

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the Pavilion, Pound Lane, Sonning, on Tuesday 10 October 2017 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT. Mr A E Farnese (Chairman), Mrs P Pownall, Mr I Runnalls. Mrs L A Bates (Clerk).
Cllr M Haines (part time), 2 Visitors.

10008: APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS. Apologies were received from Mr T Fisher (holiday), Mrs Jacobs (bereavement) and Mr Morrison (double booked). The Chairman welcomed all those present.

10009: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no Declarations.

10010: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

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

10011: CASUAL VACANCY.

Mrs Jan Fielder and Mr Jamie Green were in attendance and the Chairman welcomed them both. Mrs Fielder said that she had been in business when she lived in London and had lived in Sonning for 12 years. She enjoyed being involved and had volunteered in the Scouts, currently volunteered at Sonning Primary School and was the secretary of the local Neighbourhood Watch. Safety of the village was a concern and her pet hate was rubbish/litter. Mrs Fielder said that she was reliable but did take a lot of holidays. Mr Green said that he had lived in Sonning since 2012 and loved the village and community. He had a daughter at the Inglewood Nursery School and wanted her to grow up in a safe environment, wanted to make a contribution to the community and to give something back. Mr Green said that he lived opposite KGV Field and worked from home. His main concerns were speeding traffic, drivers using Sonning as a rat run and vehicle parking. The Chairman said that there was a need for transparency in all matters to do with the Council, there were constant battles with WBC over planning, highways etc., which could lead to some frustrations. Following a brief discussion both Mrs Fielder and Mr Green agreed that they would like to be co-opted onto the Council. The Chairman proposed co-opting Mrs Fielder and Mr Green, Mr Runnalls seconded and this was unanimously agreed. The Chairman congratulated both candidates and the Clerk would copy the Code of Conduct and supporting papers to them both ready for signing at the November meeting.

10012: CORRESPONDENCE

Request to install memorial seat on the Wharf. Unfortunately Mr Wynn-Jones had died suddenly and his son wished to put a seat on the Wharf in his memory, this could either be a wooden seat or a re-cycled plastic seat. Following discussion the request was agreed for a wooden seat.

Letter to Minister regarding land supply in Wokingham. Barkham PC had written to the Minister of Communities and Local Government, Sajid Javid, regarding the numbers of houses being forced upon them and the way housing numbers were assessed. Barkham said that planning approvals were outstripping the number of houses being built, much of this due to developers holding onto land as an investment. Cllr Haines said that not only Barkham were affected, Wokingham was one of the hardest being hit in the country and ways of forcing developers to build were under consideration. Reading and West Berkshire had their targets but could load some of their housing onto adjoining areas who did not. There was pressure across the country to build on green belt and WBC were arguing with the Planning Inspectors about this.

10012: CORRESPONDENCE (Con't)

Local Plan Update. Claire Thurston (WBC) had asked for two representatives from Sonning to attend a meeting to discuss the site options for Sonning, now that they had been assessed. The Chairman and Mr Fisher would attend. Ms. Thurston had their emails in order to arrange this.

Veteran Tree 10th Anniversary. A Report to mark the anniversary would be launched on 24 October at 7.30pm in the St. Paul's Parish Rooms in Wokingham. Everyone was welcome.

Hard Copy of Plans. WBC would no longer send out hard copies of planning applications except for developments of 10 houses and above. Even for these only a location plan and layout would be provided and all reports would have to be read online.

Civil Parking Enforcement. WBC had circulated Information on this by email. Wardens would carry out some enforcement but Parishes would have to pay if they needed more than the minimum number of visits. WBC could not prosecute vehicles obstructing traffic, this was a police matter.

Adults Using Zip Wire. It had been reported that adults were using the zip wire. The Chairman would speak to Mr Doyle about a notice to discourage this.

Invitation to Sports Awards 24 November. This would take place at the Bulmershe School at 7.00pm for 7.30pm. Light refreshments would be served at 7.00pm. Mrs Pownall said that no one had been interested in being nominated for an award.

10013: PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

6 Hawthorn Way. The Chairman had visited the site and spoken to the neighbour, who had concerns about the plans, which appeared to be incorrect. The extension was too close to the boundary and would block the only light to the neighbour's kitchen. The Chairman said that this was a large extension, the scale and massing would overpower the neighbouring property, was too close to the boundary and would result in the loss of the neighbours existing amenity. Following discussion it was agreed to object to the proposal for all the above reasons.

10014: PLANNING.

