

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

PRESENT.

Mr P J Doyle (Chairman), Mr A Evans, Mr A E Farnese, Mr T Fisher, Mr J Hargrave, Mr P D Morrison, Mrs P Pownall, Mr I Runnalls. Mrs L A Bates (Clerk). 5 Visitors.

APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS.

There were no apologies. The Chairman welcomed all those present. Mr Travers was in attendance and wished to speak about the SCC scoreboard storage. The Chairman said this would be discussed after the defibrillator item but would be reported under Recreation and Environment.

8558: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

One or two typos were corrected. The Minutes, having been corrected and circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

8559: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations.

8560: NEW COUNCILLOR DECLARATION OF OFFICE AND TO ABIDE WITH THE CODE.

The Chairman welcomed Mr Morrison who signed the declaration of office and this was signed by the Clerk. Mr Morrison had also completed the Disclosable Pecuniary Interests form, which the Clerk would copy to WBC.

The Chairman said that Sue Jacobs had shown an interest in joining the Council and asked Ms Jacobs to say a few words. Ms Jacobs said that she had been born in Sonning and her family had lived in the village since 1854, her mother had been a Sonning Councillor for ten years. Having moved away Ms Jacobs had returned a few years ago to live in the family house and wanted to get involved in the community. Ms Jacobs had sat on other committees including as a primary school governor. The Chairman thanked Ms Jacobs and proposed that she should be co-opted to fill the vacancy, Mr Runnalls second and this was unanimously approved.

8561: DEFIBRILLATOR.

The Chairman said that he had spoken to Kim Savage and she had agreed to speak about the Barclay's matched funding scheme. Ms Savage said that up to £1,000 was available in matched funding for any amount raised at one fund raising event. SPC did not have to host the event themselves, if another organisation were prepared to host a fundraising event in aid of the defibrillator that would be acceptable as would several small events providing they were held on the same day. The totals raised would all count. The event could also be held after the defibrillator was purchased but Ms Savage would need to be informed in good time prior to the fundraising event in order to set the whole process up. The Chairman and Councillors all agreed that this was a very good offer, the defibrillator would cost £2,000 plus the cost of the electrical supply and come in a vandal proof case. Mr Travers (SCC) said that SCC had agreed to make a donation of £200 towards the purchase. Mrs Pownall then proposed purchasing the defibrillator, Mr Fisher seconded and this was unanimously approved. Mr Fisher would speak to the Beech Lodge committee to ensure they were happy with the proposal.

8562: CORRESPONDENCE.

Request for Dog Bin Pound Lane. Mr Hamblin had asked if it would be possible for SPC to provide a dog bin in Pound Lane by the junction with Duffield Road. This area was well used by dog walkers and there were numerous examples of dog litter being left in plastic bags on the verges or hung on bushes. Mr Hamblin felt that the provision of a suitable bin would minimise the problem. It was agreed that this was a good idea in principle, the Chairman and Mr Farnese would check the location and bring recommendations to the December meeting.

WBC Open Space Maintenance Consultation. WBC were considering the best way to provide these services with the limited budget they had.

Meeting with Lafarge 13 November 4.00pm. The Chairman and Mr Hargrave would be attending this meeting.

Borough Parish W.G. 23 October. Mr Farnese said that he had attended this meeting and Clare Lawrence had spoken on planning and would be using issues raised to formulate an agenda for the proposed planning training event on 26 November. There had also been an interesting discussion regarding the Parish precept support grant, and indications that WBC expected Parishes to look at increasing their 2015/16 Precepts.

WBC Planning Training – 26 November 6-8pm. The Chairman and Mr Farnese would attend.

E-mail re: SPC letter dated 15 October. This had been circulated to all Councillors.

Repairs to Towpath Sonning Bridge-Charvil direction. The Clerk had received a very nice e-mail thanking the Council for their assistance in this matter. WBC had now carried out the repairs.

Eddie Napper – Reply to Comments on Flooding. Mr Napper had sent a reply to the SPC comments that neglected ditches and drains were contributing to flooding in Sonning. It was agreed that the Chairman should meet Mr Napper to discuss issues that needed to be brought to his attention. Mr Napper had said that clearing the ditches was a matter for the adjoining landowners to address as ditches facilitated the draining of the landowners land.

WBC Consultation on Arborfield and Newland Village Design Statement. This was open for comments.

CAB Request. CAB had asked if the annual contribution to the organisation could be increased to £100 for 2015/16.

Great House. The Chairman said that the new manager of the Hotel had spoken to him about proposed works they intended to carry out in the New Year. The manager had also said that his plans showed the boundary of the Great House as being the riverbank, which included the SPC owned Wharf and had asked if they could maintain the area. The Chairman had shown a copy of the SPC deeds to the manager and had declined the maintenance offer.

8563: PLANNING.

