

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the Pavilion, Pound Lane, Sonning, on Tuesday 12 June 2018 at 6.00pm.

PRESENT. Mr A E Farnese (Chairman), Mr T Fisher, Mr J Green, Mr P Morrison, Mrs P Pownall.  
3 Visitors. Mrs L A Bates (Clerk).

10149: APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS. Apologies were received from Mrs Fielder (unwell).  
The Chairman welcomed all those present.

10150: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no Declarations.

10151: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

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

10152: PLANNING APPLICATION CEDAR COTTAGE THAMES STREET (181196).

Due to the amount of interest in this application the Chairman allowed this item to be brought forward. The Chairman said that there were concerns that the recent presentation of the proposal had been some time after the plans had been submitted. The proposal would not cure the parking problem and would exacerbate the problems associated with the substandard access. There were also concerns about the fine example of a Cedar tree, which would be affected and the development of a rear garden. Cllr Haines had listed the application in case it was refused, which prevented SPC from asking for it to be listed if the application was approved. The Chairman said that this application was of such importance that he was proposing to engage Tony Thorpe, Planning Consultant, to represent SPC. It was necessary to defend the Conservation Area. Mr Fisher said that he was on the joint SPC/Society working group and they had been shown the draft plans in October. Having seen the recent proposals he was of the opinion that the proposal didn't enhance or preserve the Conservation Area and as a tree man he was very concerned about the beautiful Cedar tree and that it would not survive the intensive use in the centre of a car park. He had spoken to Alison Griffin about the Cedar of Lebanon who had agreed that it was a very large tree. WBC had carried out a radar survey, which showed that cars would be parking on the tree roots. The plans were misleading and the tree spread was greater than shown. The tree was in category B and had a 20-30 year life expectancy. The Great House had worked hard to find a solution, they had got in touch, but they had limited options, which they were aware of. Mr Green said that this was very annoying, the owners knew the limitation of the site when they purchased it. They couldn't get bigger if they didn't have the space. In the short term one or two fewer vehicles would be parked around the village but in no time the spaces would be full again, the business was destroying the Conservation Area and didn't add much to the village. There was also the question about the future of Cedar Cottage, the options would be very limited as a dwelling. All day drinking was becoming an issue with drinkers spilling out onto the River area. With such unlimited expansion there was no point in having a Conservation Area. Mr Morrison agreed and said that the proposal did not enhance the Conservation Area and the loss of the tree was of great concern. Mrs Pownall said that she agreed and had nothing further to add. The representative of the company managing the flat adjoining Cedar Cottage said that Blandy solicitors had realised the gravity of the situation. The car park butted up to the swimming pool and the car spaces was substandard. The Great House had owned the properties that he managed but had sold them off, limiting their options and Cedar Cottage would be uninhabitable with a car park in its garden. Mr Thorpe said that he had considered the proposal and his four initial thought for refusal were: 1. Commercial car park represented overdevelopment and failed to preserve and enhance the Conservation Area and would have a detrimental harm,

## 10152: PLANNING APPLICATION CEDAR COTTAGE THAMES STREET (181196) (Cont'd).

contrary to R22 of the Borough Design Guide. 2. Bad neighbour, intensification of vehicle movement would conflict with the adjoining resident's current enjoyment. 3. Increased use of sub-standard access and lack of turning space for commercial vehicles. 4. Public safety and devalues the Conservation Area. Mr Doyle said the proposal demonstrated the lack of consideration for the local people and showed total disregard for residents and the Conservation Area. A similar disregard was shown by the Rugby Club's proposal to turn its car park into a park and ride for TV Park. The proposal had been stopped by the owners of TV Park who had been concerned about the effect of the proposal. Following discussion it was unanimously agreed to object to the proposal. The Chairman then proposed employing Mr Thorpe to represent the Parish Council, to prepare strong objections to the proposal and to represent the Council at the Planning Committee for a maximum fee of £1,000, Mr Green seconded and this was unanimously approved.

## 10153: CORRESPONDENCE

Potential Councillor. Mr Green had spoken to an acquaintance who had shown an interest in joining the Parish Council. It was agreed that Mr Green would ask his acquaintance to supply some information and reasons for joining the Council for circulation to Councillors prior to the next meeting and would invite her to the July meeting.

Mr Green said that he would like the Parish Council to engage more with the children at the school, perhaps explaining how the Council worked.

Beech Lodge Licence. Mr Morrison offered to compare the three versions and come up with definitive version for the July meeting.

Councillors emails. The transfer from the original SPC email had not been completed. Once done the Clerk would send test emails to ensure that everyone was able to receive the new versions.

Allotment Complaints. There had been more complaints about the untended allotment and it had been suggested that SPC removed the weeds. The Chairman said that he would speak to the allotment holder most affected. None of the allotments were perfectly maintained, he would check out the Allotment Agreements and ensure that everyone complied with the requirements.