Report. Mr Runnalls said that the following had been approved: RBCS (171780): 33 West Drive (172054) and 27 Glebe Lane (172380). There were two application to be discussed at the next planning meeting, 4 West Drive (172841), and the Church Gates (172756).

The following applications were on going: Reading Blue Coat School Sonning Lane (152342-F/2014/2319) split decision: The Lawns Old Bath Road (171424): Hope Cottage 11 Pound Lane (171651): 20 Glebe Lane (172347). 12a South Drive (172579). The Old House (172189). Acrefield (172583): The Atrium Thames Street (172637): Appeal Great House Car Park (APP/X0360/W/17/3179871).

The following applications had been approved: Pavilion Holme Park (170964): August Field (170894): RBCS (171780): 27 Glebe Lane (172380): The Bungalow, Sonning Lane (172569).

The following applications had been refused. No applications had been refused.

The following applications had not been proceeded with. Holme Park Farm ((153218).

The following new applications had been received. 26 Sonning Meadows (172603). Application for the prior approval of the erection of single storey rear extension, which would extend beyond the rear wall of the original by 4m for which the maximum height would be 3.38m and the height of the eaves 2.5m. 03/10: 6 Hawthorn Way (172715). Householder application for the proposed erection of two storey side/rear extension plus single storey front extension, extension to the first floor front dormer and single storey front extension to enlarge porch: The Great House (172697). Full application for the proposed construction of replacement canopy over restaurant terrace following removal of existing canopy: Reading Blue Coat School (172485). Application for submission of details to comply with the following condition of planning consent 170118 (dated 18/4/17) - 8. Process and means of updated Travel Plan. No deadline – SPC not consulted but

10014: PLANNING (Cont'd).

Travel Plan to be with WBC by 18/10 Pool Court Appeal (APP/X0360/W/17/3180148): 4 West Drive (172841). Certificate of Lawfulness for the proposed erection of outbuilding: St. Andrews Church (172756). Full planning application for the erection of electrically operated steel gates.

10015: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR.

The Chairman said that he was to meet Cllr Norman Jorgensen to discuss the drains in Thames Street and High Street. Cllr Haines said that Thames Street was to be closed for three days in November to allow work to be carried out on the drains and the Chairman said that this might be an opportunity for SEC to install replacement lights on the Bridge. Cllr Haines said that he would be standing down at the next election in 2019, a replacement had already been chosen. Mr Green asked if a speed camera could be erected in Pound Lane near the school. Cllr Haines said that these cameras cost £89,000 and Mr Green suggested that the income generated from the camera could off set the cost. Cllr Haines said that unfortunately the fines went directly to the government and WBC could not recoup the cost. However if offenders chose to undergo driver aware course then any money generated would go to WBC.

10016: PARISHIONER QUESTIONS.

There were no questions.

10017: FINANCE.

- a) Report. The Clerk had prepared a report which was noted.
- b) Payment of Accounts. Mr Runnalls proposed and the Chairman seconded making the following payments for September and these were unanimously approved.

PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS OCTOBER '17 (1 TO 30 SEPTEMBER)

| Date | Chq | Name | Service item | Gross | VAT | Net | Committee | Sub-Comm. |
|----------|-----|--------------|--------------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|
| 12/09/17 | 422 | Sonning Land | Mow Playground | 60.00 | 0.00 | 60.00 | RECREATION | Mow Play |
| 12/09/17 | 422 | Sonning Land | Mowing Wharf | 56.00 | 0.00 | 56.00 | ENVIRONMENT | Mow Wharf |
| 12/09/17 | 423 | ISS | Dog Bins August | 156.00 | 26.00 | 130.00 | ENVIRONMEN. | Dog Bins |
| 12/09/17 | 424 | Henley Land | Main Mowing | 490.00 | 00.00 | 490.00 | RECREATION | Main Mow |
| 12/09/17 | 425 | S Pownall | Bus Shelter repair | 1050.00 | 0.00 | 1050.00 | HIGHWAYS | Shelter repair |
| 12/09/17 | 425 | S Pownall | Skate Park repairs | 125.00 | 0.00 | 125.00 | RECREATION | Maintenance |
| 21/09/17 | 426 | ISS | Dog Bins April | 156.00 | 26.00 | 130.00 | ENVIRONMENT | Dog bins |
| | | | Total | 2093.00 | 52.00 | 2041.00 | | |

10018: HIGHWAYS.

Mr Fisher had sent a report in his absence.

