

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the Pavilion, Pound Lane, Sonning, on Tuesday 11 February 2014 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT.

Mr P J Doyle, (Chairman), Mr A E Farnese, Mr T Fisher, Mr J Hargrave, Mr S D Liddiard, Mrs P Pownall, Ms V Reeve, Mrs L A Bates (Clerk). Cllr M Haines (WBC). 1 visitor.

APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS.

Apologies were received from Mr I Runnalls, who was abroad and Mr A Evans. The Chairman welcomed all those present.

8408: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

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

8409: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest.

8410: CORRESPONDENCE.

Parking in Pound Lane. Mrs Pownall had received a complaint from a resident in Pound Lane regarding the sports clubs parking adjacent to her access. There were no parking restrictions in Pound Lane but drivers were parking very close to the entrance of the property making it difficult for the resident to exit by car. Following discussion it was agreed to ask the sports clubs to speak to their members/supporters asking them to park in the Council's or the School's car parks in order to limit the on street parking. The Clerk would check to see if the School was happy to continue to permit the use of their car park. Cllr Haines agreed to ask to the PCSO to check on the parking and issue tickets if necessary.

WW1 Opportunity. Wokingham Town Council were asking parishes to support the application for funding to support the War Memorial Heritage Trail across Wokingham Borough commemorating the 100th anniversary of WW1. It was agreed to support this as a great opportunity for parishioners to learn more about this period in Sonning's history. Mrs Pownall said that Sonning Primary School had a lot of information.

Wokingham+ Traffic Forum. Shinfield PC had asked if Sonning would support the forum. This was a group of town and parish councillors who were seeking to put pressure of WBC on the perceived inadequate and flawed traffic modelling. Following discussion it was agreed to support this aim and the letter to WBC.

Statement of Community Involvement. It was agreed to defer this for the time being.

Trees on KGV Field. The Chairman had advice from En Tout Cas about regular maintenance of tennis courts. This included regular cleaning throughout the year to remove dirt, debris and leaves from the surface and to wash away any slime to prevent moss and algae developing. Canon Tree Care had quoted to trim back the branches overhanging the tennis courts but said that this would not help SLTC in the long run and recommended regular removal of the leaves. They had also quoted to remove the fallen branch from the tree on the Pavilion side and to trim the branches, otherwise the tree was in good condition. It was agreed not to proceed with the either set of tree works, Mrs Pownall would arrange for the fallen branch to be removed and the Clerk would inform SLTC of the recommended regular maintenance of the tennis courts.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Draft Charging Schedule. The Chairman said that this would work along-side the existing S106 system and was based on square footage making it more understandable. The system was more transparent and the money could also be used

8410: CORRESPONDENCE.

more appropriately. With few large developments likely, Sonning would not benefit as much as some communities. Parishes would receive 25% of the CIL raised in their area.

The Chairman referred to previous correspondence under the FOI Act and said that Councils could consider if frequent request for information under the FOI Act were vexatious. With extensive minutes published on the web site and public question time during meetings it should not be necessary to supply additional information.

8411: PLANNING.

The Chairman said he had heard that Mr Page of the Deanery was concerned about the additional traffic which might be created by enlarging Star Court as his property shared the vehicular entrance. The application for a new building for St. Andrews had been received. There was no Listed Building application and Cllr Haines said that Church property was exempt. The Chairman questioned if this applied to buildings ancillary to the Church and also said that no travel plan had been included. The Chairman would ask for an extension of time in which to comment. The applicant at 35 Little Glebe had gone to appeal following WBC rejection of the plans. The Golf Club application for a new vehicular entrance onto Pound Lane had been refused. Cllr Haines said that he understood that M&S would be installing an acoustic fence around part of their new facility.

The following applications were ongoing: 1 Sonning Gate (F/2012/1398); Land facing Duffield Road (F/2013/0634); 11 Hawthorn Way (F/2013/1549); 4 West Drive (F/2013/2296); Farmhouse Charvil Lane (CLP/2013/2498); 35 Old Bath Road (F/2013/2546); 32 West Drive Sonning (F/2013/2523); Model Farm Barns Bath Road (F/2013/2526); Sonning Cottage Pound Lane (F/2013/2190); Star Court Thames Street (F/2013/2455).

