

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

PRESENT. Mr A E Farnese (Chairman), Mr A Evans, Mr T Fisher, Mrs S Jacobs, Mr P Morrison, Mrs P Pownall, Mr I Runnalls. By Invitation Irum Gulzar (WBC). 1 Visitor.
Mrs L A Bates (Clerk).

8773: APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS. There were no apologies. The Chairman welcomed all those present.

8774: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

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

8775: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations.

8776: PRESENTATION – WASTE AND RECYCLING.

The Chairman introduced Irum Gulzar, Waste Reduction Officer from the WBC Cleaner and Greener Team, and said that Sonning did support waste reduction, all residents recycled their waste and SPC actively supported and arranged the Annual Litter Pick. Ms Gulzar thanked Councillors for inviting her and said that recycling across the Borough had reached a high at one point but was now down on that peak. It was difficult to understand why and although not down hugely WBC were planning to produce a flyer for every household in 2016 to encourage recycling. England was likely to meet the recycling deadline by 2020 but it might not be possible to meet the landfill deadline. There was a need to improve the landfill system, which was expensive to operate. The EU were currently looking into food waste. WBC were in partnership with Sue Ryder and other charities with regard to recycling household furniture.

WBC had the green bag system, for household rubbish that was not for recycling, and had 40 bottle banks across the area (the closest to Sonning at the Rugby Club) and two recycling centres run by re3, Longshot Lane in Bracknell and Smallmead in Reading. A map showing the location of all sites in the WBC area was on their web site. Mr Doyle said that a new recycling site was now in Sonning Eye at Travis Perkins. The Chairman asked about recycling computers. Ms Gulzar said that there was information on the WBC web site. If left at Longshot Lane they would be sent to specialist companies who would dispose of them. There were two kinds of plastic waste one that could be recycled, the other, including bottle tops and polythene, could not and these items would need to be included in the blue sacks. Juice cartons usually consisted of several layers of different materials and could not be recycled locally. Mr Runnalls asked about jam lids and Ms Gulzar said that she would have a more complete list in January. Composting was being encouraged with monetary incentives. The Chairman said that WBC were in partnership with 1G and Mr Bavystock keep everyone well informed. Mr Morrison asked why Wales and Scotland had better success in achieving their recycling goals and Ms Gulzar said that England had higher targets and also denser populated areas. It was difficult to introduce wheelie bins in areas with long terraces of houses due to lack of space. However England were looking at ways to improve their success. Mr Runnalls said that restricting supermarket packaging would help.

There being no further questions the Chairman thanked Ms Gulzar for an interesting talk and said that she was welcome to stay, however Ms Gulzar thanked Councillors and took her leave.

8777: CASUAL VACANCY.

This was ongoing.

8778: CORRESPONDENCE

Pound Lane – Replacement Street Lantern. SCC had found that the lantern on the streetlamp in Pound Lane was corroded and dangerous and had disconnected it to make it safe. A replacement lamp would cost £522.88 plus VAT. If WBC levied a charge it would cost an additional £26. Following discussion it was agreed that there was no alternative but to accept the quote as the area was now very dark and the lamp needed to be replaced as an emergency.

WBC Draft Scoping Report. The deadline for any comments was 28 December.

Free parking – WBC Area. WBC were again allowing free parking in several of their car parks across the Borough on 5/12 and 19 December. These included the Headley Road, the Crockamwell Road and Lytham Road car parks in Woodley.

WBC Lighting Scheme. Mr White from WBC was to visit Sonning to discuss the possibility of buying into the WBC scheme to replace lighting within the Borough.

Request from Sonning School. The School had asked if a permanent structure could be erected in the Pound to assist with hanging the banners advertising the Christmas Fair etc. The Chairman agreed to arrange this.

No Cold Calling Signs. The Clerk would remind Mr Evans to make contact with Mr Williams in order to agree positioning of the No Cold Calling signs.