Withdrawal of School Crossing Patrol. Mr Fisher had reported that he would be attending a meeting at 8.15am on 18 October with Cllr Chris Bowring, Claire Borsberry-Lewis and Luke Henderson. The Chairman would also attend.

Speed Indicator. Mr Fisher had said that there had been no more downloads but he already had evidence to support the need for an improved crossing (above). Mr Runnalls would be looking after the indicator in Mr Fisher's absence and Mr White had been informed that the indicator was mounted on a street lamp in case WBC intended to replace that lamp.

10018: HIGHWAYS (Cont'd).

Speed/Lorry Watch. Mr Fisher was still waiting for the police check and Inspector Lloyd had apologised for their tardiness.

HGV Watch. Mr Fisher and the Chairman had spent 2 hours checking for overweight vehicles on 27 September but none had appeared. Mr Fisher was proposing to follow up on the ANPR reports (currently with TV Police) and to encourage reports from residents. The Chairman said that it was difficult to identify overweight vehicles and Cllr Haines said that there were illustrations on the WBC web site. The Chairman said that Mr Fisher had reported an Eddie Stobart, heavy vehicle, to the owners, who had assured him this was a one off.

Sonning Lane Parking. Following receipt of proposals from Mr Horton RBCS had written to support them and SPC and the S & E Society had been asked for their views. The RBCS head teacher was to meet with Reading Rugby Club with a view to pupils using their car park. Cllr Haines said that once WBC became responsible for parking enforcement there would be 10 wardens monitoring this on scooters. Wardens would visit Sonning but Sonning would have to pay for any additional visits. In regards to responding to Mr Horton, Mr Runnalls said that he was concerned about additional signing and double yellow lines and everyone agreed but were generally in support of the scheme and would prefer a three hour maximum parking limit and conservation yellow lines. The Clerk would respond to Mr Horton to this effect. Cllr Haines said that if a scheme were agreed by WBC the final approval would be up to the Chief Police officer. The Chairman said that the increased business at the Coppa Club had led to a huge increase in parking in Sonning and this was bound to lead to an accident. Cllr Haines said that WBC did not want to install additional road humps or chicanes and Mr Green asked how traffic could be managed. Cllr Haines said that if the police supported the scheme they ought to police it.

Removal of Road Humps. Mr Fisher had said that he had heard nothing further but Mrs Plant was investigating.

10019: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G.

- a) Safety Checks. Mr Farnese had inspected the play equipment and said that he and Mr Fisher would arrange to clean it. The Clerk had chased Proludic about the quote but nothing so far.
- b) New Pavilion. Mrs Pownall said that she had emailed the project manager and was awaiting a reply. The Chairman said that he would prefer to wait until more Councillors were present but following discussion he proposed spending up to £2,000 on the pavilion plans, Mr Runnalls seconded and this was unanimously approved. Mrs Pownall had asked an electrician to repair the pavilion lights.
- c) SCC Practice nets. The Chairman said that SCC would be closing the nets ready for the winter.
- d) Improvements to Approach Road to KGV Field. Mr Farnese said the plan was to move the old shelter so it fronted the road and formed a barrier. This would provide a safe route for children. Mr Runnalls agreed to check out the condition of the existing shelter.
- e) SLTC Lighting. The Chairman said that he had asked for a scheme from SLTC so that this could be fully discussed with residents.
- f) Quote for Horse Chestnut Trees. Henley Landscapes had quoted £25 per hour to clear and remove the fallen leaves from the trees. They thought this would take approximately 4 hours per session and 4 to 5 sessions would be needed over the winter. Following discussion Mrs Pownall proposed accepting the quote, Mr Runnalls seconded and this was unanimously approved.

10019: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G. (Cont'd)

g) Repairs to Field and Pitch Use. The Clerk had emailed the CFC Chairman following the last meeting and Mrs Pownall had received a reply from Paul Barnes who was concerned about CFC's future at KGV Field. Mrs Pownall would reassure Mr Barnes that their position was secure.

Mrs Pownall said that CFC had been given fobs to open the new school gates. Mr Green said that the parking seemed to be working and things had improved.

10020: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

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

Lighting Upgrade. Mr Fisher had reported that there had been some new installations already and further installations were expected together with the heritage-style lamps. This would complete the 2 year project and the 6 heritage-style lights in West Drive were also expected in the near future.

Hedge Trimming Pound Lane. This had been done.

10021: POLICE AND SECURITY.

Mr Fisher had attended the Nag meeting at Piggott Academy.

10022: ACTION LIST.

The Action List was reviewed and updated.

10023: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

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

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