

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the Pavilion, Pound Lane, Sonning, on Tuesday 14 May 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, Mr I Runnalls, Mrs L A Bates (Clerk). By invitation Cllr M Haines (WBC) and Ms V Reeve. 1 Visitor.

Ms Reeve said that, if there were a vacancy she could return to the Parish Council in September when her family commitments would be reduced. Ms Reeve would be prepared to take over the web site again in September and she would assist with the web site in the meantime. Mrs Hicks said that she would help establish the web site but would stand down in September. The Chairman said that he would like to thank them both.

APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS.

There were no apologies. The Chairman welcomed everyone.

8250: ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN.

Mr Farnese took the Chair for this item and said that he would like to propose Mr Doyle as Chairman as he had done an excellent job since becoming Chairman in February. Mr Runnalls seconded and this was unanimously approved. Mr Doyle said that it was a privilege to work with such hard working people.

8251: CHAIRMAN'S DECLARATION OF OFFICE AND TO ABIDE WITH THE CODE.

The Chairman signed the Declaration of office and to Abide with the Code and the Clerk witnessed this.

8252: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

Mrs Hicks said that minute 8247, line one should read '*based on Namo Web Editor 8*' rather than '*Microsoft Web Expressions*'. The Minutes, having been amended and previously circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

8253: MINUTES OF THE 2012 ANNUAL MEETING.

The Minutes of the 2012 Annual Meeting had been circulated for information.

8254: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations.

8255: CASUAL VACANCY

The Chairman said that two candidates had expressed an interest in joining the Council. Mr John Hargrave was present and the Chairman asked him to explain his reasons for joining the Council. Mr Hargrave said that he had lived in Sonning for about sixteen years; his son had attended the Inglewood Nursery School and was now attending the Blue Coat School. He would like to make a contribution and was interested in highway safety and preserving the Conservation Area. He was Chairman of the Sonning Regatta Committee and hoped to find ways of making this a more inclusive village experience. He was involved in the Local Enterprise Partnership, which could influence government spending. Cllr Haines said that WBC was part of the LEP.

8255: CASUAL VACANCY (Cont'd)

WBC was part of the LEP. The Chairman asked if Councillors were prepared to support Mr Hargrave joining the Council at the June meeting and this was unanimously agreed.

8256: COUNCILLORS PORTFOLIOS.

PLANNING

Mr Doyle (Chair),
Mr Farnese, Mrs Hicks, Mr Liddiard,
Mrs Pownall, Mr Runnalls,
Clerk Named substitute:

HIGHWAYS

Vacant (Chair), Mr Runnalls,
Clerk

Mr Bell, Mr B Hulley, (co-opted)

FINANCE

Regular Financial Control

Chairman, Clerk.

Mr Williams (co-opted).

Budget & Precept.

Chairman, Clerk. Requests submitted by
Councillors with spending responsibilities.

RFO

Clerk.

TECHNICAL SERVICES W.G. (AMENITIES
inc PUBLIC TRANSPORT & SPRING CLEAN)

Mr Farnese (Chair), Mr Doyle.

RECREATION & ENVIRONMENT INC.
CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND

Mrs Pownall (Chair), Mr Farnese,
Mr Liddiard. Mr Pascall (co-opted) Clerk

POLICE & SECURITY

Mr Evans (Chair),

WEB SITE

Mrs Hicks (Chair), Clerk.

8257: APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES.

ALMSHOUSE TRUST.

Mr P Parker (from Feb. '09)

SONNING & DISTRICT WELFARE TRUST

Mrs J Baldwin (Ongoing)

SONNING EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Mrs J Baldwin (Ongoing)

PEARSON HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

M/s Robinson (ongoing)

SONNING TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Chairman (ex officio)

SLTC

Vacant

TWYFORD AGE CONCERN

Mr McCulloch (Ongoing)

FIRE BRIGADE TRUST.

Chairman (ex-officio)

8258: DEFIBRILLATOR.

