

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the Pavilion, Pound Lane, Sonning, on Tuesday 14 February 2017 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT. Mr A E Farnese (Chairman), Mr T Fisher, Mr I Runnalls. Cllr M Haines (WBC) part time. Mrs L A Bates (Clerk). No Visitors.

8987: APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS. Apologies were received from Mr A Evans, (indisposed), Mr P Morrison (holiday) and Mrs P Pownall (unavoidably detained). The Chairman welcomed all those present.

8988: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

The Minutes of the last meeting were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

8989: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of Interest.

8990: CASUAL VACANCY.

This was ongoing.

8991: CORRESPONDENCE

Shiplake & Dunsden British Legion. A request to publish their newsletter had been received from this branch of the Legion. As there was a Sonning branch this branch did not represent Sonning but two parishes in South Oxfordshire. Following discussion the Chairman agreed to contact the Sonning branch to see if they wished to publish anything on the web site.

Junior Football. A request had been received from Woodley Zebra's to play on KGV Field on Saturday mornings. This would clash with Charvil FC and even if the senior pitch could be used there would be parking difficulties. It was agreed to refuse the request at the present time.

Request from Inspector Alastair Lloyd. Following on from his request when he attended the Council meeting in October, Inspector Lloyd had again asked if SPC would make a £200 contribution to the Community Speed Watch Speed Indication Device (SID). Following discussion it was agreed that, as SPC were considering the purchase of their own speed device, they were unable to make a contribution at this time.

Wildflower Planting. Mr Baveystock had been asked by Cllr Ross to contact the Clerk about grants for planning wildflowers. Mr Baveystock said that the scheme was primarily for WBC owned areas but he would be happy to visit Sonning and to provide advice. Mr Fisher said that Mr Driver had advised him that the Pound was quite wet and therefore not suitable for wildflowers, they preferred a drier area and the area around the Pound was more suitable. If this was undertaken Mr Driver wanted to choose the flowers and take care of their management. The Chairman would contact Mr Baveystock to arrange a meeting.

Dog Bin Emptying. The contractors would increase their charge by 2 %. This was in keeping with inflation and they offered an excellent service.

The Great House. The manageress had suggested a meeting to discuss the new car park plans. The Clerk would arrange this for week commencing 20 February. The Clerk agreed to contact Mr Woodward, Chairman Eye and Dunsden PC, about the proposed new car park in Sonning Eye.

Berkshire Flag. The Society had been approached to support the registration of a flag for Berkshire, the Society had already offered this support. This was noted and the Chairman said that he understood that 'Royal' counties such as Berkshire needed the Queens consent.

Castle Water. Thames Water would be transferring their business customers to Castle Water in April 2017 and would make all necessary arrangements.

8992: PLANNING.

Report. The Chairman said that the appeal at Land adjacent to Model Farm Cottages was of concern. Cllr Haines said that WBC had a robust Traveller Policy and that his representative would speak on his behalf, if held locally. The WBC officer and a WBC lawyer would attend the hearing.

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): South Meadow Cottage (161434): Inniscara 15 Holmemoor Drive (163105): 32 Sonning Meadows (163244): 37 Pound Lane (163258): 8 South Drive (1634488

The following applications had been approved: Sonning Church of England Primary School (163312): Grove Cottage (163418): 43 West Drive (163513).

The following applications had been refused. Little Tudor (162805).

The following applications had been withdrawn. 31 West Drive (163113): The Old School House (163053).

The following new applications had been received. St Andrews Church (170283). Non-material amendment to planning consent F/2014/0049 (28/3/2014) to allow changes to approved landscaping proposal: Willowmere Bath Road (170093). Erection of a first floor side extension, conversion of garage and loft to create habitable accommodation to dwelling with rear dormer and roof lights: 7 Glebe Lane (170248). Erection of a single storey rear extension to dwelling: Land Adjacent to Manor House (170301). Change of use of existing office to two dwellings including a single store extension and associated works.

8993: CONSERVATION AREA ASSESSMENT.

There was nothing new to report.

8994: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR.

There were no other questions for Cllr Haines.

8995: PARISHIONER QUESTIONS

There were no questions from parishioners.

8996: FINANCE.

