

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the Pavilion, Pound Lane, Sonning, on Tuesday 13 October 2015 at 7.00pm.

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

8737: APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS. There were no visitors.

The Chairman welcomed all those present.

8738: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

Mr Fisher said that min. 8733 (d), Water Drain-Off Work, should read White Horse, not Henley Landscape Contractors. The Minutes, having been amended, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

8739: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations.

8740: CASUAL VACANCY.

This was ongoing and no update was available.

8741: CORRESPONDENCE.

SLTC Courts. The Chairman said that there had been a misunderstanding, the green plastic screening around the court was temporary and did not require planning or the Council's permission but he had noticed moss on the courts. The Clerk would ask SLTC to clean the court.

Request to Use Pavilion. Ms Reeve had asked to use the pavilion for a children's party on 13 November. Apart from eating in the pavilion, the children would be playing computer games in a play bus in the car park. None of the football clubs used the pavilion on a Friday and it was agreed to permit this with no charge as Ms Reeve voluntarily monitored the two defibrillators every week and sent monthly reports in on behalf of SPC. The Chairman would liaise with Ms Reeve.

SSE Bridge Light Repairs. A revised quote had been received from SSE to replace two lights at a cost of £359 plus VAT. Following discussion it was agreed that there was no alternative and the Clerk would instruct SSE to proceed.

Irum Gulzer. Mr Gulzer was unable to attend the October of November meetings but would make his Waste presentation at the December meeting.

Programme to Recycle Cigarette and Associated Waste. WBC were supporting this nation-wide programme.

Sonning Quarry Liaison Group. The Clerk had received the agenda for the next meeting on 15 September. It was agreed that the Clerk should inform the group that Mr Doyle was no longer the SPC representative and that the Chairman would be replacing him in future. As the Chairman was unavailable on this occasion Mr Morrison agreed to attend.

Problems on the Recreation Ground. There had been a number of confrontations between dog walkers on the recreation ground but it was agreed that the Council could not get involved in such disputes. The Dog Warden could be called in if required.

Great House Boundary Proposals. Mr Buchanan had sent a photograph illustrating the type of fence that he favoured for the boundary, together with a photo of a matching gate. Following discussion it was agreed to have a site meeting on Tuesday 20 October at 3.30pm to discuss.

Twinning. Mr Fisher said that it had been a very successful celebration and it was clear that the Mayor, Councillors and residents of Liguge held Sonning in high esteem. Mr Fisher said that he had mentioned the Bayeux Tapestry when presenting the Sonning Tapestry, which had been very

## 8741: CORRESPONDENCE.

well received. The tapestry had been remounted and reframed and looked very good. He had invited five past members (two being past Chairman) of SPC and the Clerk to stand with him during the presentation. Mr Fisher said that any scepticism that he might have had prior to the visit had gone completely due to the way everyone had received the English visitors and he was now a convert. The Liguge Council and Twinning Association appreciated that Sonning did not have the same level of funding that they had. Jean Poudou, who had been the Chairman of the Liguge Jumelage for 10 years, was standing down at their next meeting. The Chairman said that his daughter was bringing a bottle of Isla whiskey down as a thank you to Mr Doyle for donating the tapestry. The Clerk would write to thank the Mayor and Monsieur Poudou for their hospitality and had an invoice for the mount, frame and glass.

Berkshire Sports Invoice. The Club had submitted an invoice for SPC's contribution towards repairs to the access road and, as it had been previously agreed, the Clerk should issue a cheque for £100.

## 8742: PLANNING.

Cllr Haines said that the Golf Club application for 17 houses had been robustly refused. The Chairman said this was an excellent decision and WBC had already copied the decision to the Clerk. Cllr Haines said that WBC had invited Mr Geller to put in a planning application for his sculpture on the towpath.

Mr Runnalls went through the planning list, there had been four approvals, 29 Sonning Meadows (F/2014/2444), Biricha, Parkway Drive (F/2015/1242), 15 Sonning Meadows (152290) and the Great House (152129). Currently the government were allowing extensions to be put up without planning permission.