The Chairman invited Ms Reeve to explain about the proposal for a defibrillator. Ms Reeve said that there was a need for defibrillators across the UK; it was proven that they saved lives with over 140,000 sudden cardiac arrests each year. The potential for saving life was dependant upon time, the faster medical help could be attained, the better the chance of survival. The proposal was to install a cabinet, 50x33x16 cm, to hold one in the telephone kiosk outside the Pearson Hall. The Community Heartbeat Trust would supply the 'Cardiac Science G3' defibrillator, which would come with a guarantee and awareness sessions (training). The cost would be £1900 plus £25 delivery, which would include the defibrillator, cabinet, pads a jacket and other essential items. The electricity for defibrillator was supplied via a battery, which could be charged from the electricity supply in the telephone box. BT had an agreement with Community Heartbeat Trust to supply the electricity free of charge for the first seven years, which was the expected lifetime of the defibrillator. Ms Reeve and Mr Evans were trained and one person would act as a caretaker to inspect the defibrillator on a weekly basis and to file a report, which would provide up to date information to the ambulance service as to whether the defibrillator was in working condition. They could then inform the person dialling 999 where the closest working defibrillator could be found. The ambulance service would provide a code to open the box to access the defibrillator and talk the person through the process, anyone could use the defibrillator regardless of training Mrs Hicks asked what the statistics for use were and Ms Reeve said that she could obtain these and she understood that Sonning School were considering having one at the school. Ms Reeve said there was a long order time and an electrician would be needed to connect up. The Chairman thanked Ms Reeve and said that the Parish Council should make an application for funding to the Fire Brigade Trust and Ms Reeve or Mr Farnese could do a presentation for them. Mr Evans said that the idea could be explained at the Annual Parish Meeting.

8259: CORRESPONDENCE.

Scarecrow Committee. The Clerk had written asking the Scarecrow Committee to reconsider their request for the donation towards the Bridge lighting to be returned and they had responded positively. They would donate £1500 for the safety audit but requested that the remaining money should be returned if the project failed to go ahead.

PCC Request. The PCC had written asking that the Council reconsidered reducing, from £600 to £200, the annual donation to the Churchyard maintenance for 2013/14. The Clerk would write to say that the donations for 2014/15 would be reviewed in November and SPC would look at the figures again at that time.

Invitation to the Berkshire Blind AGM. The Chairman had been invited, and would attend, the AGM at 2.00pm on 30 September at Wellington College.

8260: PLANNING.

Planning List. The Chairman said the decision on the Granary was still outstanding. The applications for 15 West Drive and 2 Sonning Meadows had been approved. The August Field application had been listed. Cllr Haines said that the applicant was being slow to respond to WBC questions. Although approval had not been granted work had begun on the 'Cottage' at the RBCS and the wall had been rebuilt. The Planning Committee had objected to proposals at 55 Pound Lane and also objected to the new proposals for the Fire Station. Cllr Haines said that he had nearly been involved in an accident outside the plot. The application might go to the June WBC planning meeting. Mrs Hicks asked if the WBC Planning Chairman would accept the listing and it was agreed that the application should be treated as a new application. Mrs Pownall asked about the land locked at the rear of the plot. The Chairman asked Cllr Haines how WBC could ensure that the land to the rear, which had been removed from the

8260: PLANNING (Cont'd).

application to avoid paying the S106 contribution, could not be sold. Cllr Haines said that he didn't understand the legality but WBC were aware of the situation. The Chairman said that there was an application to extend the time limit to begin work on the Physiotherapy unit at Hole Park Sport Ground and this would be discussed at the next planning meeting on 22 May along with the new application at 19 Old Bath Road. There was also a retrospective application at 30 West Drive, the work had already been completed and the house was in the process of being sold.

Cllr Haines said that WBC had written to 250 residents regarding complaints about the new Duffield Road Bridge. Planning permission had not been required as Network Rail had a right to carry out the work to raise the low bridge as part of the electrification of the line. It looked very ugly but could not be painted as the steelwork had been treated which would prevent painting. WBC had visited the new site to the rear of Greendown as the heavy lorries removing tonnes of soil from the site had broken up the pavement making it dangerous for pedestrians. The owner would pay for the repairs once the work had been completed. Mrs Hicks suggested that steel sheets could have been lain over the path to prevent damage and the Chairman agreed to speak to the owner. Cllr Haines said the owner was going to appeal against the WBC decision to refuse permission for the additional buildings at the Sheplands Garden Centre. They had been given permission for lots of buildings but had built a lot more and WBC had given them 18 months to appeal, this had been postponed twice. There was a lot of strong feeling and supporters had bombarded Councillors. 150 people were employed there and it was a well-used facility but it was in the green belt. WBC was handling it well and was waiting for the appeal decision.

The following applications were ongoing: 1 Sonning Gate (F/2012/1398) 32 West Drive (F/2012/1435); The Granary (F/2012/2440); Readingensians (F/2012/2425); 31 Pound Lane (F/2013/0117); 15 West Drive (F/2013/0135); August Field (F/2013/0140), Holme Park Sonning Lane (F/2013/0330); Holme Park Sonning Lane (CA/2013/0790); Holme Park Sonning Lane (F/2013/0474); 55 Pound Lane (F/2013/0533); Former Fire Station (F/2013/0149).

The following applications had been approved: There were none.

The following applications had been refused: There were none.

