

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the Pavilion, Pound Lane, Sonning, on Tuesday 8 November 2015 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT. Mr A E Farnese (Chairman), Mr T Fisher, Mrs S Jacobs, Mrs P Pownall, Mr I Runnalls.
1 Visitor. Mrs L A Bates (Clerk).

8754: APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS. Apologies had been received from Mr A Evans (Working abroad) and Mr P Morrison (Holiday). The Chairman welcomed all those present.

8755: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

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

8756: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations.

8757: CASUAL VACANCY.

This was ongoing.

8758: SCC REQUEST FOR TWO NEW PRACTICE NETS.

Mr Nick Ray (SCC) said that he was involved in junior cricket, which had been established in Sonning in 2007 with a small number of boys. There were now 130 boys and 10 girls playing in five teams as part of the Berkshire Youth Cricket League. Some boys went on to play in the adult team. The increase in numbers meant that they had outgrown the existing facilities, with as many as 80 playing on practice nights the existing two practice nets were not enough and the demand was over capacity. They had tried a mobile net but this hadn't worked. SCC wanted to install two, full length, cricket nets by the climbing frame next to the tennis courts. Notts Sport had identified this as a suitable location, being both practical and convenient and not in the middle of the field. A photograph was provided, which showed the proposed position, there was a least a 1m gap between the practice nets and the surrounding trees etc. The proposed nets would be twice as long as the existing ones and the cost was £20000 for one and £30000 for two. The existing, short practice nets, were only good for use with a ball machine. The Chairman said the nets were a long way from the toilet facilities but Mr Ray said the pavilion would be used. Mr Fisher asked if turning the existing practice nets would improve things but Mr Ray said this would not provide the additional capacity required. Mr Fisher said that there had been problems with tree roots close to the cricket boundary and Mr Ray said the boundary could be moved and a special base would be installed. SCC needed a quick decision so that grant applications could be made in the next two months, and the nets could be in place by May 2016. SPC were not being asked to make a contribution. It was agreed that, as a Borough Councillor Mr Ray was best placed to find out if planning permission was required. Mrs Pownall said that having girls involved in the sport would help SPC's application for the pavilion funding. Mr Ray said that it had been hoped to have more girls involved but it hadn't happened. Berkshire Cricket were looking for a club champion and this all added up to equal opportunity. The Chairman said that Councillors would need time to consider the proposal and to visit the site. The Clerk would let Mr Ray know the Council's decision on 13 November. The Chairman then asked all Councillors to look at the site and consider the proposals in time to inform the Clerk of their views in time for her to reply to Mr Ray by the deadline.

8759: CORRESPONDENCE

Noise from Heathrow Aircraft. Mr Fisher had responded to the resident's e-mail regarding aircraft noise and had now received a reply. The resident felt that, although wind and busy routes might

8759: CORRESPONDENCE (Cont'd).

have been the problem some years ago, the noise and disturbance had increased and despite denials the flight path had changed. Flights were often significantly lower than the 10000ft quoted by Mrs May MP. The resident said that Maidenhead and Windsor and six other areas had formed action groups to work against the changes and asked that SPC raised the issue with residents with a view to forming an action group. Following discussion it was agreed that with Council membership so low that they did not have the facilities to organise an action group but the resident might be willing to do this. Mr Fisher would respond.

Admissions Consultation Ranelagh School Bracknell. It was agreed that this was outside SPC's area and no comment would be made.

SLTC Request. The tennis club had asked for permission to have regular barbecues at weekends over the summer and this was approved. The tennis club also asked that the hedge screening tennis from the skate-park should be cut back on the tennis side to allow repairs/improvements to the path around the tennis courts. The Clerk would ask Henley Contracting to take a look at what was required.

8760: PLANNING.

a) Report. Mr Runnalls went through the planning list, there had been four approvals, 32 Sonning Meadows (F/2015/0848), 2 Seagrave Close (152012), 9 Glebe Lane (152000), Berks County Sports Club Sonning Lane (152174), Bath Road A4 Relief Road (Bridge No: Mln1 3348) (152297). The Great House at Sonning (152126) had also been approved. Reading Blue Coat School Sonning Lane (152342) F/2014/2319 there had been a split decision (partially approved) with some items still to be satisfied. Sonning Golf Club (150098), had been robustly refused.

b) CIL. Update Training. Mr Fisher, Mr Morrison and the Clerk had attended the training. Many of the larger Council's already knew what they wanted to do with the large amounts of CIL that they would be receiving and had discussed these in detail with WBC. A draft CIL document – Terms of Reference for the Joint Working over the Management of the CIL had been circulated and WBC wanted to know by 28 November if Council's had any comments, or were happy to sign the document. As one of the smallest parishes Sonning would have less buying power than other Council's.

