

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the Pavilion, Pound Lane, Sonning, on Tuesday 10 May 2016 at 7.00pm.

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

8856: APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS. Mr Morrison had sent his apologies, having double booked the evening. The Chairman welcomed all those present and stood down for the next item. Mr Runnalls took the Chair.

8857: ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN & DECLARATION OF OFFICE.

Mr Fisher proposed Mr Farnese as Chairman and Mr Runnalls asked if there were any other nominations. There being no other nominations, Mr Runnalls seconded and this was unanimously approved. Mr Farnese then signed the declaration and took the Chair.

8858: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

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

8859: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations.

8760: COUNCILLORS PORTFOLIOS.

The following were confirmed.

PLANNING

**Mr Runnalls (Chair)**, Mr Farnese,  
Mr Fisher, Mr Morrison  
Clerk  
Named substitute: Mrs Pownall

HIGHWAYS

**Mr Fisher (Chair)**, Mr Runnalls,  
Clerk  
Mr Bell, Mr B Hulley, (co-opted)

FINANCE

1. Treasurer
2. Regular Financial Control
3. Budget & Precept.

**Mr Morrison**  
**Treasurer**, Clerk, Mr Williams (co-opted).  
**Treasurer**, Chairman, Clerk. Requests to be submitted by  
Councillors with a spending responsibility.

RFO

Clerk.

TECHNICAL SERVICES W.G. (AMENITIES  
inc PUBLIC TRANSPORT & SPRING  
CLEAN) ALLOTMENTS & WHARF

**Mr Farnese (Chair)**, Mr Fisher.

**Mrs Jacobs**

RECREATION & ENVIRONMENT INC.  
CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND

**Mrs Pownall (Chair)**, Mr Farnese,  
Mr Fisher, Clerk

POLICE & SECURITY

**Mr Evans (Chair)**,

WEB SITE (Inc. Facebook)

**Mrs Pownall**, Clerk.

#### 8761: APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES.

ALMSHOUSE TRUST	Mr Parker (from Feb '09)
SONNING & DISTRICT WELFARE TRUST	Mrs Baldwin (ongoing)
SONNING EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION	Mrs Baldwin (ongoing)
PEARSON HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	Mrs Robinson (Ongoing)
SONNING TWINNING ASSOCIATION	Chairman (ex-officio)
FIRE BRIGADE TRUST	Chairman (ex-officio)

#### 8762: CASUAL VACANCY.

This was ongoing. Mr Runnalls made some suggestions and the Clerk would contact the people involved.

#### 8763: CORRESPONDENCE

Thank you for Donations. Thank you correspondence had been received from all beneficiaries.

August & Acre Field. Mr Chris Rees from Savills had asked for a meeting to discuss plans.

Incorrect Payment from WBC. A payment for another payee had been transferred to the SPC account in error. The Clerk would repay by cheque.

WBC On-line Directory of Services. This was now included on the WBC website.

D of E Volunteering. The RBCS student had thanked the Council but he had been offered, and accepted, another opportunity.

Fire Service Contact for Sonning. Notification had been received that the named person for Sonning was Chris Hastings.

WBC – Re-Consultation on land Availability Assessment Methodology. Comments were invited from 9 May to 5 June.

Volunteer for Speed Watch. The Chairman had spoken to Mr Tony Cowling from South Drive, who voluntarily litter picked in the Marks and Spencer area, and Mr Cowling was prepared to join the Speed Watch volunteers.

The Chairman invited Mr Collier to speak from the audience. Mr Collier explained the repairs required for the damaged car park fencing. The part nearest the main gate would require new posts and the existing had rotted but the rails were reusable, the cost would be £200. The second half, from the gap up to the steps, was being pushed over by the branches from the trees growing in the Dell. Once they were cut back he could straighten the fence. With regards to the rail alongside the steps there appeared to be a post missing and the existing rail had rotted. Following discussion Mrs Pownell proposed, and the Chairman seconded, that Mr Collier should go ahead with the fencing repairs, cut back the tree branches and install a new post and rail for the steps at a cost of £200 for the fencing posts and rails and the price of the step post and rails to be advised as it was a safety issue and had to be addressed urgently. The Chairman proposed and Mrs Pownall seconded, that the Henley Landscapes quote of £600 to remove the tree stump in the children's playground, should be accepted and this was unanimously approved.

The Chairman agreed to check the seats on the Wharf and to dispose of the irreparable one after removing the memorial plaques.

#### 8864: PLANNING.

- a) Report. Mr Runnalls said that 20 Old Bath Road (152751) had been disposed of as there had been no contact from the applicant for some time. The application for signs at the Great House had been approved as had the application for the Pavilion (153301), Sonning Lane. The

#### 8864: PLANNING (Cont'd)

application for Little Shire, Mustard Lane (152478) had been withdrawn but a new application had been submitted. The application for 20 Old Bath Road had been refused.