The following applications had been approved: 2 Sonning Meadows (NMT/2014/0005).

The following applications had been refused: No current refusals.

The following new applications had been received. 19 Old Bath Road (F/2014/3060) Submission of details to comply with conditions 3 6 7 9 10 & 11 of planning consent F/2013/0714.3. Materials.6. Boundary treatments.7. Measured survey of site.9. Scheme of landscaping.10. Arboricultural Works scheme.11 Contamination scheme: St. Andrews Church (F/2014/0049) Erection of new community building to provide meeting room Parish Office and Clergy Office with replacement garden equipment store. Demolition of existing equipment store adjoining Listed Churchyard wall. (No demolition of any Listed structure): Elm Gables Parkway Drive (F/2014/0144) Erection of a two storey front, first floor side and rear extension, single storey rear extension and erection of a single storey front extension to form front porch. Former Fire Station and Land to Rear (NMT/2014/0175) : Non-material amendment to planning consent F/2013/0149 to allow minor design alterations for both new dwellings and relocation of fire station siren pole to north of driveway.

8412: CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT.

Mr Hart had informed the Chairman that the Assessment was almost complete. The Chairman would check again at the end of week commencing 17 February.

8413: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR.

Mr Farnese asked about progress on the Pound Labe drain at the entrance to Sonning School. Cllr Haines said that WBC Highways were in currently operating in an emergency mode with only high priority issues being addressed. Mr Sasonow said that he had inspected the manhole and found was being flooded by the run off from the field, and that water was backing up due to a blockage on the outlet. He had cleared as far as he could but there was nothing to prevent

8413: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR.

debris from entering the drain. Cllr Haines agreed that the drains in Sonning were in a poor state. WBC were providing aid to Windsor and Maidenhead, under emergency measures which permitted them to do so providing there was no detriment to themselves. The Chairman said that the government had said there would be funds for areas affected by the flooding and suggested that the water flooding into Pound Lane from the blocked drain might benefit from this. Mr Farnese said that the water from the field should be channelled before it reached the road, a culvert would be ideal. Mr Barker was currently clearing the ditch on the boundary between the school and South Hill.

8414: PARISHIONERS QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

8415: DEFIBRILLATOR.

Ms Reeve said that the defibrillator had been registered and she hoped to arrange the awareness sessions as soon as possible but they were in demand. The Chairman had installed the signs and said that the Pearson Hall had paid £190 towards the electrical installation. Ms Reeve said that she had not yet approached Sonning School or the Scouts regarding another defibrillator. A new battery would cost £100 but they did have a long life expectancy. Mr Liddiard would advise local businesses that there was a small area for advertising.

8416: WEB SITE.

Ms Reeve thanked those who had supplied the information she had requested and would like to receive the remained in the next couple of weeks. Mr Hargrave agreed to provide photographs of previous Regattas, Mr Fisher would provide information about the Scouts and the Clerk would chase up information from the Scarecrow Committee. Any photographs relating to items on the web site would be welcome. The Clerk would also chase WBC about the request to link to their web site. Mr Ennis the art tutor at RBCS was in the process of designing a new SPC logo.

8417: FINANCE.

- a) Payment of Accounts. The Chairman proposed making the following payments Ms Reeve seconded and these were unanimously approved.

January

PME Engraving - Plaque	169.20
Southern Electric – Energy	464.20
A R Hulley Litter December + part November	218.75
SSE Contracting St. Lighting M'tnce	838.86
SSE Contracting St. Lighting Repairs	30.32
Quadron – Dog Bins	83.58
Mrs L A Bates – Honorarium	2480.00
Mrs L A Bates – Telephone	40.00
British Gas. Pav. Electricity	<u>170.46</u>
	<u>4495.37</u>

8417: FINANCE (Cont'd)

- b) Report. The Clerk had prepared a report which was noted.
- c) 2014/15 Draft Budget. The Clerk had revised the draft Budget to reflect the expenditure and anticipated withdrawal from reserves to maintain a zero Precept increase. Following discussion the Chairman proposed setting the budget at £38951, less anticipated income of £3926 and the withdrawal of £3567 from reserves. Mr Farnese seconded and this was unanimously approved. The Chairman said there had been an influx of dog walkers from outside Sonning due to other facilities being flooded. This had resulted in extra dog bags (full) in the recreation ground and roads.