The Chairman said that he had attended the Borough Liaison Group meeting where Cllr Chopping had spoken about WBC buying council houses back from the government. Cllr Haines said this was correct and WBC were currently improving the houses in Phoenix Crescent. The government was encouraging council's to sell their council houses but this meant that replacements were constantly required. All new development now had to contain 35% affordable housing.

**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). 29 Sonning Meadows (F/2014/2444): The Great House at Sonning (F/2015/0283): 32 Sonning Meadows (F/2015/0848): 2 Seagrave Close (152012): 9 Glebe Lane (152000): Berks County Sports Club Sonning Lane (152174): The Great House at Sonning (152126): 29 Old Bath Road (150735).

**The following applications had been approved:** 29 Sonning Meadows (F/2014/2444): Biricha Parkway Drive (F/2015/1242): 15 Sonning Meadows (152290): The Great House (152129).

**The following applications had been refused.** Sonning Golf Club (150098):

**The following new applications had been received.** Little Shire Mustard Lane (152478). Erection of a single storey rear extension, double storey side extension to dwelling and conversion of garage into habitable accommodation: Unit 1 Sonning Farm (152363) Creation of a new roof, new exterior cladding, new windows and doors, following prior approval OFF/2015/0723.

## 8743: CONSERVATION AREA ASSESSMENT.

The Conservation Officer, Giles Stephens, had replied to say that stage 1. The Strategic Environmental Assessment (Determination Statement) has been drafted and should go out to consultation for 5 weeks by October. It would go to the Environment Agency, Historic England, Natural England, Parish Councils & neighbouring LPA's. WBC had confirmed that, in their view an SEA was not required for the adoption of the CAA as an SPD. Stage 2. Draft CAA had been

#### 8743: CONSERVATION AREA ASSESSMENT.

formatted including photos/maps /diagrams and was nearing completion. Stage 3, Public Consultation, WBC hoped to be in a position to begin public consultation by December. This would take a minimum of 6 weeks, but might take longer due to Christmas. Stage 4, Review Responses. Once responses had been reviewed and taken into account, a paper would go to the Executive Committee for adoption. The timing was uncertain, depending on other agenda items, a 2 month lead in time, local elections and might not go to the Executive until June 2016.

#### 8744: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR.

Cllr Haines said that, after two WBC street lights had fallen down, they had introduced a project to replace their existing lighting and would assist parishes to do the same (at cost). Many existing street lights were a potential risk due to their age. The police should deal with street parking but failed to do so WBC had employed an outside company, if SPC wanted to join the scheme there would be a cost implication. The Chairman said that highways had said that they would install a push button system on the Pound Lane crossing, double yellow lines would take 1 to 1.5 year to introduce.

#### 8745: PARISHIONER QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

#### 8746: WEB SITE.

There was no update.

#### 8747: FINANCE.

##### a) Payment of Accounts.

Mr Morrison proposed paying the following payments, Mr Runnalls seconded and these were unanimously approved.