The Chairman said that the application at Sonning Dene had been withdrawn. The retrospective application for the flags/advertising at the Fire Station had been approved. The application at Birchley to demolish the existing house and replace with four had been recommended for approval. The two immediate neighbours had written to support the application and there was some concern that these neighbours might want to do a similar development. There had been two earlier applications on the site and both had been dismissed on appeal. SPC had objected to the proposal, which was contrary to WBC policies. The office of Mrs T May (MP) had asked WBC, on behalf of objectors, about the pre-planning advice and had been told that they did not disclose such information. The application for Homelea was to demolish the existing and to replace with a very large new house. A lot of work was being carried out at the Old House in Thames Street and they had applied for permission to widen the access and install a sliding gate. SPC had no objections but had asked that Highways ascertain the safety of the proposal.

The following applications were ongoing: 100 Thames Valley Park Drive (A/2014/1668): 100 Thames Valley Park Drive (CLP/2014/1606): South Lodge Sonning Lane (F/2014/1832): 25 Glebe Lane (F/2014/1874): Birchley Old Bath Road (F/2014/1879).

The following applications had been approved: Sonning Fire Station (A/2014/1327: Sonning Mead Thames Street (F/2014/1778: Cotswold Bath Road (F/2014/1971): Sonning Farm (A/2014/1806).

The following applications had been refused. There were no refusals.

The following new applications had been received. The Sharrow Parkway Drive (F/2014/2063) Erection of single storey rear extension: St. Andrews Church (NMT/2014/2083) Non-material amendment to planning consent F/2014/0049 to allow the reduction of one pair of double doors to single door to north elevation replacement of window with external door to west elevation and glazing bars to roof lights on south (hidden) elevation: August Field (C/2014/2112) Submission of details to comply with the following conditions of planning consents F/2013/0140 & CA/2011/0524:F/2013/0140:3. Site Survey4. Arboricultural Method Statement.5. Programme of Archaeological Work.6. Contamination. 7. Samples and details of materials.9. Sample panel of brickwork.10. Sample of roofing.11. Scheme of Landscaping.13. Boundary Treatments.21. Bicycle parking.CA/2011/0524:2.a b c & d. Arboricultural Method Statement.3. Programme of Archaeological Work.4. Commencement of demolition: St Andrews Church (C/2014/2110) Submission of details to comply with the following conditions of planning consent F/2014/0049:4. Samples and details of materials.5. Building details.7. Construction Management Plan.8. Scheme of Landscaping.9. Method Statement for Arboricultural Works Scheme.11. Details of secure and covered bicycle parking.13. Archaeology: Homelea/May Tree House (F/2014/1946) Erection of 5 bedroom dwelling following demolition of existing dwelling: Holme Park Sports ground (F/2014/2196) Erection of sports and physiotherapy clinic following demolitions of existing sports club changing facilities. Club bar and extended store: Reading Blue Coat School (F/2014/2116). Erection of single storey Changing Room Block following removal of existing timber shed plus link to existing outside swimming pool: The Old House Thames Street (F/2014/2166). Erection of new electrically operated gates and new brick piers and front boundary wall: 33 Little Glebe (F/2014/2285). Erection of single storey rear extension to form conservatory.

8564: CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT.

The Chairman said that he and Mr Thorpe had met the Conservation Architect to discuss the draft CAA. Mr Stephens had picked up a few issues and had asked that some personal comments should be removed and also the section on Local Plans. The Great House was mentioned but was listed as the White Hart in the Listed Buildings schedule and that name should be used, there were no street names on the maps provided but WBC would be prepared to supply copies with names included and would produce a limited run for residents who did not have access to the internet. Mr Thorpe had gone away to revise the draft and Mr Stephens would then like to run it past his colleagues.

8565: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR.

In the absence of Cllr Haines there were no questions.

8566: PARISHIONERS QUESTIONS

The Chairman invited Mr McCulloch to speak. Mr McCulloch said that there was frustration about the prolonged dispute between the Parish Council and himself. The Council's reply had

8566: PARISHIONERS QUESTIONS (Cont'd)

not been satisfactory but, if the Council withdrew their threat to send his e-mail to the ICO, the matter would be at an end. Mr Fisher said that everyone would like to see an end to the matter and Mr Runnalls agreed. The Chairman said that the Council were agreed not to send the e-mail as part of the closed case and Mr McCulloch accepted this. Mr Farnese asked if the Clerk had spoken to the ICO. The Clerk said that the ICO had confirmed that, if a case were underway, any correspondence the Council wished to use in relation to that case could be sent to them in an unedited form. Mr McCulloch said that this was hypothetical, as no such case was currently underway.

8567: WEB SITE.

The Clerk said that all Councillors needed to confirm that they were happy with the web site and in particular to agree the Aims and Objectives that Mrs Hicks had drawn up. The Chairman said that the web site was excellent and proposed adopting the Aims and Objectives and this was unanimously agreed. The site would be ready to launch by the end of the month. The Chairman proposed that all members of the web site team be invited to the December meeting so they could be thanked personally.

8568: FINANCE.