8418: PROPOSALS FOR QUEENS JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS.

The Chairman said that the Bridge footway safety lights were connected to the unmetered street lighting supply. The lights were 40w LED and were long life. If they did fail it was a simple matter of removing a single unit, as with a light bulb, and there would be no need to close the Bridge to traffic.

Mr Fisher and Mr Hargrave were actively seeking additional funding.

8419: SPC POLICIES.

The Clerk had submitted two policies for review.

Planning Committee Terms of Reference. These were reviewed and agreed for publication.

Financial Regulations. These were reviewed and agreed for publication.

8420: HIGHWAYS.

In the absence of Mr Evans the Chairman said that he had looked at the Turpins corner and felt that an additional bollard was required and that large chevrons indicating the corner were needed in order for drivers to fully understand that they had to turn right. There was some feeling that they would not be unacceptable in the Conservation Area. Mr Liddiard said that he had some illuminated tape and agreed to put it on the bollards in a chevron shape to see if this improved matters.

Mr Fisher had attended the meeting arranged by Rob Wilson (MP) regarding a third Bridge. About 300 people had attended. Concerns had been raised by residents from the Caversham and Emmer Green areas due to the closure of Sonning Bridge and the effect this had on traffic in Reading and surrounding areas. There were concerns that a third bridge would increase traffic on Oxon roads but it appeared that the majority of those against a third bridge were from areas further away such as Banbury. The routes under discussion were from the A329 and a Caversham Ring Road. There was no explanation about traffic modelling for the area. Cllr Haines said that the Playhatch Road had been badly damaged by the flooding and culverts had been suggested as part of improvements to the road but nothing could be done until an assessment could be carried out once the water had dropped. There was a meeting in London to discuss the crossing where Keith Baker would represent WBC. Rob Wilson was optimistic about the new crossing and he would like plans to be drawn up and for there then to be a public consultation. The Chairman said that he had met the owner of the Rowing Lake who had plans for a bridge over the Lake, the owner had also spoken to Lafarge, who would consider some funding and Sport England. Lafarge had a big problem as they needed access to the south of the M4 and without Sonning Bridge their only route was to go via Reading or Henley.

8421: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G.

- a) Safety Checks. Mr Farnese had carried these out.
- b) Field Condition and maintenance. Mrs Pownall said that the field was very muddy. Cllr Haines said that WBC had shut their football facilities due to flooding. The Clerk would contact the football clubs to say that play would be suspended due to the weather. The Chairman and Mr Liddiard would monitor the condition of the field.
- c) SCC Request. Mrs Pownall had photographs showing an example of a store for the scoreboard, which SCC would like to position near the exercise machines. Councillors were not impressed by the example and wanted to understand why there was need to store the scoreboard on the field rather than in the compound before making a decision.

8422: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

Report. Mr Farnese said that there was nothing to report, the Wharf was still under water.

8423: WW1 CELEBRATIONS.

Mr Liddiard had acquired some Flanders poppy seeds and would plant them in silver sand. He understood that they were not easy to germinate however he would begin planting in March. Several locations for planting were agreed, the Pound, the Pound Lane embankment, the left hand side of Sonning Bridge, the main A4 roundabout, Charvil Lane, the August Field embankment, King George V Field, Little Glebe. The list could be added to.

8424: NEWSLETTER.

Copy for publication was to be with Mrs Pownall by the end of February. Ms Reeve would produce a report on the defibrillator, Mr Hargrave on the Regatta, Mr Farnese on the Litter Pick and drains in Sonning. Mr Fisher would do a piece about the meeting on the third bridge.

8425: ACTION LIST.

This was reviewed and updated. The Chairman said there would be a major Projects meeting on 24 February. The Great House were proposing to take their wire mesh fence down and to cut back some Conifers. In addition they would be renovating the Thames Water pumping station building and would like to put a gate between their garden and the Wharf. There had also been some mention of changing the name back to the White Hart.

8426: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next Meeting would be held on Tuesday 11 March 2014 at 7.30pm.

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