from Mr Fisher (abroad), Ms Jacobs (unwell), Mrs Pownall (holiday). The Chairman welcomed all those present.

8645: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

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

8646: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

Mr Farnese said that, as a colleague of Mrs Green, he might be seen to have an interest in her request for a Twinning notice board.

8647: DEFIBRILLATOR FUNDRAISING EVENT.

The Chairman said that he had put notices up around the Parish about the Defibrillator training evening but the response had been disappointing. Eleven people had attended plus four Councillors and two of their wives. Lilly May's Mother had attended as had the emergency nurses, who had spoken about CPR. It would be good to hold a second training event. Henley T C intended to install five around the town and Wargrave were also interested. Mr Farnese said that preparations for the fundraising day (24 May at 12 noon) were going well. Mrs Farnese had discussed a sponsored relay with the Scouts and a trainee judge at Cruft's would come along to judge a dog show. The Scouts would organise a BBQ and it was hoped that SCC would arrange a small cricket game and run the bar. Mrs Pownall and Mr Farnese, plus a small group of volunteers would meet to prepare a format to send to various clubs who might be prepared to join in the fundraising. The Chairman said that he had spoken to Mrs Shuttleworth who had agreed to organise a ferret racing betting game. A banner and posters were needed and the information should be on the web site.

8648: ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ELECTION.

Elections would be on Thursday 7 May in Beech Lodge. Officially all Councillors would stand down on the forth day after the election (Monday 11 May) but all those elected would take office on the same day (including those who had been deemed to be elected i.e. if it was uncontested). All newly elected Councillors would however need to sign the Declaration of Office on or before the first meeting following the election, otherwise their seat would become vacant and a casual vacancy would exist.

8649: CORRESPONDENCE.

Thank you letters. Six of the beneficiaries of the annual donations had sent thank you letters.

Litter Pick. WBC had asked what day the two children had helped so that their certificates could be produced and sent to them.

Lord Taverners. The organisation had asked to play at Sonning on 17 June. This clashed with a scheduled planning meeting but the Chairman had agreed to move the meeting.

## 8649: CORRESPONDENCE (Cont'd).

Sheeplands – Refusal of Planning Permission. WBC had decided not to grant a certificate of Lawfulness for the unauthorised development at Sheeplands, which was in the Green belt, and would be implementing the enforcement which had begun in 2012. This had implications for Sonning which had several areas of Countryside/green belt within its boundary.

Request for a photo of Deanery wall from within Churchyard. This had come via the web site. It was agreed that such a photographs could be misused.

Invitation to VE Day 8 May Civic Offices WBC. This was open to Chairmen and Councillors. A reception would be followed by the lighting of a beacon and a bugle tribute. Confirmation of attendance was required by 1 May.

Application for a grant – Home Start Wokingham. This would be added to the list for consideration in November.

Aborfield Design Statement. WBC had adopted this as Supplementary Planning Guidance.

Neighbourhood Watch Contact details. There were no contact details on the SPC web site or the national NW website. Mr Evans would chase up.

Request to Attend Council Meeting. The Wokingham Bridleway Group had asked to attend the April meeting but the request had not been received until 14 April. The Chairman said that there were few opportunities to add bridleway facilities in Sonning.

## 8650: PLANNING.

The Chairman said that the Birchley scheme had been refused but the developers were likely to put in a new application. There had been no decision on the RBCS large development, which would have a major impact on Sonning and traffic. The Chairman would check progress with the planning officer. 7 Old bath Road had been refused. There was no news on Acre/August Field but Cllr Haines had put a precautionary listing on the application in the event that the planning officer recommended approval. Mr Farnese asked if the development would be subject to the new CIL the Chairman confirmed that it would. The Golf Club application to build in the Green Belt/Countryside had been refused. Mr Morrison said that he had pointed out that the traffic assessment had been based on peak times rather than across the whole day. There had been an exhibition showing three draft schemes on the land to the left of the Golf Club House, one for all flats, one for a mixture of flats and houses and one for a mixture of the two. The Chairman said that, nationally, Golf Clubs were having difficulties recruiting new members. Mr Hargrave said that there were plans for a significant amount of development in Berkshire and it was necessary to have better links for the M4, M3, M40 and Heathrow. The infrastructure was already being improved with the rail upgrade. More traffic was being attracted into the area for business but the road system was poor, pressure from Thames Valley Enterprise could be the key to a new bridge.