Boat on Wharf. The owner of the boat had been identified as an adjoining resident. It had now been moved although there had been some resistant to doing this. If the boat reappeared he would speak to the resident.

Invitation to Discuss Wharf Rubbish with Great House Manager. Mr Fisher had indicated a willingness to attend a meeting. The Chairman suggested that a note asking people to take their rubbish home and also one saying overnight mooring only should be installed on the Wharf. The Chairman would ask Mr Doyle for a price.

Housing Needs Survey. The Chairman agreed to look at this WBC document.

Red Ensign. The Chairman would like to locate one of these flags.

## 10154: PLANNING.

Report. The Chairman said that the application at Hope Cottage 11 Pound Lane (171651) had been approved.

**The following applications were on going:** The Great House (172697): Pool Court (180445): Pool Court (180445): August Field (180623). 22 Pound Lane (180090). The Atrium (180770): 16 Sonning Meadows (180876): The Atrium (180857): 12a South Drive (180372): August Field (81082): 67 Pound Lane (180965): The Great House (181058): 20 Glebe Lane (181095).

**The following applications had been approved:** Hope Cottage 11 Pound Lane (171651):

10154: PLANNING (Cont'd).

**The following applications had been withdrawn.** No applications.

**The following new applications had been received.** 21 Glebe Lane (181156). Householder application for the proposed erection of single storey side and rear extension following demolition of existing shed. 13/06/18: Cedar Cottage Thames Street (181196). Full planning application for the proposed change of use of land from residential garden to car parking ancillary to the Great House. 15/06/18: Wheildon Parkway Drive (181264) Householder application for the alteration of front projection roof from hip to gable. 20/06/18: Nutshell 4 Thames Terrace (181298). Householder application for single storey rear extension to dwelling. 05/07/18: Home Park Farm House (181161). Full application for the partial demolition and re building of existing all weather indoor manege and stables including relocated and extended barn, ancillary office and trainee accommodation. 10/07/18.

**The following Appeals were ongoing:** Sonning Golf Club Appeal (APP/X0360/W/17/3167142). Outline application for the erection of 13 dwellings with associated highways work, public open space and landscaping. Approval sought for access. Sonning Field Sonning Lane Sonning (APP) Full planning application for the proposed gravelled car park with 41 spaces including 2 disabled spaces with associated new fencing and entrance gates.

10155: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

There were no further questions for Cllr Haines.

10156: PARISHIONER QUESTIONS.

There were no questions.

10157: FINANCE.

- a) Report. The Clerk had prepared a report which was noted. The Clerk reported that she was not receiving hard copies of the monthly bank statements
- b) Payment of Accounts. Mr Morrison proposed making the following payments, Mr Fisher seconded and these were approved unanimously.

**PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS JUNE '18 (1 TO 31 MAY)**

| Date     | Chq | Name         | Service item     | Gross          | VAT           | Net            | Committee | Sub-Comm.      |
|----------|-----|--------------|------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|-----------|----------------|
| 12/05/18 | 497 | ISS          | Dog Bins         | 156.00         | 26.00         | 130.00         | ENVIRON   | Dog Bins       |
| 26/05/18 | 498 | Henley Land  | Mowing Main      | 252.50         | 0.00          | 252.50         | REC.      | Main Mowing.   |
| 26/05/18 | 499 | Sonning Land | Mow Play x2      | 30.00          | 0.00          | 30.00          | REC.      | Play Mow       |
| 26/05/18 | 499 | Sonning Land | Mow Wharf x2     | 56.00          | 0.00          | 56.00          | ENVIRON   | Wharf Mow      |
| 26/05/18 | 500 | ZEN          | Domain Name      | 71.86          | 11.99         | 59.87          | ADMIN     | Subscription   |
| 30/05/18 | 501 | Castle Water | Allotments       | 8.68           | 0.00          | 8.68           | ENVIRON   | Allot. Water   |
| 30/05/18 | 501 | Castle Water | Rec.             | 10.63          | 0.00          | 10.63          | SPORT     | Square Water   |
| 30/05/18 | 501 | Castle Water | Pavilion         | 31.77          | 0.00          | 31.77          | SPORT     | Pav. Utilities |
| 30/05/18 | 502 | Castle Water | Replace 491      | 0.00           | 0.00          | 0.00           | SPORT     | Allotment      |
| 30/05/18 | 503 | ISS          | Dog Bins         | 156.00         | 26.00         | 130.00         | ENVIRON   | Dog Bins       |
| 30/05/18 | 504 | BALC         | Subscriptions    | 431.53         | 71.94         | 359.59         | ADMIN     | Subscriptions  |
| 30/05/18 | 505 | Henley Land  | Main Mowing      | 252.50         | 0.00          | 252.50         | REC.      | Main Mowing    |
| 30/05/18 | 506 | Pest UK      | Allot Rats 17/18 | 182.40         | 30.40         | 152.00         | ENVIRON   | Allot. Rats    |
| 30/05/18 | 507 | ISS          | Dog Bins 17/18   | 129.20         | 21.53         | 107.67         | ENVIRON   | Dog Bins       |
|          |     |              | <b>Total</b>     | <b>1769.07</b> | <b>187.86</b> | <b>1581.21</b> |           |                |

#### 10157: FINANCE (Cont'd).

c) Annual Return- Governance Statement 17/18.

