

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the Pavilion, Pound Lane, Sonning, on Tuesday 14 July 2015 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT. Mr A E Farnese (Chairman), Mr A Evans, Mr T Fisher, Mrs S Jacobs, Mr P D Morrison, Mrs P Pownall (part time from 9.20pm), Mr I Runnalls, Mrs L A Bates (Clerk).

8701: ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE.

Following the unexpected resignation of Mr Doyle the office of Chairman was vacant. Mr Morison said that he would like to propose a vote of thanks to Mr Doyle and asked that his resignation should be noted with regret. His service to the community was greatly valued. The whole Council were in unanimously in agreement with Mr Morrison's proposal and that this should be noted in the Minutes. Mr Fisher took the Chair for the item and nominated Mr Farnese as Chairman. Mr Farnese said that he was prepared to accept office but wished to point out that he did not have computer skills and was probably too old, he looked forward to the time when he could hand over to a younger person. Mr Runnalls seconded and Mr Farnese was unanimously elected. Mr Farnese then signed the Acceptance of Office and took the Chair. Mr Farnese said that, in future, he would like all Councillors to be involved in making all decisions.

8702: APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS. Mrs Pownall would be late as she was working. The Chairman welcomed all those present.

8703: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

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

8704: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

Mr Fisher, as treasurer of the Twinning Association, would have an interest in item 13 and 14c.

8705: CASUAL VACANCY.

Due to the resignation of Mr Doyle there were now two Vacancies, which could be filled by co-option. The Chairman suggested putting an article on the web site and in the next newsletter. It was agreed that the next newsletter should go out in October and that copy should be sent to Mrs Pownall by early September. The Clerk would ask Mr Gilmore to make the necessary changes to the web site, including Chairmanship and a thank you to Mr Doyle.

8706: APPOINTMENT OF PLANNING CHAIRMAN.

The Chairman proposed appointing Mr Runnalls as Chairman of the Planning Committee as he had a great deal of knowledge, particularly in connection with the Conservation Area. Mr Evans seconded and this was unanimously approved. The Chairman said that he would like all members of the planning committee to look at all planning applications prior to meetings in future. Mr Fisher agreed to become a full member of the planning committee.

8708: CORRESPONDENCE.

Request for Councillor to Make Contact. A resident had asked that a Councillor contact her regarding a planning issue. The Chairman had been unable to do this but Mr Runnalls would do so.

8708: CORRESPONDENCE (Cont'd).

ReadiBus AGM 3 August 6.30 pm for 7.00pm WBC Council Offices. No one was able to attend.
Reply from Clair Lawrence re: Tree On Golf Club Boundary. Ms Lawrence had responded to the Council's concern about the Oak tree that had been felled. Ms Lawrence said that WBC shared the Council's concerns but the tree was not subject to a TPO and it was not clear if it was on Golf Club land or not. Therefore WBC were unable to prevent the felling.

Request to Open Wharf Gate. The Great House had asked if the Wharf gate could be opened to allow a vintage car to access the Great House garden on 24 July. This was unanimously agreed.

WBC Gypsy & Traveller Preferred Options Plan. WBC were chasing for a reply from Sonning on the consultation. It was agreed that the Clerk would respond to the questionnaire confirming the Council's support for the document.

Press Release. WBC had issued a press release to explain the action that they had taken and the difficulties involved in relation to the travellers establishing themselves on a site in Blagrove Lane Wokingham. There had been two earlier planning applications for traveller pitches on the site, which had been refused. The applicant had now gone to appeal. However after the second application had been refused in April 2015 travellers had moved onto the site and WBC had issued a temporary stop notice to prevent any more caravans entering the site. Later a High Court temporary injunction was obtained, which had now expired. A planning enforcement order had been served but human rights legislation allowed the travellers six months in which to find another site and the applicant had appealed against the order. This had the effect of holding the notice in abeyance pending the outcome of the appeal. WBC had obtained a permanent court order to prevent further occupation but the court had allowed the travellers to connect to the water supply and put a gate on the entrance when they appealed against that decision. The two appeals would be heard together at a public Inquiry, possibly in early 2016. Until then nothing could be done.

New Electoral Forms. These forms were being sent out and everyone had to complete them even if there were no changes.

CIL Meeting September. This was for the Clerk and one Councillor. Several dates were being offered and WBC were asking for confirmation of representative's availability. Mr Runnalls and the Clerk would attend and agree dates ready to submit. The Chairman said it was likely that other Councillors could attend if they so wished and WBC would be clarifying the apparent conflict of training dates. WBC were likely to sell off some of its assets including the Glebe Garden bungalows, which were no longer fit for purpose. It was noted that Berkshire Sports was another WBC asset.

CIL Information Evening. Although aimed at Borough Councillors Town and Parish Councils were being offered the opportunity to attend. Following discussion it was agreed to wait until September.

Request to Use Pavilion 4-8.30 8 August. This was to allow a company to hold a sports evening and BBQ for 60-70 people. The Clerk agreed to find out more about the event.

Following requests for information the Clerk had supplied information on: The David Sherriff Bridge option (E&D PC), No Cold Calling (Charvil PC): Defibrillator (Twyford PC): Contact for SVP: Fishing on the Wharf.

The Chairman said that two cars had been dumped by the Little Glebe garages, and he would contact WBC. Mr Evans said there had been an incident in Pound Lane where the bus had been forced to mount the pavement, narrowly missing a pedestrian, due to parents parking badly on the road. The Chairman would contact WBC Highways.

8709: PLANNING.

Mr Runnalls said that there were no new applications and the next planning meetings would be held on 22 July, 17 August and 1 September.

The following applications were on going: South Lodge Sonning Lane (F/2014/1832): Acre Field, Charvil Lane (F/2015/0235): August Field and Acre Field Charvil Lane (F/2015/0354).

