

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the Pavilion, Pound Lane, Sonning, on Tuesday 9 June 2015 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT.

Mr P J Doyle (Chairman), Mr A Evans, Mr A E Farnese, Mr T Fisher, Ms Jacobs, Mr P D Morrison, Mrs Pownall, Mr I Runnalls, Mrs L A Bates (Clerk). By invitation, Ingrid Burke and Miranda Stoke, Wokingham District Bridleways group.

APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS. There were no apologies.

8683: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

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

8684: MINUTES OF THE 2015 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING.

The Minutes of the 2015 Annual Parish Meeting had been circulated for information. These were for approval in May 2016. The Clerk welcomed any feedback.

8685: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest.

8686: COUNCILLORS DECLARATION OF INTERESTS FORMS.

All Councillors had completed their Declaration of Interests Forms and the Clerk had signed them. These would be published on the SPC web site and copies would be sent to WBC.

8687: DEFIBRILLATOR FUNDRAISING DAY.

The Chairman said that the day had been a great success, which was down to a close knit team and they had been lucky with the weather. The total raised was £1190 and Barclays bank would match funding up to £1,000. The Chairman said that he would like to record in the minutes that the community were grateful to Kim Savage, who had brought the matched funding scheme to the Council's attention, made all the arrangements and had been very busy assisting on the day. Several people had shown an interest in the matched funding scheme. A resident in Thames Street had been impressed with the defibrillator and had purchased one for his own use. The event had been a huge success and people were already asking about the next one.

8688: CORRESPONDENCE.

WBC – Cyclist Complaint. In response to a complaint Julia Treadwell (WBC – Traffic & Road Safety) had e-mailed to explain that they had received a complaint from a resident about a motorist attempting to overtake a cyclist on Sonning Bridge. The only possible solution (there were no signs to say don't overtake cyclists) was to provide a box for cyclists in front of the traffic lights so they could set off safely from the front of the queue. The Chairman said that there was a 'Keep Clear' sign in front of the lights for access to Hart House, which cyclists already used. The Chairman said that it was more alarming how many cyclists were using the narrow footpaths in Thames Street to avoid the traffic. They rode too quickly and ignored pedestrians emerging from their properties or vehicles emerging from entrances. When challenged, cyclists said it was too dangerous for them on the road. The cyclists were making it dangerous for pedestrians to use the pavements. It was agreed that Councillors could see no need to spend public money in this way

8688: CORRESPONDENCE (Cont'd).

Letter from John Sandall. Mr Sandall had sent an e-mail complaining that he could no longer teach his grandson to fish on the Wharf following the introduction of the new sign. Mr Sandall also complained that the Council seemed to ignore the litter generated by teenagers during the summer. The Chairman said that there were plenty of other areas where fishing could take place close to the Wharf. Adult fishermen had been using the Wharf in recent times, taking a great deal of equipment with them including large umbrellas and tents. This took up a lot of room and conflicted with the intended use as an open recreation area for residents and others. Several complaints had been received. The Clerk would reply to Mr Sandall.

Mr Driver's Request to Correct the Minutes. The Chairman said that he had explained to Mr Driver that the Minutes could not be changed and that the previous 'informal' arrangements, for residents working on Council property, had resulted in misunderstandings. Therefore any future work on SPC property would require advance notice in writing and formal, written SPC approval.

Townlands. A consultation on changes to Townlands Hospital in Henley was being undertaken. Public meetings to discuss the issues were taking place at Henley Town Hall on 9 June and at other venues on 10th, 11th, 12th and 15th June.

WBC Gypsy & Traveller Preferred Options Plan. A Public Consultation was underway, 4 June – 30 July.

Councillor Training. The BALC training day in July was full but spaces were still available on 15 July and 9 September.

