

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the Pavilion, Pound Lane, Sonning, on Tuesday 12 March 2013 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT.

Mr P J Doyle (Chairman), Mr A Evans, Mr A E Farnese, Mrs T Hicks, Mr S D Liddiard, Mrs P Pownall, Ms V Reeve, Mrs L A Bates (Clerk). By invitation Clare Rebbeck (WBC).

APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS.

Mr I Runnalls (abroad). The Chairman welcomed everyone

8207: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of Interest.

8208: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

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

8209: CASUAL VACANCY

The casual Vacancy created by Mr Green's resignation had been advertised but there had been no call for an election within the prescribed time. WBC had confirmed that the Council could now co-opt a new member to fill the vacancy.

8210: CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR.

The Casual Vacancy created by the resignation of Dr Robinson had not been filled, which meant that there were now two vacancies. Mr Alec Evans had indicated his willingness to join the Council and had spoken at the February meeting. Mr Farnese proposed co-opting Mr Evans, Ms Reeve seconded and Mr Evans was co-opted unanimously. The Chairman welcomed Mr Evans.

8211: NEW COUNCILLOR'S DECLARATION OF OFFICE AND ABIDE BY THE CODE

Mr Evans signed the Declaration of Office and to Abide with the Code and the Clerk witnessed this.

8212: COUNCILLORS RESPONSIBILITIES.

These were reviewed and updated. Mr Evans agreed to take over the Police and the Highways Portfolio's.

8213: CORRESPONDENCE

Tony Gubba. The Chairman reported the sudden death of Mr Gubba a well known sports commentator who lived in Pearson Road. The press had asked for a comment and it was agreed to say that the Council extended their deepest condolences to Mr Gubba's family.

SLTC. Mr Scott the SLTC Chairman had e-mailed to say he had a quote of £290 to repair the potholes and asked if SPC would pay. It was agreed that this would need to be looked at more closely. Mr Liddiard would report back at the April meeting.

Allotment Tree Quote. There was a dead tree on the allotment boundary and another was causing concern. Having carried out an inspection Canon Tree care had quoted £285 plus

8213: CORRESPONDENCE

VAT to remove both. Mr Farnese proposed accepting the quote, Mr Liddiard seconded and this was unanimously approved.

Wharf Willow. P J Lush would be carrying out work to the Willow on 28 March.

Urban Pollinators Project. SPC had permitted this project to take place in 2012 but due to the wet weather more observations were required in 2013. Following discussion this was agreed.

Nuisance Correspondence. The Chairman said that the Council would need to decide how to respond to repeated or nuisance correspondence which could be time consuming and wasteful of resources.

Clare Rebbeck Wokingham Borough Voluntary Sector Forum. The Chairman had agreed that Ms Rebbeck should speak to the Council although her request had been too late to be included on the agenda. Ms Rebbeck thanked the Chairman and said that corporate funding might be available for the pothole project and she would speak to her colleague about this. Teams of up to 30 volunteers could be available. Ms Rebbeck said that she had been appointed as the WBVSF Development Worker and could offer support, communication and development assistance to groups and charities. New free support was available via The Chain newsletter, WBVSF lunches and their website. Legal advice about charity registration and understanding the responsibility of trustees would be provided. The Chairman asked about the Scarecrow Committee and Ms Rebbeck said that she could assist them if they wished to register. Funding was available to groups and once registered with WBVSF they would receive the monthly newsletter. Providing contact with individuals and groups helped prevent social isolation and would be cost effective in the long run. Parish Council's could also benefit as could all community groups, Ms Rebbeck would be willing to visit and talk to village groups to provide information. It was agreed that SPC could advertise the WBVSF facilities and resources. Mr Liddiard thanked Ms Rebbeck and congratulated her on her enthusiasm. Ms Rebbeck then took her leave.

Following discussion it was agreed to put the information on the notice-boards and to ask Ms Rebbeck to write an article for inclusion in the next SPC newsletter.

8214: PLANNING.

Planning List. The Chairman said that the partially demolished wall to the front of 24 West Drive looked very untidy. The adjoining property Blandings had permission to build an Orangery.

Greendown. When the archaeological search had been carried out to comply with planning conditions some Saxon items had been found. The new owner of the building site had laid a concrete base for a shed and Mr Mann had been asked to check as it could be seen from the road.

2 Sonning Meadows. Mr Liddiard had been approached by the immediate neighbour who had expressed some concerns about the proposal and had decided to object.

August Field. Cllr Haines had put a precautionary listing in place in case the officer was minded to approve the proposal. The Ecological Report had criticised Mr Driver comments as providing no proof although Mr Driver knew the area well.

WBC new Policies. WBC had submitted the MDD DPD and an Inspector had been appointed for the examination in public.

The following applications were ongoing: 1 Sonning Gate (F/2012/1398) 32 West Drive (F/2012/1435) 19 West Drive (F/2012/1468) Greendown Pearson Road (C/2012/2390): The Granary Charvil Lane (F/2012/2440): Redingensians RFC Old Bath Road (F/2012/2425): 31 Pound Lane (F/2013/0117).

8214: PLANNING (Cont'd).

The following applications had been approved: Old Forge Cottage Pearson Road (F/2012/2384 & LB/2012/2385).

The following applications had been refused. There were none.

The following new applications had been received. 15 West Drive (F/2013/0135) Erection of single storey rear extension and rear decking area. Demolition of existing conservatory/garden room: 2 Sonning Meadows (F/2013/0137) Single storey rear extension to dwelling: August Field Charvil Lane (F/2013/0140) Erection of 4 no dwellings with gardens parking and improved access following demolition and removal of existing dwelling and outbuildings.