S106 –Application for Funds. The Chairman said that there were three projects that could benefit from S106 funding. Although the safety report said there was little danger of cricket ball going into the playground it was known that they did and this could not be ignored. Henley Contracting had provided a quote of £1835 plus VAT to extend the safety fencing by 1 metre, using black golf ball size netting and to repair the existing fencing. This was specialised work and HC came recommended. It should be possible to use the S106 money for this project. Mr Farnese said that the existing foundations should be checked as should the stability of the existing fencing to ensure it would take the additional fencing. The Chairman said there had long been a problem with the water runoff from the field, which created problems on the pitch and flooding in Liguge Way/Pound Lane. Henley Contracting had installed a run off drain for Harpsden Golf Club, which was on a steep slope, and had similar problems with water flooding. A bund had been created which had been grassed over with crossings for pedestrians and vehicles. Henley Contracting had supplied a quote to carry out a similar scheme on the recreation ground for £2900. Angie Gibson had suggested that S106 money would be available to provide a walkway link between the

## 8650: PLANNING (Cont'd).

equipment in the playground. This would be user friendly, particularly for the disabled. The Chairman had met the Playdale representative to discuss this and extending the large swings (which had not been replaced when the playground had been renovated). However the rep. had said that the swings were in good condition. A new piece of equipment had been suggested, the Aero Whirl or the Gravity Bowl, which was the preferred option. The quotes depended on the type of material used for the pathways, one at ££3964 the other at £5129.40. The tree stump would need to be removed to accommodate this and the Chairman would obtain a quote, an earlier quote had been for £500. Having looked at the S106 funding for pitches and recreation there were insufficient funds for all three projects and it was agreed that the safety fencing and the drainage were the priority. The Chairman proposed submitting a bid for the funding to WBC for the safety fencing and the drainage at a cost of £4735, Mr Farnese seconded and this was unanimously approved.

**The following applications were ongoing:** South Lodge Sonning Lane (F/2014/1832): Acre Field, Charvil Lane (F/2015/0235): August Field and Acre Field Charvil Lane (F/2015/0354). St. Andrews Church (NMT/2014/2083): St Andrews Church (C/2014/2110): 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:** 100 Thames Valley Park Drive (A/2014/1668): 100 Thames Valley Park Drive (CLP/2014/1606): 25 Gebe Lane (F/2014/1874) The Sharrow Parkway Drive (F/2014/2063): Reading Blue Coat School (F/2014/2116): Sonning Court, Thames Street (F/2014/2617: Sonning Court Thames Street (F/2015/0165): 65 Pound Lane (F/2015/0403.

**The following applications had been refused.** Birchley Old Bath Road (F/2014/1879): 7 Old Bath Road (CLP/20150128: Land Adjacent to keepers Cottage, Sonning Golf Club F/2015/0322).

**The following new applications had been received.** Holme Park – RRFC (F/2015/0709) Erection of 6 15m high galvanised steel columns with floodlighting to serve existing rugby pitch and training area following the removal of existing 8 10m high steel columns and lamp fittings: 4 Thames Terrace (F/2015/0262) Erection of single storey rear extension following the demolition: 6 Pound Lane (F/2015/0708of existing WC block at rear of property.). Erection of single storey rear extension to link garden room with main residence.

## 8651: CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT.

Mr Thorpe had made a very good job of editing the Assessment and this had been sent to the Society. They had sent a list of alterations for consideration and Mr Thorpe would feed those that he considered relevant into the text and produce the full document. WBC would help with the graphics and supply maps, they would return it to SPC. The Chairman would ask Mr Thorpe about the timescale.

## 8652: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR.

In the absence of Cllr Haines there were no questions.

## 8653: PARISHIONER QUESTIONS.

This item had been taken earlier to allow Mrs Green to leave after she had spoken about Twinning, but is reported here to agree with the agenda. Mrs Green thanked the Chairman for allowing her to speak about her request for a Twinning Association notice-board. The Ligure Twinning Association wanted to present a gift to mark the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the official signing of the Twinning Charter between the communities of Sonning and Ligure. It was anticipated that the introduction of a notice-board would raise the Twinning profile and result in further links between residents. Mrs Green had asked Mr Hulley to provide a quote, the notice-board would be

## 8653: PARISHIONER QUESTIONS (Cont'd)

built in Sonning and Ligure would pay for it, the design would be similar to the Society notice-board, next to the Bull Inn. Ideally it would be located close to Ligure Way and an explanation for the name could be provided. The Chairman said that it could not be located on highway's land but could be on SPC land. In the Pound, next to Ligure Way, seemed a good solution. Mr Farnese thought the notice-board should be more visible (larger) than the one by the Bull and located away from the bus shelter close to the gate. Following discussion it was agreed to allow the notice-board to be erected, in a position to be mutually agreed. Mrs Green said that she would like to make a request for help and support with the arrangements for the visit. A delegation of 15 were coming from Ligure, including several civic dignitaries, the new lady Mayor and the former Mayor, M Couturier, who had been so supportive when the Twinning was being established. Mrs Green said that it would be appreciated if as many Councillors as possible could be involved over the weekend, although she appreciated that not everyone could join in everything. There was a welcome reception/drinks/nibbles event in the Hall between 5pm and 6pm on 1 May. Councillors and their spouses were very welcome. The Clerk would collect names and provide these to Mrs Green. The other key event was the formal dinner at the Great House on 3 May and it would be very helpful if there was a Councillor presence. Mrs Green and M Poudou (Ligure Association Chairman) would both make a speech and the Lady Mayor of Ligure would present the official present from Ligure, a Councillor would need to accept it on behalf of the Parish Council. Key people had been invited including Cllr Haines, past Council Chairmen and past Chairman of the Association. Help was also needed to provide accommodation (bed and breakfast) for some of the visitors. The itinerary included visiting Henley and the Henley River and Rowing Museum on Saturday, a safari supper in the evening, a trip up the bell tower on Sunday morning followed by a village walk and lunch at the Lock and the official dinner in the evening. The delegation would leave at 10.30am on Monday.

