

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the Pavilion, Pound Lane, Sonning, on Tuesday 14 June 2016 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. Mrs L A Bates (Clerk). 1 Visitor.

8875: APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS. There were no apologies. The Chairman welcomed all those present.

8776: CASUAL VACANCY.

This was ongoing.

8777: CORRESPONDENCE

Request to Wear Chain of Office. There had been a request for the mayor of Woodley to wear her Chain of Office when attending an official meeting at Sonning Golf Club. The Chairman granted the request.

Letter from S&SE Society Chairman Mr M Hart. Mr Hart was in attendance and the Chairman invited him to speak about the issues he had raised in his letter.

Parking in Sonning Lane. The safety risks resulting from the huge amount of student parking in Sonning Lane remained a concern. The Society had met the RBCS Assistant Bursar in December 2015 and he had indicated that RBCS were exploring the possibility of increasing the parking on the Berkshire CC Sports Club car park. There were safety concerns due to the use of the car park by the RBCS coaches. The Society had offered to participate in talks with WBC and SPC but there had been no response. Mr Hart said that he understood that WBC were to take action in 2017. The Chairman said that there had been some co-operation from WBC, and a representative had attended a meeting to discuss the parking in Pound Lane during term time and weekends when sport was being played. Suggestions included marking out car park spaces in the SPC car park. Mr Horton (WBC) had indicated that a solution for Sonning Lane might materialise in about a year but had also said that WBC considered that the parking slowed traffic down. Mr Runnalls said that there was a long stretch of parking and this was an accident waiting to happen. Mr Hart referred to a previous traffic WG group which involved SPC and the Society and suggested that this might be reconstituted. The Chairman said that the earlier suggestion from the Society had been too general and at that time there was nothing specific to focus on. However there were now issues with parking at the two schools and also at the Great House and it might be better to work together to look at possible solutions. If parking at the Great House was not resolved it would have an effect on Sonning Roads. There were just too many cars in Sonning. Mr Hart suggested that, as the sports car parks in Sonning Lane were not used during the day, it might be possible for the schools/Great House to make use of these, with perhaps a shuttle service. It was agreed that a small (two from each organisation) joint WG should be set up, Mr Hart would discuss this with the Society and let SPC have a list and SPC would appoint two representatives and a meeting could then be agreed following which Mr Horton would be contacted.

St. Andrews Acre. This was now on the market and the Society were concerned about its future use/demolition. The building was not listed but had a great historical significance, the exterior hid its origins, and the Society would like to see it listed in order to protect it. Mr Hart had spoken to Mr Runnalls who had some experience with listing. The Society were now considering the options.

Fire Brigade Trust. The Chairman had attended a meeting of the Trust. Funding the PTA, the new cricket nets and Beech Lodge toilets had been discussed and approved. It had been agreed to put funding the cricket nets on one side until the result of the planning application was known.

## 8878: PLANNING.

Report. Mr Runnalls said that application on land adjacent to Model Farm Cottages had been withdrawn due to incorrect certificates being submitted with the application. WBC's legal team had checked the application and found this fault. An identical application (161565) had now been submitted. Cllr Haines said that he would be listing the application for the same reasons he had given on the previous identical application.

**The following applications were on going):** Reading Blue Coat School Sonning Lane (152342-F/2014/2319) split decision: Holme Park Farm House, Holme Park Farm Lane (153218): Greendown (160641): 31 Old Bath Road (160624: 32 Sonning Meadows (160981): Sonning Church of England Primary School (161037): Little Shire Mustard Lane (161131): Hillside Pearson Road (161124): Readingensians (161129): Shepherds House Overbridge (161142): Shepherds House Overbridge (161118).