The following new applications had been received. Holme Park Sports ground (EXT/2013/0796) Application to extend implementation date of appeal planning consent F/2009/1239 for a further 3 years. (Proposed change of use from D2 (Assembly and Leisure) to D1 (Non Residential Institution); Land facing Duffield Road (F/2013/0634). New fencing at Duffield Road (north and south sides); 19 Old Bath Road (F/2013/0714). Demolition of existing dwelling house and erection of replacement dwelling with integral garage; Glebelands Thames Street (F/2013/0825). Erection of rear extension to garage for use as garden store; 2 Sonning Meadows (NMT/2013/0780). Application for a non-material amendment to planning consent F/2013/0137 to allow alternative configuration to folding sliding door and patio/french doors to lounge located on the east elevation.

8261: CONSERVATION AREA ASSESSMENT.

The Chairman said that Mr Hart had asked for an update, which the Chairman had provided. It had been agreed to hold a meeting before the end of June. The Chairman had spoken to the Conservation Officer, Giles Stephens, who had agreed that there should be supporting documents including an ecology report. It was important that the Society understood the limitations on widening footpaths. Mr Siney would put a piece together on bricks/walls/etc. A case would also be made to extend the Conservation Area to include the eco house and the wild flower meadow on Sonning Farm. Mr Liddiard said that 70% of the Parish was outside the Conservation Area and more weight was needed to protect these areas. Mrs Hicks said the name of the assessment would need to be changed to avoid confusion. The Chairman said there was additional work to do.

8262: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR.

Mr Farnese asked about the state of the roads. Cllr Haines said that nationally they were in poor condition; WBC did fill potholes according to priority but the bad weather had made matters worse. Cllr Haines agreed to chase the repairs to Liguge Way.

8263: PARISHIONERS QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

8264: PROPOSALS FOR QUEENS JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS.

The Chairman said that he had asked Graham Dawson at WBC if there were any changes SPC needed to be aware of. Both Graham Barnwell and Matt Davey had said there were not. Mr Farnese asked if SPC would pay and the Chairman said that Mr Dawson had said that everything had been approved and it would be good to move forward. The lighting specification had been improved. It was agreed to put this on the June agenda for discussion. Mr Liddiard asked if Mr Hargrave had any suggestions for possible donations. Mr Hargrave suggested Microsoft, Oracle, Thames Water and the Rugby Club. Mrs Hicks said that concern had been expressed about SPC paying for the work. Mr Liddiard said that the Bridge was an important link between Sonning and Sonning Eye. Cllr Haines said that the accident record was low, although he agreed they were not all reported. The Chairman said that Peter Brett had a great deal of experience working on all large as well as small projects. Mr Liddiard said if Sonning was to be returned to pedestrians it had to start somewhere.

8265: FINANCE.

- a) Report. The finance report was circulated and noted.
- b) Payment of Accounts. Mr Runnalls proposed making the following payments, Mr Farnese seconded and these were unanimously approved.

April

Mrs L A Bates – Refund Minute Binder	62.57
Inland Revenue Tax & NIC	322.89
Southern Electric – St. Light M’nce	839.53
Mr K Trimmings	145.83
P J Lush	1755.60
BALC – Annual Subs	335.98
Mrs M Pownall – Pavilion Keys	16.50
Thames Water – Allotment Water	77.30
Sonning Landscapes – Mow Wharf	<u>26.00</u>
	<u>3582.20</u>

- c) 2012/13 Annual Accounts. Mrs Pownall proposed accepting the Annual Accounts, the Chairman seconded and these were unanimously approved.
- d) Appointment of Internal Auditor. Mr Gilson was prepared to carry out the internal audit for £45 as in previous years. The Chairman proposed appointing Mr Gilson, Mrs Hicks seconded and this was unanimously approved.
- e) Annual Parish Meeting Refreshments. Mr Liddiard proposed spending up to £75 on refreshments for the Annual Parish Meeting, Mr Farnese seconded and this was unanimously approved. Mr Farnese kindly agreed to purchase the refreshments.

8265: FINANCE (Cont'd).

- f) Purchase of New Computer and Finance Package. The Council had approved the purchase of a laptop computer in January 2012 but in the event this had not been progressed. Mr Gilmore had sourced a Dell laptop with the same specification but with Windows 8, Office 2010 and a three-year next day onsite warranty at £735 plus £15 to cover his expenses, plus VAT. Mr Farnese proposed purchasing the Dell computer at £750 plus VAT, Mr Evans seconded and this was unanimously approved.
- g) The Clerk said that the existing accounts system was obsolete and no longer produced end of year sheets and other reports, which had to be done by hand. Three possible systems were on the market but the Clerk was unsure which was best for the Council's needs. Mr Hargrave would be willing to provide advice and this was gratefully accepted.

8266: HIGHWAYS.

Mr Evans said that he had followed up the lead with Sonning and Sonning Eye Society and they were looking at suitable dates to arrange a meeting in order to build a relationship.