Letter from Rob Wilson MP. A reply, to the Council's letter to MP's, had been received from Rob Wilson MP. Mr Wilson was grateful for the Council's thoughts and had noted the suggestions put forward, agreed with the Council's views on the local infrastructure and that the traffic problems would impact on local businesses. Mr Wilson was in support of a third main crossing and said he and the MP for Henley, John Howell, together with the relevant authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) were working out a lasting solution. The traffic modelling data, which was being collected, would prove invaluable in determining the next steps. In conclusion however Mr Wilson said that it was at a relatively early stage but thanked the Council for its thought provoking letter.

8689: PLANNING.

The Chairman said that following refusal of the Birchley scheme and an appeal being lodged a neighbour had asked for SPC's help on the appeal. The Chairman had explained that SPC had already submitted their reasons for refusal. There was no news on the application for seven houses at Acre/August Field but a provisional listing was in place. Although the Great House had yet to receive planning permission the first phase of the proposed works were already being undertaken. The applicant had submitted revised plans for 4 Thames Terrace. SPC had submitted plans for the safety netting. The contractor who had extended the netting had been at Lords and balls were going right over the stand, which was far higher than the safety netting.

The following applications were on going: 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): 4 Thames Terrace (F/2015/0262): 6 Pound Lane (F/2015/0708): The Great House at Sonning (F/2015/0283): 32 Sonning Meadows (F/2015/0848): The Malt House (LB/2015/0769).

The following applications had been approved: Holme Park – RRFC (F/2015/0709):

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

The following new applications had been received. 103a Pound Lane (F/2015/1037) Erection of a single storey side extension and conversion of existing double garage to additional habitable

8689: PLANNING (Cont'd).

accommodation: King George V Playing Field (F/2015/1172) Erection of an extension to existing safety fence at King George V playing field. (Retrospective)

S106 – Update. The Clerk had received an update from Angie Gibson (WBC Resources Manager S106). The good news was that Mrs Gibson had been able to use play funds for the drainage ditch as it benefitted the play area. This was subject to the final sign off once Cllr John Kaiser returned on 22 June. The Chairman had a copy of a google map showing the route of the proposed drain. There would be five crossing points. Mr Fisher asked if there would be a drainage outlet. The Chairman said that this was unlikely to be necessary but one could be installed at a later date if required. Mr Fisher asked how wide the drain would be and the Chairman said one metre at the top narrowing towards the bottom, it would be one foot deep. Mrs Pownall suggested that some lighting might need to be introduced to illuminate the area at night. The Chairman said that Mr Travers (SCC) had been in contact with Mark Beckinsale about dates etc. Mr Fisher said that he had noticed, when he was mowing, that the area near the children's playground was boggy at times and wondered if this would exacerbate the problem and allow more flow, had the contractors measured the levels. Mr Farnese suggested that Mr Fisher should discuss his concerns with the contractor. The chairman said that, if necessary, this could be adjusted on site and some areas might need to be dug out slightly more than others. Mrs Pownall suggested a site meeting with the contractor and the Chairman agreed to arrange one so that Councillors could be reassured. Mr Morrison asked if a specification had been supplied but the Chairman said not.

8690: CONSERVATION AREA ASSESSMENT.

The Chairman said that Mr Thorpe had finished the editing and submitted the document to Mr Stephens to see if he had any changes, although Mr Thorpe did not think he would want to make any. Mr Evans asked if the document would be on the web site once it was completed and the Chairman confirmed that it would. Mr Evans also asked about the timescale and the Chairman thought the document could be adopted in October providing that WBC had completed the public consultation. Mr Fisher said that he had taken photographs of a large Oak tree being removed from the Golf Club boundary. The Chairman said this was outside the Conservation Area, Mr Runnalls had spoken to the Tree Officer but had been told that the trees were not subject to a TPO and not in the CA. Mr Farnese suggested writing to WBC and the Golf Club to say that SPC were aware of the tree being removed. The Chairman said that there was an area of land on Sonning Farm, which was reserved for development if WBC ran out of land. Mr Farnese said that the flats in Glebe Gardens had been declared unfit for OAP occupation and WBC had said that they would be building replacements. Mr Farnese said he had noticed that the application for St. Andrew's Church included covered cycle parking and the Chairman said that this was a requirement of all new development.

8691: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR.

In the absence of Cllr Haines there were no questions.