**The following applications had been approved:** The Great House at Sonning (F/2015/0283: The Rockery High Street (160761): 75 Pound Lane (160794): 61 Pound Lane (160907: Birchley (160967): Apricus House 4 Garde Road (161046:

**The following applications had been refused.** 9 Glebe Lane (160926).

**The following application had been withdrawn.** Land adjacent To Model Farm Cottages Bath Road (153307).

**The following applications had received WBC comments:**

**The following new applications had been received:** Sonning Golf Club (161529) Outline application for the erection of 13 dwellings with associated highway works, public open space and landscaping (Approval sought for Access): Holmelea, Sonning Lane (161591) Single storey rear extension to dwelling plus front extension to create garage space.: 20 Old Bath Road (161638) Erection of a two storey side and rear extension to dwelling and reposition of existing garage: Microsoft Campus Thames Valley Park (161733) erection of 1no internally illuminated suspended logo sign and 1no non-illuminated wall mounted aluminium panel sign: 43 West Drive (161755) single storey rear extension and front first floor dormer extension to dwelling: Land adjacent to Model Farm Cottages (161565) Use of land for the stationing of caravans for residential purposes for 2no gypsy pitches together with the formation of utility/dayrooms and hardstanding ancillary to that use.

## 8879: CONSERVATION AREA ASSESSMENT.

Mr Runnalls said that the meeting with Clare Lawrence had taken place and he had been in attendance with Mr Fisher the Clerk, Mr Hart and Ms Coulter. Ms Lawrence had explained that having looked closely at the document she believed that it should not be a SDL but would be better placed as an evidence base and would be similarly placed as the WBC Landscape Assessment. If the CAA were adopted, it would carry significant weight as a material planning consideration. There was some unease about this and it was agreed that the Clerk should write to Ms Lawrence asking for clarification. Mr Hart said that Ms Lawrence had said that the adopted CAA would be used when considering applications. Cllr Haines said that Shinfield had some experience and could offer advice and suggested and that someone should speak to them.

## 8880: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR.

The Chairman said that he was aware that a meeting had taken place to discuss the new bridge. Cllr Haines said that this had been arranged by Rob Wilson and was a forum to present the latest figures from the traffic study to the authorities paying for this. It had showed the effect the bridge would have on Oxfordshire roads and had looked at a much wider area than originally intended. Any bridge would be expensive and would require government funding. Cllr Haines said that WBC had made Bob Wyatt an Honorary Alderman in recognition of his many years of service.

## 8880: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR (Cont'd).

Wokingham had also secured transitional funding, which would help now that government funding was being cut. Mr Runnalls said that the My Council system was not responding. Cllr Haines said that WBC had adopted a bio scheme into its grass mowing programme. Mr Runnalls said that this looked good at Woodford Park but there were some reservations about how acceptable it would be on main roads

## 8881: PARISHIONER QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

## 8882: FINANCE.

### a) Report.

The Clerk had prepared a report and it was noted.

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

#### PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS JUNE '16 (1 TO 31 MAY) PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS JUNE '16 (1 TO 31 MAY)

Date	Cheq. No.	Name	Service Item	Gross	VAT	Net	Committee	Sub-committee
10 May 16	281	Henley Landscape	Mow Field	245.00	0.00	245.00	RECREATION	Rec Main Mowing
10 May 16	282	Benchmark	Picnic Table	492.00	82.00	410.00	RECREATION	Misc.
10 May 16	283	K Trimmings	Litter April	150.00	0.00	150.00	HIGHWAYS	Litter
10 May 16	284	S Pownall	Excavate Drain & Clear	650.00	0.00	650.00	PAVILION	Pavilion Mtnce
10 May 16	285	A E Farnese	AGM Wine	56.10	0.00	56.10	ADMIN	Admin Misc
			<b>Months Total</b>	<b>1593.10</b>	<b>82.00</b>	<b>1511.10</b>		

### c) Income and Expenditure Account 2015/16.

Mr Morrison proposed the Income and Expenditure accounts, Mr Runnalls seconded and these were unanimously approved.