Cllr Haines said that PCSO Jason Stavelly had reported speeding traffic in Butts Hill Road and other local roads. The police would be setting up speed traps to discourage this and would also be coming to Sonning. It was unclear if the ANPR cameras could be used for speeding vehicles, as they were basically to identify vehicles without tax etc. Mr Evans said he had also spoken to Mr Peters and was arranging to meet up for a handover session.

Mrs Hicks said that the traffic appeared to be getting worse and the lights on the Bridge seemed to make it worse. Cllr Haines said that accidents and other difficulties on the A4 and M4 often resulted in additional traffic in Sonning. The lights on the Bridge worked to a formula. Mr Peters had a copy of the formula and had tried to set up a meeting, unsuccessfully, to discuss improving the system for a better flow of traffic.

8267: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G.

Mrs Pownall said that the feed and weed maintenance had been completed successfully. There was no news about the funding for the outside exercise equipment. The compound had been cleared but it needed to be dug out and scalping laid in order to tidy it up. Mrs Pownall would bring prices to the June meeting for discussion. Mr Liddiard said that the bags containing the salt for the bins were splitting and he agreed to transfer the salt to better containers. Mrs Pownall had a price for a 5 litre capacity plumbed in water heater for the pavilion kitchen of £675. Following discussion Mrs Pownall proposed purchasing the water heater for £675, Mr Liddiard seconded and this was unanimously approved.

Safety Checks. Mr Farnese was now carrying these out.

Bollards. Seven bollards, rather than six had been required at a cost of £703.37 (inc) plus £96.34 for bolts and paint total £799.71. Mr Farnese proposed spending £799.71, Mrs Hicks seconded and this was unanimously approved. Sonning School had agreed to pay half the costs. Mrs Pownall said there had been some complaints about the bollards from residents who didn't appreciate that the enclosed area was for pedestrians rather than parking.

SCC Requests. a) Permission to put additional container in the compound, this was agreed. b) To weed and feed the field, this had been completed for 2013. c) Maintain boundary with South Hill. Mr Liddiard said that some whips would improve the area and agreed to plant these. d) Mow the Nature Reserve and RBCS area. SPC could not pay to have land outside their ownership mown. The Clerk had one quote from SCS and hoped to have another by the next meeting. e). Additional Fixtures. It was agreed that additional youth fixtures for Monday evenings could go ahead. F) Request for SPC to pay for wild flowers. This was turned down.

8268: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

- a) Report. Mr Farnese said that Mr Collier had almost completed the work to the Wharf path, which had transformed the area, and would clear under the Willow tree next. Mr Liddiard had made an excellent job of refurbishing the Wharf gate.
- b) Safety Checks. Mr Farnese was carrying these out.

8269: ARRANGEMENTS FOR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING.

The following Councillors would be making a report: Mrs Pownall – Recreation and Sport: Mr Evans – Defibrillator and Police: Chairman – Chairman’s Report, Planning, Finance: Mrs Hicks – Web site: Mr Farnese, Wharf. The Clerk would invite Mrs Green to explain the School’s position over the bollards. Mr Farnese would operate the bar. The doors would be open at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start. The Clerk would produce notices and Mr Liddiard would distribute them.

8270: POLICE AND SECURITY.

Mr Evans had attended a Neighbourhood Watch meeting, Yvonne Dick, who represented T V Police, was present. The Neighbourhood Watch was looking to recruit co-ordinators to represent other areas in Sonning, which currently were not part of the scheme. It would be good to show the locations covered and their co-ordinators on the web site so resident knew whom to contact. Crime trend in the area were: theft/breaking into to cars in Sonning Lane and RC&HC. Thieves were coming from further a field to carry out these thefts. Other than this the area was relatively safe. Signing up for Thames Valley Alert was a very useful way to be kept informed and they welcomed input.

8271: WEB SITE.

Mrs Hicks said that everything was up to date and there was some activity on Facebook. There were two quotes for updating the web site to make it more user friendly. Mr Gilmore had quoted £1500 plus VAT and Mr Evans contact had said £1000 to £2000 depending on the time it took. It would also be necessary to have Adobe at an additional cost of £190. Once completed it would be possible to extend the site in a similar way to the Shinfield’s. Mr Evans said that it was not just a matter of cost but rather how easy it would be to update. The Chairman said this was essential and the first thing to do would be to sit down and work out a design. Following discussion Mrs Hicks proposed accepting Mr Gilmore’s quote, Mr Liddiard seconded and this was approved with one abstention.

8272: ACTION LIST.

This was reviewed and updated.

8273: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next Meeting would be held on Tuesday 11 June 2013. The Annual Parish Meeting would be held on Tuesday 21 May 2013 in the Pearson Hall.

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