8692: PARISHIONER QUESTIONS.

Ingrid Burke introduced herself and Miranda Stoke. They were part of the Wokingham Bridleway Group, and wished to thank SPC for the opportunity to speak. While they realised that Sonning was perhaps not suitable for establishing bridleways they wanted to make more people aware of the needs of horse riders throughout Wokingham Borough. The Wokingham Bridleways Group had been newly formed and was pulling together a District wide map for rights of way that would

8692: PARISHIONER QUESTIONS.

include horse riders and paths that could be upgraded in order to create links and circular routes which would take more horses off the roads and onto safer access. The Wokingham Bridleways Group believed that a joined-up approach across the Borough would be more effective than isolated local campaigns. Ms Burke stressed that access for horse riders was, by definition, open to cyclists and to walkers as well. The group were aiming to increase the number of routes open to riders. With only 10% of routes currently open to them, it was difficult for riders to link to these except by using the highway. Mr Farnese asked what could be done if a bridleway was closed and Ms Stoke said that this couldn't be done, bridleways were protected in the same way that public footpaths were. Mr Runnalls asked if there wasn't a requirement that footpaths and bridleways had to be used to stay open and Ms Stoke not but they had to be registered by 2026. There was the possibility of diverting an existing route to everyone's satisfaction if the land owner wanted to do this and the route could be enhanced at the same time. The Chairman said that there was no scope for bridleways in Sonning and Sonning could not offer a safe route for horses, the closest bridleway to Sonning was Milestone Avenue in Charvil. Ms Burke said that if there was any potential development land then this offered an opportunity to open new routes. Motorists could be targeted to support the campaign, they would prefer horses to be off the road. The Chairman thanked Ms Burke and Ms Stoke and said that he sympathised with their aims.

8693: WEB SITE.

The Chairman said that he had sent the information about the Fun Day to Mr Gilmore and it was now on the site. The Pound Lane closure had been on the website for 8 July but the situation had changed. The bus company was under the impression that the road would be closed on 8 June and had put notices up, causing a lot of confusion. The Chairman said that the revised date was 15 June when the road would be closed for four days so that repairs, patching and resurfacing could be undertaken. The road would be open for access only. Mrs Pownall would inform the school so parents could be made aware.

Mrs Pownall said that Mrs Hicks had given her the codes for the SPC Facebook and that she was prepared to run it and update it regularly. The Clerk would send an updated list of Councillors to Mr Gilmore.

8694: TWINNING RECEPTION 3 MAY.

- a) Receipt of Gift. Mr Fisher said that he and Mrs Jacobs had accepted the official gift from Liguge on behalf of the Parish Council. This was a painting of a scene showing the annual 2015 Liguge/Sonning Regatta. Councillors admired the painting and the Chairman proposed that a letter of thanks should be sent to the Mayor of Liguge.
- b) Official Visit to Liguge 9 – 12 October 2015. The Clerk said that all Councillors were welcome to visit Liguge at this time, when the 20th anniversary of signing the Twinning Charter would be celebrated. Travel cost would need to be paid for by individual visitors but accommodation and local travel expenses would be paid.

8695: FINANCE.

- a) Report. The Clerk had circulated a report, which was noted.
- b) Annual Return. The Clerk had circulated the figures to complete the annual return. Mr Fisher proposed accepting the figures, Mrs Jacobs seconded and these were unanimously approved. The Chairman and Clerk signed the return.
- c) Internal Audit. This had been carried out. Mr Gilson had submitted his invoice for £45. The Chairman proposed paying £45, Mrs Jacobs seconded and this was unanimously approved.

8695: FINANCE (Cont'd).

d) Payment of Accounts.

The Chairman proposed paying the following payments, Mrs Pownall seconded and these were unanimously approved.