The AGAR part 3 had been circulated and Councillors considered questions 1 to 9 on page 4. Mr Morrison then proposed, and the Chairman seconded, that Sonning Parish Council had complied with the statements and all yes boxes should be ticked. This was unanimously approved and the Chairman, and Clerk signed the Governance Statement.

d) Annual Return – Accounting Statement 17/18

Councillors considered the Accounting Statement. Mr Morrison then proposed, and the Chairman seconded, that the Accounting Statement should be approved. This was unanimously approved and the Chairman and Clerk signed the Statement

e) New Signatory.

This was ongoing.

#### 10158: HIGHWAYS.

School Crossing Patrol. Mr Fisher said that it was doubtful that WBC would be considering an upgrade crossing but this had been included on the draft Pound Lane survey form. The proposed extension of the 20mph zone up to the A4 was included on the survey and an s.a.e. would be included in the envelope to encourage replies. The Clerk would photocopy the forms and provide 140 envelopes. Mr Fisher would address the envelopes and he would deliver in Pound Lane along with Mr Green. Mrs Pownall would deliver in Parkway Drive. Mr Fisher and the Chairman would chase WBC about the replacement light for the existing crossing.

Speed Indicator. Mr Fisher said that this was on order and he had completed the form with additional information, the company would contact Mr Fisher when the device was ready to install. Mr Fisher would be changing the battery towards the end of the week when he would download the data. Other possible locations for the new device were South Pound Lane, Sonning Lane and Thames Street.

Speed/Lorry Watch. Mr Fisher had visited Thames Valley Police and had been given the key to the police station. The next stage was to visit Crowthorne for a demonstration along with others who had been vetted. Two trained and vetted people had to be present for any Speed Watch session accompanied by untrained volunteers.

Mr Fisher had spoken to PC Mark Smith about obtaining lorry numbers from the LNPR cameras but PC Smith was now doubtful if any useful information could be obtained.

#### 10159: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G.

- a) Safety Checks. Mrs Pownall said that the exercise machines had been checked. Mrs Pownall had been approached by the mother of a junior CFC member asking that SPC cut the field so that the juniors could practice over the summer. As there was no agreement for the juniors to play over the summer it was agreed that anyone using the field could not expect a standard of mowing other than that provided. The Clerk would mention this to Paul Barnes.
- b) Pavilion. Several emails, between SCC and other interested parties, had been circulated to SPC regarding funding possibilities for the pavilion. Cost of £500,000 had been mentioned and ways of raising the funds had been suggested, including a triathlon. The Chairman was keen to have a joint meeting with the sports Clubs.

10159: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G. (Cont'd)

- c) Seat by Skate Park. The Clerk had obtained up to date prices for a seat to match the existing SPC seats. The 'Victorian' seat would cost £495 plus VAT with delivery, £74, and VAT. A SPC logo would cost £180 for the cast, which could then be used on any additional seats at a cost of £145. Plus VAT. Delivery was 5-6 weeks. Following discussion Mr Green proposed purchasing the seat including the logo and delivery, Mrs Pownall seconded and this was unanimously approved.
- d) ROSPA Report. The Chairman, Mr Fisher and Mr Green would check out the recommendations when cleaning the play equipment.
- e) Pound Hedge. Mr Collier would be asked to cut this.
- f) Parkway Drive Hedge. This was ongoing.

10160: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

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

Lighting Upgrade. Mr Fisher said that he would contact Volker about installing the hoods to one or two lights and to repair the damage to the Liguge Way light. Once these had been completed he would check the numbers.

Allotments. The Chairman was dealing with this.

10161: WW1 TRIBUTE.

The Chairman had spoken to Mr Mark Green, who was Chairman of the British Legion and he was keen to get involved. Plans would include a BBQ, a beacon, music (tickets would be sold. A design for the beacon was under discussion.

10162: POLICE AND SECURITY.

Mr Fisher said that a lady car owner living in the High Street had contacted him about her parked car being hit by a passing vehicle. The vehicle had driven off and then returned without stopping. Mr Fisher would report this at the NAG meeting on 21 June.

10163: NEWSLETTER.

The Chairman said that he would be producing a Chairman's Letter and asked if anyone wished to contribute anything.

10164: WEB SITE.

Mr Morrison said that the latest edition of the e-newsletter had been issued.

10165: ACTION LIST.

This was reviewed and updated.

10166: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 10 July at 7.00pm

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