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). The Great House at Sonning (F/2015/0283): 29 Old Bath Road (150735). Reading Blue Coat School Sonning Lane (152342) F/2014/2319 split decision: Little Shire Mustard Lane (152478): Unit 1 Sonning Farm (152363)

The following applications had been approved: 32 Sonning Meadows (F/2015/0848), 2 Seagrave Close (152012), 9 Glebe Lane (152000), Berks County Sports Club Sonning Lane (152174), Bath Road A4 Relief Road (Bridge No: Mln1 3348) (152297): The Great House at Sonning (152126). Reading Blue Coat School Sonning Lane (152342) F/2014/2319 split decision.

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

The following new applications had been received. Birchley Old Bath Road (152701). F/2014/1879. Full application for the proposed erection of 4no dwellings, plus parking, access and landscaping following demolition of the existing dwelling: August Field (152740). Application for proposed discharge of conditions 7, 8 and 10 of granted planning application F/2013/0140: Condition 7 - Material samples Condition 8 – Roof-light windows Condition 10 – Roofing: 20 Old Bath Road (152751). Two storey side and rear extension to dwelling plus conversion of loft space to create habitable accommodation and erection of a new garage.

8761: CONSERVATION AREA ASSESSMENT. WBC had begun the process and had sent the draft CAA out for consultation to other authorities.

8762: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR.

In the absence of Cllr Haines there were no questions.

8763: PARISHIONER QUESTIONS

In the absence of parishioners there were no questions.

8764: FINANCE.

- a) Report. The report was circulated for information.
- b) Half Yearly Figures. Mr Morrison had prepared half yearly figures, which had been circulated
- c) Payment of Accounts.

Mrs Pownall proposed paying the following payments, Mr Fisher seconded and these were unanimously approved.

October

Payments							
Date	Cheque No.	Name	Service item	Gross	VAT	Net	Committee Headings
22 Oct '15	100217	Quadron Services	Dog Bins (July & Aug)	170.04	28.34	141.70	Amenities
22 Oct '15	100218	Henley Landscapes	Mow Field. x 1	240.00	0.00	240.00	RECREATION
22 Oct '15	100218	Henley Landscapes	Mow Outfield	60.00	0.00	60.00	SPORTS
22 Oct '15	100219	RES	Extinguisher	38.10	6.35	31.75	PAVILION
22 Oct '15	100220	SSE	St. Lighting Repairs	298.78	49.80	248.98	LIGHTING
22 Oct '15	100220	SSE	St Lighting M'tnce	727.50	121.25	606.25	LIGHTING
22 Oct '15	100221	Sonning Landscapes	Mow Playground	28.00	0.00	28.00	RECREATION
22 Oct '15	100221	Sonning landscapes	Mow Wharf	56.00	0.00	56.00	ENVIRONMENT
22 Oct '15	100221	Sonning Landscapes	Cut Rec. hedge	75.00	0.00	75.00	RECREATION
22 Oct '15	100222	Henley Landscapes	Field M'tnce	1815.00	240.00	1575.00	SCC
			Months Total	3508.42	445.74	3062.68	

- d) CIL – WBC Draft Agreement. It was agreed that more time was needed to read through the document and a response would be agreed at the planning meeting on 18 November.

8765: HIGHWAYS.

In the absence of Mr Evans there was no report.

Mr Horton (WBC Highways) had sent his notes from the meeting, which had taken place to discuss parking in Pound Lane outside the school. Mr Horton had considered double yellow lines and these would require a TRO and take 18 months to implement. However Mr Horton agreed that on the plus side the parking did keep speeds down. Mr Horton would provide a revised on-street parking layout for discussion in the new-year. Mr Horton understood that the school/parish council would look at possible improvements to parking spaces on the recreation ground as well as a quid pro quo swap for the loss of on-street parking. If WBC did go ahead with additional yellow lines, it would

8765: HIGHWAYS.

be an enforcement issue. The police had limited resources but WBC were looking at the possibility of taking over parking enforcement in approximately 18 months' time. Until then, they would have to work closely with the police to look at road safety / congestion issues whilst acknowledging the police could not enforce everything.