8779: PLANNING.

a) Report. Mr Runnalls said that WBC had allocated a new number, with the prefix '15', to some of the old applications. An appeal had been lodged for August Field/Acre Field as WBC had failed to make a decision. Unauthorised occupation of the field next to Model Farm Cottages off the A4 had been made on the previous Friday evening and work had continued over the weekend. Trees and hedges had been removed and 30 plus lorries had delivered hard core to the site. By Sunday evening most of the field had been covered with hard core and tarmac. There was a mobile home and two caravans on the site. Due to the timing, there had been no one to take calls at the WBC offices. WBC were now investigating. Mr Runnalls confirmed that in future all Planning meetings would commence at 6.30 pm.

b) CIL. Update. Having considered the draft agreement that WBC wanted all Parishes to sign up to it was agreed that there were too many unknowns at this stage and that Sonning would prefer to keep its options open and not sign the document. It would review the situation on receipt of any CIL money but would like to be kept informed of any projects in the area that were likely to affect or benefit Sonning. Mr Doyle said that Birchley would be paying £320,000 as their CIL contribution.

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): Birchley Old Bath Road (152701): 20 Old Bath Road (152751).

The following applications had been approved: Foxhill 21 West Drive (152218): Old Redingensians (152743).

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

The following new applications had been received. Manor Barn Charvil Lane (153045). Single storey side extension to dwelling, enclosure of existing carport to form a garage: 47 West Drive (152543). Proposed erection of a two storey front and a single storey rear to existing dwelling: Hillside (1530800) Erection of a single storey rear extension to dwelling, demolition of existing single storey extension.

8780: CONSERVATION AREA ASSESSMENT. There was no further update.

8781: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR.

In the absence of Cllr Haines there were no questions.

8782: PARISHIONER QUESTIONS

Mr Doyle asked what work was being carried out on the Wharf. The Chairman outlined the boundary treatment agreed with the Great House (the old hedge removed ready for a metal fence with one double gate to be erected on the boundary and an 18 inch box hedge to be planted on the Wharf side of the boundary) all at the Great House expense. The flood light on the SPC land would be relocated within the Great House property and the wiring made safe. Only SPC would carry out any future maintenance work to the Wharf at their expense and instruct their own contractors. The main gate would be operated by SPC alone and only opened using the three special keys, which would not be provided for use by any other person. SPC could not deny access to Thames Water, who had a right of access to the pumping station. Permission would be granted to the Great House to use a small digger to remove the old hedge, but under the supervision of SPC. The Clerk would ask for a childproof latch to be installed on the access gate between the two properties. The Chairman said that he was aware that the Lytch gate at the Pearson Road end of the graveyard had been removed and dumped in the hedge. Mrs Jacobs had spoken to a member of the PCC but nothing had been done.

8783: FINANCE.

- a) Report. The report was circulated for information.
- b) 2016/17 Budget. Mr Morrison had circulated the draft budget. Following discussion Mr Morrison proposed adding 1% to the current year's budget, Mr Runnalls seconded and this was unanimously approved. The final Budget would be presented for approval, and the Precept set, at the January meeting.
- c) Payment of Accounts.

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

November

Payments									
Date	Chq. No	Name	Service item	Gross	VAT	Net	Committee	Sub-committee	Account
6 Nov '15	100223	Quadron	Dog Bins	85.02	14.17	70.85	AMENITIES	Dog Bins	Barclays
6 Nov '15	100224	Henley Landscapes	Mow Field 1	288.00	48.00	240.00	RECREATION	Mowing	Barclays
6 Nov '15	100225	Berks Sports	Road repairs	100.00	0.00	100.00	ADMIN	Misc.	Barclays
6 Nov '15	100227	K Trimmings	Litter Oct + part Nov	199.30	0.00	199.30	HIGHWAYS	Litter	Barclays
16 Nov '15	100228	L A Bates	Honorarium Less tax	2580.00	0.00	2580.00	CLERK SALARY	Clerk Salary	Barclays
16 Nov '15	100228	L A Bates	Telephone	40.00	0.00	40.00	ADMIN	Print Post stationary	Barclays
16 Nov '15	100229	Inland Rev.	Tax + NIC	218.36	0.00	218.36	CLERKS SALARY	Tax & NIC	Barclays
				3438.68	62.17	3376.51			

Mr Morrison said that the Sport Licences had not been reviewed for some time and asked the Clerk to put this on the February agenda for discussion.

