

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the Pavilion, Pound Lane, Sonning, on Tuesday 8 March 2016 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT. Mr A E Farnese (Chairman), Mr A Evans, Mr T Fisher, Mrs S Jacobs, Mr Morrison. Mrs L A Bates (Clerk).

8824: APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS. Mr Runnalls had sent his apologies (abroad). The Chairman welcomed all those present.

8825: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

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

8826: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations.

8727: CASUAL VACANCY.

This was ongoing.

8828: CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from Mrs T May (MP). Mrs May had written with a flooding update. The main change was that the government, working with members of the Association of British Insurers, had developed a scheme called Flood Re which would reduce insurance payments for over 350,000 home owners in flood risk areas. To be eligible the property would need to have been built before 1 January 2009, be insured by the home owner and have a council tax band. Advice would also be available through the Flood Re scheme on the level of flood risk and suggestions for possible ways of reducing the risk.

Request from Neighbourhood Watch. A request to include advice, about dealing with cold callers who ignored the 'No Cold Calling Scheme', on the Council web site had been received. This was approved and the Clerk would advise neighbourhood Watch.

Request for Inclusion on web site. Berkshire Tai Chi had asked to be included on the SPC web site, they now had two classes each week in the Pearson Hall. This was approved with the same conditions as other Sonning organisations (avoid direct advertising) with a link to the Berkshire Tai Chi web site.

Request to Install Memorial Seat on Wharf. This was approved but could not be implemented until the boundary works between the Great House and the Wharf had been completed.

H M the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Medal. A company had provided an example of a medal to mark the Queen's birthday at a cost of £1.99. Following discussion it was agreed not to pursue this.

CCB and Village SOS Meeting. CCB and Village SOS had arranged a meeting to provide information on how they could provide help to further projects benefiting Berkshire villages such as a village hall project or a new community shop. It would need to help projects, or organisations providing a service to their local rural community with a population of under 10,000.

Local Liaison Group (Tarmac) 17 March 3-5 pm. Mr Morrison and Mr Fisher would attend.

8829: PLANNING.

a) Report. In the absence of Mr Runnalls the Chairman said that thanks were due to Mr Runnalls and Mr Morrison for attending the August Field/Acre Field appeal, which had continued for two days. Mr Morrison said that he had only been able to attend on the first morning but had found it very interesting. The Inspector had been very thorough and the appellants had employed a barrister. The result would not be known for some weeks. The Chairman said that the planning committee

8829: PLANNING (Cont'd).

would be considering the revised application for the Pavilion Holme Park Sports. It now included a Hyperbaric chamber, which was not in line with the Planning Inspectors conditions when allowing the appeal. There were strict regulations for medical facilities.

**The following applications were on going:** Acre Field, Charvil Lane (F/2015/0235) (Appeal): August Field and Acre Field Charvil Lane (F/2015/0354) (Appeal): 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): 20 Old Bath Road (152751): Holme Park Farm House, Holme Park Farm Lane (153218): Pavilion, Holme Park Sports Ground (153301) Revised Plans: Land adjacent To Model Farm Cottages Bath Road (153307): Glebelands Thames Street (153390):

**The following applications had been approved:** South Lodge Sonning Lane (F/2014/1832): Redhouse Cottage Pearson Road (152762): Unit 1 Sonning Farm (152363): 47 West Drive (152543). The White House High Street (153369).

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

**The following new applications had been received.** There were no new applications.

8830: CONSERVATION AREA ASSESSMENT.

There was no further update

8831: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR.

In the absence of Cllr Haines, there were no questions.

8832: PARISHIONER QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

8833: FINANCE.

- a) Report. The Report had been circulated and was noted.
- b) Payment of Accounts. Mr Morrison proposed making the following payments, Mr Fisher seconded and these were unanimously approved.