Mr Runnalls said that he and the Chairman had met Chris Rees who had been retained by Alfred Homes to try to find a solution to the planning problems at August and Acre Field that would comply with the Inspectors comments. Mr Rees had produced a very basic sketch plan showing fewer houses in larger plots. Mr Runnalls and the Chairman had made it clear that they were meeting on a casual basis and were not offering advice or Parish Council support.

**The following applications were on going:** The Great House at Sonning (F/2015/0283): Reading Blue Coat School Sonning Lane (152342- F/2014/2319) split decision: Holme Park Farm House, Holme Park Farm Lane (153218): Land adjacent To Model Farm Cottages Bath Road (153307): Greendown (160641): 31 Old Bath Road (160624): The Rockery High Street (160761): 75 Pound Lane (160794): 61 Pound Lane (160907): 9 Glebe Lane (160926).

**The following applications had been disposed.** 29 Old Bath Road (150735):

**The following applications had been approved:** Pavilion, Holme Park Sports Ground (153301).

**The following applications had been refused.** 20 Old Bath Road (152751).

**The following application had been withdrawn.** Little Shire Mustard Lane (152478).

**The following new applications had been received.** Birchley (160967). Details to comply with the following condition of planning consent 152701 (2/2/2016). 12. Archaeology: Apricus House 4 Garde Road (161046), Erection of a single storey side/front extension to dwelling: 32 Sonning Meadows (160981). Erection of single storey extension to dwelling: Little Gogs (161074). Consultation form EE services for the installation of 2no replacement antenna at heights of 21m above ground level, 1no new 300mm dish at a height of 25.4m above ground level and 1no new cabinet to be installed within existing compound: Sonning Church of England Primary School (161037). Demolition of existing staff toilets, new extension and internal alterations to form new secure entrance and reception area and new staff and disabled toilet. External works to form new parking layout and safer access: Little Shire Mustard Lane (161131). Erection of a single storey rear extension, double storey side extension to dwelling and conversion of garage into habitable accommodation: Hillside Pearson Road (161124). Erection of single storey rear extension to dwelling, following demolition and removal of existing lean to extension (amendment to previous consent 153080): Readingensians (161129). Conditions application for the submission of details to comply with the following condition of planning consent 152743 dated 02/12/15: 3. Details of Materials: Shepherds House Overbridge (161142) Prior approval to replace coping stones and anti-climb works to comply with electrification regulations: Shepherds House Overbridge (161118) Listed building application to replace coping stones and anti-climb works to comply with electrification regulations.

#### 8865: CONSERVATION AREA ASSESSMENT.

Clare Lawrence (WBC), had invited representatives from SPC and S & SE Society to a meeting in order to discuss the status of the CAA. The Chairman, Mr Runnalls and Mr Fisher agreed to attend and it was understood that Mr Hart and Ms Coulter would also attend.

#### 8866: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR.

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

#### 8867: PARISHIONER QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

8868: FINANCE.

a) Report.

The Clerk had prepared a report and it was noted.

- b) Payment of Accounts. Mr Fisher proposed making the following payments, Mrs Jacobs seconded and these were unanimously approved.

PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS MAY '16 (1 TO 30 APRIL)

Date	Chq	Name	Service Item	Gross	VAT	Net	Committee	Sub-committee
5 April 16	273	Inland Rev.	Tax	192.00	0.00	192.00	CLERK	Clerks Salary
5 April 16	273	Inland Rev.	NIC	21.36	0.00	21.36	CLERK	Clerks Salary
19 April 16	274	Son Landscape	Mow Playground	28.00	0.00	28.00	RECREATION	Playground Mow
19 April 16	274	Son Landscape	Mow Wharf	28.00	0.00	28.00	ENVIRON.	Wharf Mowing
19 April 16	275	K Trimmings	Litter March + underpay '16	274.83	0.00	274.83	HIGHWAYS	Litter Picker
29 April 16	276	L A Bates	Pav. TV Licence	145.50	0.00	145.50	SPORTS	Other (SCC)
29 April 16	277	BALC	Subs	396.08	66.01	330.07	ADMIN	Subscriptions
29 April 16	279	Playsafety	ROSPA Inspection.	222.60	37.10	185.50	RECREATION	Playground
29 April 16	280	SSE	New Pound Lane light	627.46	104.38	523.08	HIGHWAYS	Lighting
			<b>Months Total</b>	<b>1935.83</b>	<b>207.49</b>	<b>1728.34</b>		

c) Income and Expenditure Account 2015/16.

Due to unforeseen circumstance these were not available but Mr Morrison would present the final version at the Annual meeting and they would be approved at the June meeting.

d) Appointment of Internal Auditor.

Mr Evans proposed and Mr Morrison seconded appointing Mr Gilson, who had carried this out previously, as the internal auditor and this unanimously approved.

8869: HIGHWAYS.