8784: HIGHWAYS.

Mr Runnalls said that more lorries were going through the village and the Chairman said that some potholes had been repaired. It was agreed to ask Mr Evans to price illuminated speed signs, which CIL money might pay for. Mr Doyle said that the drain outside his house had been dug up.

8785: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G.

- a) Safety Checks. Mrs Pownall had checked the exercise machines and the Chairman had checked the playground. Some of the play equipment would benefit from power washing.
- b) Water Drain-Off Work. The Chairman said that the Liguge Way drain had been checked and was not blocked. The ditches were blocked and needed to be cleared, a work party could do this. The Chairman said that Anne Ballard (WBC Tree Officer) had said that WBC would not cut the dangerous tree down as it was on Mr Barkers land. Following discussion the Chairman agreed to ask Ms Ballard to explain WBC's position (was this was a legal matter or due to lack of funds) before taking any further action.
- c) Pavilion Drain Works. Mrs Pownall said that this was ongoing.
- d) Quotes for the Playground. Wicksteed's had found that there was insufficient space for the large swing to be moved to the suggested position due to the proximity of the drain running down the edge of the field and had suggested moving it next to the wooden climbing frame further up the field. This was not perfect as it was a long way from the playground and close to the proposed siting for the SCC practice nets. Following discussion it was agreed to look at alternative positions before making a decision.
- e) Quote for Wharf Works. There was no further update.
- f) SCC Net proposals. The Chairman said that SLTC had no objection to the proposal but had asked about the noise likely to be generated by 80 youths using the nets. The Chairman said that he was concerned that the position was so far from the facilities at the pavilion and planning permission was required. There were some concerns that the field was being used more and more for cricket to the exclusion of other sports/activities. Mr Runnalls said that the field was dedicated to Sport for All and shared these concerns, perhaps there was a case to limit the expansion of both cricket and football use of the field. On road parking was becoming more and more of a problem associated with the increased use of the field. Mr Fisher suggested that a policy was required and Mr Runnalls said that it had to be recognised that Sonning was a limited facility. Mr Morrison asked if not cricket, what other sport would replace it. Mr Runnalls said that Sport for All meant all sport including small non club activities. Mrs Pownall asked if SCC had indicated what effect it would have if they were not given permission to install the two new practice nets, it was confirmed that this had not been stated. Mr Fisher said that he was not happy about the amount of concrete and Mr Morrison asked what SCC's vision was for their future. The Chairman said that he would like to meet up with SCC, SFC and CFC to discuss their vision for the future to make sure that SPC supported all sports and that the field remained open to all sport. It was agreed that no answer could be given to SCC until the future of the field had been fully discussed and SPC could adopt a policy for the future management of the field.

8786: NEWSLETTER.

Mrs Pownall was completing the final details and the newsletter should be ready for distribution before Christmas.

8787: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

Safety Checks. The Chairman had carried out the safety checks and there was nothing to report.

8787: TECHNICAL SERVICES (Cont'd).

Allotments. Mrs Jacobs said that hedge still needed to be cut and the Clerk agreed to ask Mr Collier to do this.

Meeting with WBC Re: Lighting Upgrade. The Chairman and Mr Fisher would provide the Clerk with convenient dates to meet David White (WBC) to discuss the possible upgrade.

8788: WEB SITE.

There was nothing to report.

8789: ACTION LIST.

The Action List was reviewed and updated.

8790: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 12 January 2016 at 7.00pm.

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