## 8654: WEB SITE.

The Chairman said that he has supplied Mr Gilmore with updates for the web site.

## 8655: FINANCE.

### March

Mr K Trimmings – Litter Feb.	145.83
Thames Water – Pav. Water	120.35
Quadron Dog Bins	84.24
SLCC _ Annual Subs	149.00
Mr K Trimmings – Litter Feb (replace – replace 053)	209.02
Air Ambulance – S137 Donation	200.00
Twyford Age Concern – S137 Donation	200.00
Berks Blind - S137 Donation	50.00
Sonning PCC - S137 Donation	200.00
ReadiBus - S137 Donation	150.00
Twyford Volunteers - S137 Donation	50.00
CAB - S137 Donation	50.00
Sue Ryder S137 Donation	200.00
Keep Mobile - S137 Donation	50.00
Mrs L A Bates – Honorarium less tax	2464.90
Mrs L Bates – Telephone	40.00
National Savings – Tennis Court Fund SLTC	(3062.84)
National Savings – Tennis Court Fund SPC	<u>(583.40)</u>
	<u>4263.34</u>

## 8656: BRIDGE LIGHTING

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

## 8657: HIGHWAYS.

Mr Evans presented a draft letter to the MP's. Mr Farnese said that the gravel extraction had not been properly considered and people had not appreciated that a gravel lorry would leave the site every ten minutes, Monday to Saturday. It would be very difficult for 32 tonne lorries to drive through Henley or Caversham. The letter was timely as an election was due. The Chairman said that this would impact on other traffic causing other issues, the solution was clear, the maths had been done on the lorry traffic, Lafarge were prepared to offer a financial contribution. Lafarge understood what impact their lorries would have on Henley and Caversham, and the problems it would create for them. Reading and Henley had some understanding but knowing there would be a lorry every ten minutes might just make it more real for them, and the David Sherriff plan would provide the solution. All the MP's speaking on local radio said that they were working on the bridge.

## 8658 RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G.

- a) SCC Electrical Supply. The Chairman said that SCC had laid a concrete slab in preparation for the scoreboard installation. They would need to install an electrical supply. SPC should be kept informed of their plans for this as there were several issues.
- b) Safety Checks. Mr Farnese had checked the play equipment. He was concerned about the misuse of some equipment, particularly the exercise machines.
- c) Dog Bin. The Chairman had asked highways if the new bin could go on highway land but had been told that a certificate would be needed at a cost of £400. Having reconsidered the Chairman said that the bin could be attached to the SPC notice-board thus saving this sort of cost.
- d) Advance Notice of Unauthorised Work on SPC Property. The Chairman said that there had been several instances where people had worked on the field or made changes to the pavilion without the council's permission. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Clubs and Friends of Ali's Pond to ask that, in future, they supply SPC with full details of any plans they had, well in advance.
- e) Trees on A4. WBC was looking into the unauthorised tree planting on the A4. Mr Woodhouse had spoken to Mr Farnese at the Litter Pick explaining the plan was to plant 40/42 trees along-side the footpath on the A4, which was highways land. An earlier request to WBC had been refused as there were underground cables running along-side the A4, as well as fibre optics. Any damage to any of these would have a major impact on the area. Highways considered trees next to major roads to be a safety hazard, street lights would crumple on impact but trees did not so they were a potential hazard to cars. SPC were not authorised to take any action, this was down to WBC.
- f) Request for Twinning Notice-board. This had been dealt with earlier (see 8653)
- g) WBC Lighting Proposals. The Chairman said that Uri Geller would be helping to improve the pavement lighting in Thames Street by installing a lamp along-side the Red House garden wall, which would illuminate the pavement.

## 8659: ACTION LIST.

The Action List was reviewed and updated. The Chairman said that the Lotus Club owners would be at the Great House on 4 May and he had been asked if they could use the Wharf gates to access the hotel's garden. This was unanimously approved.

8660: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The Annual Meeting of the Council would be held on Tuesday 12 May 2015 at 7.30pm.  
The Annual Parish Meeting would be held on Tuesday 19 May 7.00pm for 7.30pm

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