- a) Report. The Clerk had prepared a report which was noted. Mr Farnese asked about quotes for the water generated on the field and the Chairman said that this would be available on 10 November. Mr Fisher asked if the Council were satisfied that the proposed water management scheme would work. The Chairman said that a similar scheme had been successfully installed at Harpsden Cricket Club and Mr Collier intended to put a pipe under the car park so any residual water would drain into the Pound. Mr Fisher asked how deep the water in the 'dip' would be. The Chairman said it would be quite shallow and no higher than the top of the mown grass as most of it would flow away
- b) Draft 2015/16 Budget. The Clerk would send a copy of the 2014/15 budget to Mr Hargrave who would be pleased to put a draft budget together to present at the December meeting. Mr Farnese asked if new street lights could be included and Mr Fisher said that Mr Wynne-Jones had cut back his hedge, at some expense, but the light was still in shadow. Mr Evans asked if something could be included for Neighbourhood Watch.
- c) Payment of Accounts (October)

This item would be held over to the December meeting as no hard copy was available.

8569: PROPOSALS FOR QUEENS JUBILEE.

Mr Fisher and Mr Hargrave were continuing to seek further contributions for the lighting.

8570: HIGHWAYS.

Mr Evans asked if the Pearson Road bus shelter had been repaired and the Chairman agreed to check. Mr Evans said that the Playhatch Road repairs had been completed however the bridge traffic lights were out of sequence and this was affecting traffic flows. Oxon CC had done some extensive work to the ditches along-side the Playhatch Road and had built up the rum off from the road as it went over the small bridge. It remained to be seen if the repairs would work if the road flooded. The damaged bollards at the Pearson Road Pound Lane junction had been replaced.

8571: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G.

- a) Report. Mrs Pownall said that repairs to the safety surface had been carried out satisfactorily and the invoice could be paid. Mrs Pownall had nominated two children from Sonning Primary School for the WBC Sports Awards, one was excellent at gymnastics and the other a good badminton player. Neither had been successful but they had been invited to the awards ceremony. Mr Farnese said that he would look at the lock on the main gates which was faulty. Quotes for the Beech Trees and Water Management were not yet to hand.

Mrs Pownall said that one or two additional items were still outstanding (date of the Litter Pick) for inclusion in the Newsletter. Mr Fisher would revise his piece as parts were now out of date.

- b) Safety Checks. Mr Farnese said that he had checked the playground and asked if a larger sign could be installed next to the outdoor exercise machines. The Chairman said that he was in the process of doing this.
- c) SCC Scoreboard. The Chairman invited Mr Travers (Chairman SCC) to speak. Mr Travers said that the idea of a storage facility for the scoreboard had been brought to the Council in 2013 and the Council had asked to see plans, which were provided at the October meeting. The Chairman said the main questions were whether the store would be in scale with its surroundings and if it would be visually acceptable. Mr Travers said the store would have a wooden frame and be built in brickwork and cladded similar to the gazebo or the pavilion. The Chairman said there was some confusion over the size, why was it 10ft high when the scoreboard was only 7ft. Mr Travers said that he would look at this. The store would be 2ft wide with lockable doors on the front and shutters. The ideal position would be opposite the pavilion near Beech Lodge and, as the scoreboard was electrically operated (with a battery backup), an electric supply would need to be run from the pavilion. A 'worm' would be used to install this with a minimum of ground disturbance. Mr Fisher said that he was concerned about the position as it was slightly darker in that area. Mr Farnese said that he didn't like the idea of another piece of equipment being installed on the field and he didn't want the area to become a 'cricket' field and he had concerns that the footballers would want something next. The Chairman said that SPC would have to deal with individual requests. Mr Evans said that, if it could be done in keeping with the area and maintained to a high standards he would like to support. Mr Travers said that planning permission would be required and hoped that the project would be completed by summer 2015. Mr Travers said that they now had 250 members and a good proportion of players were from the Charvil/Sonning area. Mr Hargrave asked if it was in the Conservation Area and, as it was, Mr Travers agreed that SCC would discuss with Mr Stephens the Conservation Architect. It was agreed that SCC should progress this and submit a planning application to WBC

8572: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

- a) Safety Checks. Mr Farnese said that these had been carried out.
- b) Request from Great House. The Chairman said that there were still holes in the hedge and Mr Farnese said that people were walking through the trees.
- c) Condition of Allotments. Mr Farnese said that there had been some improvement but there was a lot of rubbish. The Chairman would take a look.
- d) Mr Farnese suggested that the shrubs on the riverside of the Wharf should be cut back as they were spreading and would eventually block the view.

The Chairman said that there was to be a reception in May 2015 to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the twinning with Liguge. They would like SPC to arrange something and it was agreed to bring ideas to the December meeting for discussion.

8574: ACTION LIST.

The Action List was reviewed and updated. The Chairman suggested a Christmas get together at the Great House and agreed to send out some suggested dates.

8575: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next Meeting would be held on Tuesday 9 December 2014. Mince pies and drinks would be served from 7.00pm to 7.30pm. The meeting would commence promptly at 7.30pm.

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