Mr Evans said that he had been trying to contact Mr Horton at WBC in regard to the electronic speed signs. The Chairman agreed to try. Mr Evans said that the police had information about installing the electronic signs and it was possible to borrow a portable sign from the police. Mr Evans had attended the Neighbourhood Watch meeting but there was not a lot to report. Since the No Cold Calling Zone had been introduced two young men had been seen in Sonning and this had been reported to the police. On the same day a young man had called at Mr Evans home and had tried to push the door open when Mr Evans pointed out the status of Sonning and started to close the door. Mr Evans was in control of the situation and called the police but an elderly person might be more vulnerable to such aggressive behaviour. The police had arrived swiftly and had spoken to the man but other Councillors had seen the pair still in Sonning later in the day. Questions were raised about who could and who could not call in a No Cold Calling Zone (charities, religious etc.). Mr Evans would seek clarification on this. Mrs Pownall said that unwanted clothing could be left at Sonning School for collection on 9 June.

## 8870: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G.

- a) Report. Mrs Pownall said that the ROSPA report had noted that the concrete on the skate park needed to be repaired and Mr Pownall would be asked to look at this. The Clerk would ask Wickstead to look at the large swings. Mrs Pownall said the pavilion had been broken into and she had purchased alarms for the doors and arranged for an electrician to repair the outside security light. SCC had employed a cleaner to clean the pavilion after the footballers and she proposed paying £30 towards this, Mr Fisher seconded and this was unanimously approved. Complaints had been received about the untidy state of the entrance next to the bus stop since the bollards had been damaged and further damage had been done at the same time as the pavilion was broken into. The Chairman agreed to look into replacing the bollards with sleepers
- b) Safety Checks. Mrs Pownall said that these had been carried out.
- c) Water Drain-Off Work. This was ongoing.
- d) Pavilion Drain Works. Mrs Pownall said that the drain had been discovered next to the containers and Mr Pownall had rodded it as far as possible. It was agreed to wait to see if this was sufficient.
- e) Quotes for the Playground. Nothing had been received from the contractor, the Clerk had chased and would chase again.
- f) Wharf Works. The manager had emailed to ask what SPC wanted to do about the verge next to the boundary. Turf would not survive without watering every day. Seed should be ready to cut in approximately 6 weeks and bark would be low maintenance. The Chairman agreed to visit the Wharf and make a decision. Mrs Jacobs said that most of the work had been completed and the Chairman said that it was looking fine and the hedge was beginning to grow. Mrs Jacobs said that the slats on a second seat were loose and needed to be repaired.
- g) Request for a Memorial Seat. A request had been received from the Vice Chairman of SCC following the death of his father, to put a seat on the recreation ground. This was agreed but some details needed to be arranged and Mrs Pownall agreed to do this.
- h) SLTC Hedge. It was agreed to ask Mr Collier to look at the possibility of reducing the hedge.
- i) Request from SCC. Mrs Pownall said that it was the Clubs presidents Day on 28 August and sporting personalities had been invited to attend and a Fish and Chip vendor would be on site. The Club hoped to get up to 500 visitors on the day and asked if they could park on the far end of the field. It was agreed that this could not be permitted.

## 8871: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

Safety Checks. The Chairman had carried out the safety checks.

Lighting Upgrade. Mr Fisher and the Chairman had met Mr White and the price quoted included supply and fitting the new lights. There were 24 metal or concrete lamps and Mr White had stressed that the concrete columns should be replaced urgently due to their age. Mrs Jacobs said that, having seen the Chairman's letter, the Scarecrow committee had indicated that they could pay towards heritage lights in the CA and Mr Fisher said that the Fire Brigade Trust had indicated something similar. There were still one or two lights in the CA that were not of the heritage design. Following discussion it was agreed that, in principle, the concrete lights should be a priority and Mr Fisher would inform Mr White and ask how to progress this.

Request for Dog Bins. ISS had agreed that they would collect dog waste from a new bin on the Nature Reserve/RBCS Reserve once it was installed the Clerk would inform Mr Driver. ISS would be able to empty a new bin on the towpath providing it was no further than 200 metres from the nearest parking area, which was approximately half way between the Lock and the RBCS boathouse. It was agreed that the Clerk would price and order a new bin and post from Glasdon.

8871: TECHNICAL SERVICES (Cont'd).

Allotments. Mrs Jacobs said that rats had been seen in the allotments and the rat catcher had been called in as an emergency. They had begun treatment at a cost of £120 and would return after two weeks to check.

8872: WEB SITE.

It was noted that Mr Fisher's photograph was missing from the Planning Committee and the Clerk would ask Mr Gilmore to rectify this.

8873: ACTION LIST.

The Action List was reviewed and updated.

8874: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 14 June 2016 at 7.00pm. The AGM would be held on 17 May, 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm in the Pearson Hall. Light refreshments would be served from 7.00 pm.

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