May

Thames Water – Square	16.84
Mr T Fisher – Mower Petrol	6.87
Quadron Dog Bins April	84.24
Mrs L A Bates – Pavilion T V Licence	145.50
Mrs L A Bates – Planning Application – Safety Fencing	99.50
Mr D J Doyle – Wharf Sign	70.00
Henley Contracting – Mow Main Field	240.00
Playsafety – ROSPA Report	210.00
Sonning Landscapes – Dell Rubbish	45.00
Sonning Landscapes – Mow Playground	56.00
Sonning Landscapes – Mow Wharf	<u>28.00</u>
	<u>1001.95</u>

e) Insurance Premium 2015/16

The Insurance was now due for renewal. The premium was the same as in previous years as there was a five year agreement (ending on 1 June 2017). The Chairman proposed paying £2223.40, Mr Morrison seconded and this was unanimously approved.

c) Allocation of Funds for 20th Anniversary Present - Liguge.

The Clerk asked if the Council would be presenting an official gift to the Mayor of Liguge on behalf of Sonning at the official celebration on 10 October 2015. Mr Runnalls said that there should be an official response to the gift from Liguge. The Chairman asked if SPC wanted to allocate funds and Mrs Pownall felt that they should. The Council had said no to the Twinning Request but the Council should not ignore the occasion. Mr Farnese agreed and Mr Runnalls asked if it would be legal. The Clerk confirmed that it would as a S137 donation. The Chairman proposed giving a reciprocal gift to Liguge, Mrs Pownall seconded and this was approved on the proviso that it was legal to do so. Mr Fisher, as treasurer of the Twinning Association, abstaining. The question of how much was discussed and it was agreed that everyone should think of a suitable present ready to bring proposals to the July meeting for a decision on a present and the value.

8696: HIGHWAYS.

Unauthorised Work on Highway Land. The Chairman said that he had spoken to the highways officer but he could not give details about the cost of removing the trees that had been planted on the A4. A crew and a truck had to attend which had a cost implication. If anyone wished to carry work out on highways land they would need WBC permission and have to pay a licence fee.

8697: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G.

Mrs Pownall was in the process of obtaining 'Dog' signs due to the increase in dog waste being left on the field. Mrs Pownall was in the process of applying for funding but this was a long and involved process that could not be hurried. Mrs Pownall was therefore proposing that an application to fund a new pavilion should be submitted, the deadline for completing this was January 2016. This was enthusiastically received and it was agreed that Mrs Pownall should submit an application.

8697: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G. (Cont'd)

- a) Safety Checks. Mrs Pownall had checked the exercise machines and Mr Farnese had checked the play equipment. Mr Farnese said the safety surface under the large swing in the recreation ground was in poor condition. Following discussion it was agreed that Mr Farnese and Mr Fisher would remove the swing in the interest of safety.
- b) King George V Field Status. The Clerk said that SPC held the title to the land but it had been dedicated as a King George V Field and was under the protection of Fields in Trust. This had been done to ensure the land was used for recreational use in perpetuity. The Chairman had an example of dog bags which were being supplied in other areas and would bring details to the July meeting for consideration.
- c) Instruct Henley Contracting to Proceed with Ditch Work. This had been discussed and agreed under minute 8689 - S106 Update.

8698: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

Mr Farnese said that he had not been able to make any progress over the ownership of the tree which was obscuring the light outside Parkway Drive. Mr Farnese would ask Mr Collier for a quote to cut the trees back. It was agreed that the Clerk should write asking the owner of 22 Pound Lane to cut back the trees that were obscuring the light outside his house.

Wharf Safety Checks. Mr Farnese had carried these out and commented that the fence between the Great House and the Wharf was looking a mess.

Allotments. Mrs Jacobs said that allotment 10 still wasn't being tended. The Clerk said that the Tenancy agreement had been signed and the fee paid but agreed to write asking the tenant about this. Mrs Jacobs said that the fence was in poor condition. The Chairman and Mr Farnese agreed to inspect it. Mrs Jacobs said that the garages in Glebe Gardens were in poor condition and Mr Farnese said that he was already in contact with WBC about this and they were arranging for someone to meet him on site

8699: ACTION LIST.

The Action List was reviewed and updated.

8700: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The date of the next meeting would be Tuesday 14 July 2015 at 7.30pm.

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