#### September

Payments							
Date	Cheque No.	Name	Service item	Gross	VAT	Net	Committee Headings
08 Sept '15	100207	K Trimmings	Litter (July)	145.83	0.00	145.83	Highways
08 Sept '15	100208	Sonning Landscapes	Mow Rec. x 1	28.00	0.00	28.00	Recreation
08 Sept '15	100208	Sonning Landscapes	Mow Wharf x 1	28.00	0.00	28.00	Environment
08 Sept '15	100209	Henley Landscapes	Mow Outfield x 2	60.00	0.00	60.00	SCC
08 Sept '15	100209	Henley Landscapes	Mow Field	240.00	0.00	240.00	Recreation
08 Sept '15	100211	Community Heart Beat	Defibrillator	2020.00	0.00	2020.00	Administration
08 Sept '15	100212	Thames Water	Square	50.98	0.00	50.98	SCC
08 Sept '15	100212	Thames Water	Pavilion	142.65	0.00	142.65	Pavilion
08 Sept '15	100212	Thames Water	Allotments	60.61	0.00	60.61	Amenities
23 Sept '15	100213	Henley Landscapes	Mow Outfield	60.00	0.00	60.00	SCC
23 Sept '15	100213	Henley Landscapes	Mow Field	240.00	0.00	240.00	Recreation
23 Sept '15	100214	Scribe	Finance Licence	234.00	39.00	195.00	Administration
30 Sept '15	100215	Mazars	Annual Audit	240.00	40.00	200.00	Administration
30 Sept '15	100216	Sonning Landscapes	Mow Wharf	28.00	0.00	28.00	Environment
30 Sept '15	100216	Sonning Landscapes	Mow Rec. x1	28.00	0.00	28.00	Recreation
30 Sept. '15	100216	Sonning Landscapes	Trim around lights	30.00	0.00	30.00	Highways
			<b>Months Total</b>	<b>3636.07</b>	<b>79.00</b>	<b>3557.07</b>	

#### 8747: FINANCE (Cont'd).

- b) Report. The finance report would be available at the next meeting.
- c) Twinning Presentation. This had been reported under correspondence.

#### 8748: HIGHWAYS.

In the absence of Mr Evans there was no report.

Mr Fisher and Mrs Jacobs had attended the Eye and Dunsden Parish Council meeting where a representative from OCC had given a presentation on the Playhatch Road. OCC were proposing to raise 200 metres of the road by 1 ft., at a cost of £5-£10M, following the heavy flooding, which had caused a lot of disruption. The works would not take place until April 2016. Mrs Jacobs said there was a lot of pollution in Thames Street, the Clerk would check to see if WBC would provide a monitor. In reply to a question about speed in Pound Lane Cllr Haines said that WBC did not have funding for speed cameras. The Chairman agreed to remove the damaged bollard at the Liguge Way entrance.

#### 8749: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G.

- a) Report. Mrs Pownall had found replacement light bulbs, which had proved to be suitable, and would purchase a small supply.
- b) Safety Checks. Mrs Pownall would check the exercise machines the following day and the Chairman had checked the play equipment.
- c) Water Drain-Off Work. Mr Fisher had spoken with the adjoining landowner about the boundary ditch. The ditch ran into a small channel running down Liguge Way, which was blocked. This needed to be cleared so the water could run freely before any assessment could be made. Interestingly the land behind Beech Lodge was dry and Verti-draining had made a difference to the water levels on the field. Once the channel had been cleared it should be possible to assess which way the water flowed, from where and where to. Clearing the drain seemed to be a good simple way of achieving this was agreed. The Chairman would ask Thames Water for a quote to put a camera down the channel.
- d) Pavilion Drain Works. This was ongoing.
- e) Quotes for the Playground. This could not be progressed until a decision was made about re-locating the large orange swing.
- f) Quote for Wharf Works. Although it had been agreed that most of the work might be carried out it had been agreed that alternative quotes were required before progressing.
- g) S&SE Society Request for Cycle Racks. The Society had asked if they could install cycle racks near the entrance gates. This was agreed in principle but details and a suitable position would need to be agreed.
- h) Dog Fouling. Mrs Pownall was arranging to purchase suitable signs, together with posts as required.

#### 8750: NEWSLETTER.

Following discussion it was agreed that a small format (1 x A4 double sided) would be sufficient. All contributions to be with Mrs Pownall by the first week in November.

8751: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

Allotment Fence. The Chairman had checked the fence and all the supports were very firm, it didn't look very good but it was sufficient.

Mrs Jacobs said that Thames Water had identified the leak I Thames Street but no action had been taken.

8752: ACTION LIST.

The Action List was reviewed and updated.

8753: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The date of the next meeting would be Tuesday 10 November 2015 at 7.00pm.

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