### d) Annual Return.

Mr Morrison proposed and Mrs Jacobs seconded approving the Annual Return and this was unanimously approved.

## 8883: HIGHWAYS.

Mr Evans had spoken to Mr Horton and outlined the options available for electronic speed indicators. Option one was to share the WBC mobile sign and option two was to share one that the police had. Mr Evans had registered Sonning for both options. The next step would be to get the speed team together. Mr Horton had suggested speaking to the Hurst Chairman to see what they

### 8883: HIGHWAYS (Cont'd).

had done. He was away so Mr Evans would contact the Clerk to find out when the Chairman returned. Mr Evans would circulate any reply he received. Mr Evans said that he would like to put the speed signs in Pound Lane and Sonning Lane first. Mr Evans hoped to have all the information by July and that the signs would be up by September.

Mrs Pownall asked if there was anything on the Pound Lane parking. The Chairman said that the football club was proposing to put cones up in Pound Lane when the season started in September, it was worth trying.

### 8884: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G.

- a) Report. Mrs Pownall said that Mr Pownall was to look at the skate-park concrete and that the pavilion drain appeared to be working.
- b) Safety Checks. Mrs Pownall said that she would do the following day.
- c) Water Drain-Off Work. Mr Fisher would provide the Clerk with a plan of the area.
- d) Quotes for the Playground. Nothing had been received from the contractor, the Clerk had chased and would chase again.
- e) Wharf Works. The Chairman said that children were using the new Great House fence as a climbing frame. Mr Fisher said that there were four seats on site but only one was serviceable, which would be reinstalled by the Great House gardener. The Chairman would take the damaged seats away but retain the plaques.
- f) SLTC Hedge. Mr Collier and Henley Contracting had both provided quotes around £1500, which might change depending on what was discovered once work began. Henley Landscapes were not confident that the appearance of the hedge would be acceptable and would prefer to scrub the hedge out and to use netting as a temporary screen while a new hedge grew. The Chairman said that the tennis club were against removing the hedge. Following discussion the Chairman proposed accepting Mr Colliers quote, Mrs Pownall seconded and this was unanimously approved.
- g) Request from SCC. Mrs Pownall said that it was the Clubs presidents Day on 28 August, 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.

### 8885: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

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

Lighting Upgrade. Mr Fisher had confirmed that SPC wanted to replace the twelve concrete lamps first. The Chairman said that the idea would be to change the lamps which needed to be replaced urgently and then replace the others. Mr Fisher said that two of the concrete lamps were in the Conservation Area and said it might be preferable to replace them with heritage lamps as per the Council's policy. Following discussion Mr Fisher proposed replacing ten of the concrete lamps, the Chairman seconded and this was unanimously agreed. There had been some interest in making some funding available for heritage lamps.

Request for Dog Bins. A new dog bin from Glasdon (the same type as existing bins) would be £250. Mr Fisher proposed purchasing the bin for the towpath, the Chairman seconded and this was unanimously approved.

Quote for Posts. The Chairman had priced sleepers for the Pound Lane/Liguge Way entrance and they were £100 each. The Chairman would draw up a plan of the area for the Council's approval.

8886: TECHNICAL SERVICES (Cont'd).

Allotments. Mrs Jacobs said that it appeared that some allotment holders were bringing non-composting materials and putting it into the composters. This would continue to attract rats and the Clerk would write to allotment holders. Following discussion the Chairman proposed and Mrs Jacobs seconded introducing a rat maintenance scheme at an approximate cost of £175 and this was unanimously approved. Mrs Jacobs said that the allotment hedge needed to be trimmed back and the Clerk would ask Mr Collier to do this.

8887: WEB SITE.

It was noted that the Chairman's telephone was still incorrect on the web site and the Clerk would remind Mr Gilmore.

8888: ACTION LIST.

The Action List was reviewed and updated. The Chairman said that, as part of the cleaner air scheme, Reading had turned the traffic lights off in West Street.

8889: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

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

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