February

Payments							
Date	Cheque No.	Name	Service item	Gross	VAT	Net	Committee Headings
12 Feb '16	100247	Environment Agency	Wharf Licence	51.83	0.00	51.83	ENVIRONMENT
12 Feb '16	100248	Quadron	Dog Bins x 2	196.20	32.70	163.50	AMENITIES
12 Feb '16	100249	Henley Landscapes	Install Dog Signs	160.00	0.00	160.00	RECREATION
12 Feb '16	100250	Mrs L A Bates	Reimbursement – Office Rent	221.00	0.00	221.00	ADMINISTRATION
29 Feb '16	100251	Mrs R Hulley	Litter part Nov + Dec & Jan	345.13	00.00	345.13	HIGHWAYS
29 Feb '16	100242	SSE Contracting	New Light Pound Lane	430.80	71.80	359.00	LIGHTING
29 Feb '16	100243	Henley Landscapes	Fell Tree by school entrance	750.00	0.00	750.00	RECREATION
			<b>Months Total</b>	<b>2154.96</b>	<b>104.50</b>	<b>2050.46</b>	

- c) Donations. Mr Morrison said that Relate had requested a donation, there were £75 in unallocated funds available and proposed allocating £50 to the 2015/16 list. As there were no other request the Chairman seconded and this was unanimously approved.

#### 8834: HIGHWAYS.

Mr Evans said that a letter had been received from Mr and Mrs Plant. Following discussion it was agreed to thank them for their comments and to say the Council were aware of their concerns and that discussions with the Clubs and WBC were ongoing. The Chairman said that he had observed the Club using the inner car park at the school.

Mr Evans said that he has been contacted by local radio concerning No Cold Calling and Trading Standards had also spoken. Mr Evans had been able to answer questions about the positions for the signing and to clarify some misunderstandings that this would affect the Clooney's.

Electronic Speed Indicators. Mr Evans said that Twyford PC had not been involved in the process when a new Speed Indicator had been installed. He agreed to speak to Mr Horton at WBC.

#### 8835: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G.

- a) Report. In the absence of Mrs Pownall there was no report.
- b) Safety Checks. The Chairman said that these had been carried out.
- c) Water Drain-Off Work. Mr Fisher had met Mr Beckinsale to discuss proposed drainage work and Mr Beckinsale had agreed that the eco drain would help the flooding, although it might silt up and need to be cleared regularly. Mr Beckinsale's quote was £1675 and the next quote was for £2100. The Chairman said that Henley Landscapes had quoted £425 to carry out some minor pruning to the tree roots under the swing safety surface and relay the surface, providing the work was done at the same time as the drainage. Following discussion Mr Fisher proposed accepting Mr Beckinsale's quote, and the quote for the safety surface work, the Chairman seconded and this was unanimously approved.
- d) Pavilion Drain Works. Mrs Pownall said that this was ongoing.
- e) Quotes for the Playground. The Clerk would try to obtain quotes for the walkways in the playground as Playdale were not prepared to do this as their equipment was no longer required.
- f) Quote for Wharf Works. There had been no contact from the Great House. Mrs Jacobs said that Henley Landscapes had felled the tree next to the River and left the area neat and tidy.
- g) SPC Meeting with Sports Clubs. This had taken place on Monday 22 February and the Clerk had circulated notes. The Chairman said it had been a productive meeting and the SCC practice nets had been discussed and Mr Ray had clarified that the surface was permeable. It was agreed to put this on the April agenda for discussion. The Chairman said that the Clubs needed to tidy up the compound and pavilion and Mr Ray said this could be done with mutual co-operation.
- h) SLTC Hedge. The Chairman said that he had met the SLTC Chairman and she had said that SLTC had some reservations about removing the hedge, it offered some wind protection and screening from other activities, particularly if the SCC nets were installed in the proposed position. It had been agreed that cutting the hedge down to a manageable height would be preferable and SLTC could then maintain the sides. The Club wanted to put a new footpath from the Club Hut to the courts but the edge of the courts would need to be tidied first.
- i) ROSPA INSPECTION. It was agreed to instruct ROSPA to carry out the annual play equipment inspection as usual.

#### 8836: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

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

Lighting Upgrade. Mr Fisher said that he was updating the spreadsheet and that the WBC scheme would come into operation in April.

Request for Dog Bins. Two requests for additional dog bins had been received, one for the boundary between the Nature Reserve and the RBC School area and one along the towpath beyond the Lock. The Clerk would ask Quadron if they could service the proposed locations.

Allotments. The hedge was looking good and there were no current vacancies.

8837: WEB SITE.

There was no update.

8838: ACTION LIST.

The Action List was reviewed and updated. The Chairman said that there would be no clear up day in March 2016 but he would arrange something later in the year. The Chairman suggested that leaflets could be distributed encouraging residents to tidy up their frontages and that SPC could provide the bags if required.

8839: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 12 April 2016 at 7.00pm. The Clerk would check a date for the AGM.

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