- a) Report. The Clerk had prepared a report which was noted. Cllr Haines said that WBC were likely to increase Council Tax by 2% and the government would allow a further 2-3 % so it could rise to 5%. WBC and Windsor and Maidenhead were to amalgamate their social care services. Cllr Haines also said that he would not be standing at the next election in 2009.
- b) Payment of Accounts Mr Fisher proposed and Mr Runnalls seconded making the following payments and these were unanimously approved.

PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS FEBUARY '17 (1 TO 31 JANUARY)

Date	Chq	Name	Service item	Gross	VAT	Net	Committee	Sub-Comm.
19 Jan 17	353	ISS	Dog Bins	129.20	21.53	107.67	ENVIRON.	Dog Bins
19 Jan 17	354	Mrs Hulley	Litter ½ Nov+Dec	240.00	0.00	240.00	HIGHWAY	Litter
19 Jan 17	355	Son. Land	SLTC Hedge	1800.00	0.00	1800.00	REC	SLTC Hedge
19 Jan 17	355	Son. Lands	Clear Wharf	28.00	0.00	28.00	ENVIRON	Wharf mtnce
19 Jan 17	356	Mr Farnese	Christmas	19.98	0.00	19.98	ADMIN	Admin Misc.
19 Jan 17	357	SEC	St Light m'tnce	718.58	119.76	598.82	LIGHTING	Maintenance
19Jan 17	357	SEC	St Light repair	135.31	22.55	112.76	LIGHTING	Repairs
			Total	3071.07	163.84	2907.23		

8996: FINANCE.

- c) Allocation of CIL Funds. This would be discussed at the March meeting.

8997: HIGHWAYS.

Electrical Speed Indicator. Mr Fisher said that there had been some confusion about the speed limit in Pound Lane. Mr Horton had assumed that the 20 mph limit was only active while the flashing school warning signs were operating. The measurements showing the speed of traffic was therefore 50% above the speed limit rather than the 15% it would be in a 30mph zone. Mr Fisher hoped that the police would now become involved. Cllr Haines said that Thames Valley police would not monitor traffic speed in 20mph zones. Mr Fisher said that he was getting mixed messages about fixing the SID to shaped lampposts (which would be replaced in the near future). Having spoken to Chris Spinks it had become clear that the brackets could be fitted to columns between 140mm and up to 200mm, fitting the brackets was something that anyone could do. There was only one mini SID that showed excess speed, it could flash at speeds over 20mph and would light up at speeds over 30mph. The batteries would last for three weeks. The Clerk would check the insurance situation, proving this was satisfactory Mr Fisher proposed purchasing the mini SID, complete with a data collection unit and additional brackets (to enable the mini Sid to be moved to different locations) at a cost of £3000 plus VAT, the Chairman seconded and this was unanimously approved. Mr Fisher said that it was necessary to complete a form to have the flashing 'school' warning signs on at the correct times. Mr Fisher would also ask the residents of Parkway Drive about the overhanging greenery.

8998: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G.

- a) Safety Checks. The Chairman had checked the equipment.
- b) Pavilion. In the absence of Mrs Pownall Mr Fisher said that he and Mrs Pownall had met with representatives from SCC and CFC, this had been very amicable. Mrs Pownall had drawn up a list of priorities for the new pavilion, and some changes to the existing plans would be required. Mrs Pownall would report on these at the March meeting and was now concentrating on fundraising.

8999: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

Safety Checks. The Chairman had carried out the safety checks in the playground and would also inspect the exercise machines. The contractors had not completed the installation of the new swing and the Clerk would chase this up.

Lighting Upgrade. Mr Fisher said that the designs for the heritage lights had been received and provisional prices were £410 for the basic model and up to £600 for the embellished model. Nine heritage lamps were required in the Conservation Area, plus four in other areas and another four modern lamps were also required. The Chairman proposed and Mr Fisher seconded purchasing these at a cost of £6710. A light in West Drive had been found to be in a poor condition when SEC had carried out a recent repair. The Clerk would write to the West Drive Residents Association informing them of this and the cost to replace it and five other lamps in West Drive under the WBC scheme.

Quote for Posts. The Chairman said that the planters had legs and were not suitable, he had however seen an example which were available at Travis Perkins and would cost these.

Allotments. There was no update.

9000: NEWSLETTER. The Chairman would undertake this.

9001: WEB SITE.

There were no updates.

9002: ACTION LIST.

The Action List was reviewed and updated.

9003: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 14 March at 7.00pm.

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