8215: CONSERVATION AREA ASSESSMENT.

The Chairman said that the public Consultation period would end on 24 March but would be extended to 28 March for the Society. The final report, including photographs, should be ready for may/June. The Society had asked WBC for a copy of an approved Assessment and had been given one for Dudley. There had been concerns about the suggestions for the access to the Bull included in the report. Mrs Hicks said that the link from the website to the audio visual display at the exhibition had been completed. The Chairman said that Mr Siney would be giving a talk about local historical buildings on behalf of the Society.

8216: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR.

In the absence of Cllr Haines there were no questions.

8217: PARISHIONERS QUESTIONS

There were no members of the public present.

8218: REPLY TO ICO.

Following discussion the Chairman proposed sending a copy of the notes of the closed part of the meeting held on 12 June 2012 to Mr McCulloch, Mr Liddiard seconded and this was unanimously approved. The Clerk would copy the reply to the ICO.

8219: PROPOSALS FOR QUEENS JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS.

The Chairman said that requests for funding were still current.

Mr Farnese proposed paying £235.61 for the display boards etc for the Conservation Area Exhibition, Ms Reeve seconded and this was unanimously approved.

8220: FINANCE.

- a) Report. The finance report was circulated and noted.
- b) Budget Mr Green had provided the updated Budget figure agreed at the January meeting. Mr Farnese proposed accepting these, Mrs Pownall seconded and these were unanimously approved.

8220: FINANCE (Cont'd).

- c) Payment of Accounts. Mrs Hicks proposed making the following payments, Ms Reeve seconded and these were unanimously approved.

February 2013

Purco Print – C A Leaflet	75.00
Sonning Landscapes – Mow Wharf	26.00
Mrs R Hulley – Litter Jan	145.83
BALC – Training	80.00
Quadron – Dog Bins Nov '12	83.56
Inland Revenue – NIC + Tax	275.82
Quadron – Dog Bins Dec + Jan	167.16
Mrs Pownall – Compound keys	<u>5.50</u>
	858.69

8221: HIGHWAYS.

There was no report. The Chairman said that he and Mr Farnese had attended the Major Projects Meeting at WBC and had complained about the potholes in Liguge Way. They had spoken to Gareth Wisemans about the poor surfaces in Charvil Lane and he had said that this was due to a thin layer being used in the last resurfacing. Mr Wiseman had said that he would do his best. Mrs Pownall said that she had a response from 'go local' about the potholes in Liguge Way. In fact this was not a highways responsibility but property services. Mr Evans said that he would be prepared to take on the Highways portfolio and this was enthusiastically approved.

8222: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G.

Mrs Pownall said that SCC had cleared the boundary as agreed but it transpired that it was owned by Mr Barker. The confusion arose as there was a double hedge and the outside hedge was the boundary. Mr Barker had said that he intended to put a fence up but would insert a gate so that SCC could retrieve lost balls. The mower had developed a small fault and had gone for repair. The BBC wanted to film Ali's pond as part of an environmental programme and it was agreed that Mrs Pownall could sign the permission form. The Wharf gate could be opened in spite of the lock and Mr Pownall would secure it. A screwfix chain would be purchased if necessary. Mrs Pownall said that a meeting would be arranged to agree the weed and feed programme.

Safety Checks. Mr Farnese had been inspecting the play equipment and had found no faults.

8223: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

- a) Report. Mr Farnese and Mr Liddiard had carried out a street lighting check. Two lights were out and a third was scheduled for replacement. Mr Liddiard would provide the Clerk with a full list.
- b) Overgrown hedges. There had been a complaint about the overgrown hedge in Hawthorn Way, the Chairman said that it was essential that it was cut back but WBC had made no progress. It was agreed that the Clerk would write pointing out the problems and asking the owner to cut the hedge back to his boundary. The Chairman would check it out and also a similar problem on the opposite side of Pound Lane.
- c) Wharf Refurbishment. Mr Farnese said that it had been discovered that there was an existing 9ft wide path which had been covered by the hogging path. Mr Farnese was

8223: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

proposing to excavate this old path, improve and resurface it. It would need to be raised up and widened. Improvements to the Wharf had been delayed due to weather conditions and it had become a matter of urgency. Mr Farnese proposed spending up to £2,500, including wooden edgings, on improving the path. Ms Pownall seconded and this was unanimously approved.

8224: POLICE AND SECURITY.

There was no update.

8225: RENOVATIONS TO HIGH STREET WATER PUMP.

Mr Fry had arranged to meet a local company, and the Clerk, on site but they had failed to turn up. Mr Fry had e-mailed details to the contractor so he could visit the site at his leisure and Mr Fry would report back once he had further information. One concern was that the local contractor did not do sand blasting on site, which could mean transporting the pump.

8226: NEWSLETTER.

The closing date for articles was 18 March. The publication date was likely to be after the Easter break.

8227: WEB SITE.

Mrs Hicks said that the minutes, agenda and Conservation Area had all been updated. A link to Mr Runnalls for the lorry watch was planned. Newsworthy items such as the new Councillor, the weak bridge and a photo of the re-pointed barn in Thames Street would be added as they arose. Details of the 'call local' system would be included as would the rounder's match, the APM and the Litter Pick weekend. The idea of including obituaries was discussed. Mr Farnese said that he would attend the WBC Campaign Against Waste meeting.

8228: ACTION LIST.

This was reviewed and updated.

8229: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next Meeting would be held on Tuesday 9 April 2013. The date of the Annual Parish Meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 21 May 2013 in the Pearson Hall.

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