Mr Horton had also agreed to look at some of the advance warning signs along Pound Lane, on either approach to the zebra crossing, and some improvements could be simply to cut back obscuring vegetation and he would provide the results once he had concluded the investigation.

Mr Horton had sent information about the damaged beacon on the Pound Lane crossing, which street lighting were dealing with. They had advised that a replacement beacon was on order, but delivery might take a further 2 weeks. They had ordered a new 'LED'-style beacon, which would increase the visual contrast. Mr Horton had asked that the work be implemented without delay due to the proximity to the school, and said that it would be completed by the end of November (note: completed on 13 November).

8766: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G.

- a) Safety Checks. Mrs Pownall had checked the exercise machines and had looked at the zip wire but could find no fault. The Chairman would speak to Mr Doyle about this.
- b) Water Drain-Off Work. Mr Fisher said that it would be better if the contractors could see the water draining off the field for themselves as they did not seem to fully appreciate the situation. It was agreed to wait and then call the contractors back when there was sufficient rainfall. The Clerk would arrange for a camera inspection of the drain in Liguge Way in order to understand what was causing the blockage. Once this was cleared and the water could flow properly it would be easier to see the direction of the water flow from the field. The Chairman would ask Kelly Noviss to inspect the damaged tree on the boundary.
- c) Pavilion Drain Works. Mrs Pownall said that a convenient time was being arranged so work would not clash with the football clubs.
- d) Quotes for the Playground. It was agreed to ask Playdale to quote for the playground works minus the new piece of equipment and to relocate the orange swing in an alternative position plus a new safety surface.
- e) Quote for Wharf Works. The Great House had agreed to pay for the removal of the remains of the existing hedge, to install a metal fence on the boundary and to plant an 18 inch box hedge on the Wharf side of the boundary. It was agreed that this was acceptable with the proviso that SPC were involved/consulted at all stages. In addition the Clerk had met Mr Collier who had agreed to carry out all the proposed work to the Wharf (previously approved) for £100-£150. This did not include work to the tree leaning towards the River but did include removing the lower branches to the tree nearest the Bridge. The trees work would require permission from WBC.
- f) Dog Signs/Posts. Mrs Pownall had a quote for four suitable signs and posts. Following discussion Mrs Pownall proposed accepting the quote of £276 plus VAT. Mrs Jacobs seconded and this was unanimously approved. Henley Landscapes would be asked to install the signs and the cost.

8767: NEWSLETTER.

Following discussion it was agreed that all contributions should be with Mrs Pownall by the last week in November ready for distribution by mid-December.

8768: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

Safety Checks. The Chairman had carried out the safety checks and there was nothing to report. Allotments. Mrs Jacobs said that the boundary hedge between the allotments and the bungalows needed to be trimmed and the Clerk would ask Mr Collier to do this. Mrs Jacobs said that one of the allotment users was allowing their dog to run loose in the allotments. The Clerk would write to all allotment users to remind them that dogs were not allowed under any circumstances. Mrs Jacobs said that nettles were growing out onto the steps in the Pound. The Chairman would attend to this and suggested that a work party might be arranged at some point.

8769: SONNING COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLAN.

A request to all Parishes to put an Emergency Plan together had been received. Following discussion it was agreed that the existing, informal, communications were very good due to the close knit community and the effective Neighbourhood Watch scheme. A formal scheme was considered to be unnecessary. The Chairman, Councillors and Clerk's contact details were on the web site and noticeboards and the Clerk had the personal contact details of at least one resident in the majority of Sonning roads. In addition the contact details for Sonning School, the Pearson Hall, RBC School, Sunrise and the Golf Club were known to the Chairman, the Clerk or both. It was however agreed to put a map on the web site showing the location of the two defibrillators

8770: WEB SITE.

There was nothing to report.

8771: ACTION LIST.

The Action List was reviewed and updated.

8772: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The date of the next meeting would be Tuesday 8 December 2015 at 7.00pm.
It was agreed that the Chairman would purchase wine and nibbles for the occasion up to £60.

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