8709: PLANNING (Cont'd).

St. Andrews Church (NMT/2014/2083): 33 Little Glebe (F/2014/2285): 29 Sonning Meadows (F/2014/2444): Holme Park Sonning Lane (RBCS) (F/2014/2319): The Great House at Sonning (F/2015/0283): 32 Sonning Meadows (F/2015/0848).

The following applications had been approved: 6 Pound Lane (F/2015/0708): 4 Thames Terrace (F/2015/0262): St Andrews Church (C/2014/2110): The Malt House (LB/2015/0769). 103a Pound Lane (F/2015/1037): King George V Playing Field (F/2015/1172

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

The following new applications had been received. There were no new applications.

S106 – Update. The application for S106 funding had been approved for all the following: Extend the safety netting £1835 plus VAT: Excess Water Drainage for rec. £2900: Bonded Rubber mulch walkways and gravity bowl £5129.40 plus VAT plus grinding out the Beech tree root to facilitate these works £625 Plus VAT: Four new seats for the children's playground £2636 plus VAT: Repairs to safety surface under orange swing basket and two bonded rubber walkways £2424 plus VAT: Repair to zip wire £249.31 plus VAT. Mr Morrison proposed, Mr Evans seconded and it was unanimously approved that all the S106 work should be ordered and paid for.

Mr Runnalls said that he was aware that the land next to Model Farm Cottages, currently used as rubbish dump, was to be auctioned.

8710: CONSERVATION AREA ASSESSMENT.

Mr Runnalls said that the final draft was with WBC. The Conservation Officer was happy with the draft and would meet up with Claire Lawrence to agree the next steps.

8711: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR.

In the absence of Cllr Haines there were no questions.

8712: PARISHIONER QUESTIONS.

There were no questions.

8713: WEB SITE.

The Chairman said that someone was needed to update the website information regularly, he would ask Mrs Pownall. The Clerk would ask Mr Gilmore to include a vote of thanks to Mr Doyle and details of the new Chairman of the Council and Planning Chairman. Mr Morrison said an update on the CAA was also needed.

8714: OFFICIAL VISIT TO LIGUGE 9 – 12 OCTOBER 2015.

Following discussion it was agreed that there would be no official delegation from Sonning and attendance would be a decision for individual Councillors. Mrs Jacobs and Mr Fisher were hoping to attend.

8715: FINANCE.

- a) Report. The Clerk had circulated a report, which was noted. Mr Morrison said that he and the Clerk had met and he now had a better understanding about the finances. The Chairman asked about installing the dog bin and he agreed to do this with Mr Fisher.
- b) Twinning Gift. The Chairman would ask Mr Doyle about the tapestry of Sonning Bridge that he had purchased. Other ideas were also discussed and Mr Runnalls agreed to speak to the tapestry shop to see if they had anything suitable.

8715: FINANCE (Cont'd).

c) Payment of Accounts.

The Chairman proposed paying the following payments, Mr Fisher seconded and these were unanimously approved.

June

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| A E Farnese (AGM Wine | 58.14 |
| Mrs L A Bates – ZEN Hosting | 57.46 |
| Twyford Mowers | 412.61 |
| CAS Insurance Premium 2015/16 | 2223.40 |
| P J Doyle – Defibrillator Fun Day Advertisement | 148.00 |
| Thames Water – Pavilion. Water | 126.00 |
| Thames Water – Square Water | 16.84 |
| Quadron Dog Bins May | 83.02 |
| Henley Contracting – Mow Main Field | 480.00 |
| Henley Contracting – Mow SCC | 120.00 |
| Sonning Landscapes – Cut Pound Lane hedge | 45.00 |
| Sonning Landscapes – Mow Playground | 28.00 |
| Sonning Landscapes – cut Rec. hedge | 90.00 |
| Sonning Landscapes – Mow Wharf | 56.00 |
| Mrs L A Bates – Honorarium Less Tax | 2508.00 |
| Mrs L A Bates – Telephone | 40.00 |
| Mrs L A Bates – ZEN Website | 59.40 |
| J Hunter – Relocate Pavilion Switches | 148.00 |
| Mr K Trimmings – Litter part Feb + May | 255.02 |
| Barclays stop cheque (BALC 100118) | <u>12.50</u> |
| | 4742.99 |

d) Payment of CAA Invoice. Mr Thorpe had quoted £1,000 for the work on the CAA, which had previously been accepted, and he had now submitted his invoice. The Chairman proposed and Mr Fisher seconded paying the £1,000 and this was unanimously approved.

8716: HIGHWAYS.

Mr Evans said that some patch repairs had been made in some areas. There had been a near miss involving a bus mounting the pavement and nearly hitting a pedestrian in Pound Lane. The woman had reported the incident to the police and had spoken to Mr Evans. The problem had occurred when parents were parking on Pound Lane making it difficult for the bus to drive along and the driver had mounted the pavement to avoid a badly parked car. The Chairman agreed to speak to WBC regarding the parking problem. Mr Evans said that neighbourhood watch were about 100 short of obtaining the 60% vote in favour of the No Cold Calling Zone but some areas still had to be canvassed. The Chairman said that there was a vacancy for a school crossing person for about 1 hour morning and evening, training and equipment would be provided. Mr Runnalls had observed an overweight lorry in Charvil Lane, which had progressed along Thames Street. Mr Runnalls had taken a photo of the lorry and had spoken to the company. The representative had been surprised that this, usually careful driver, was involved and they had confirmed that there had been no delivery on the Sonning side of the Bridge. The company were now aware that they were being watched.

8717: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G.

- a) Safety Checks. Mrs Pownall had checked the exercise machines and Mr Farnese had checked the play equipment.
- b) Water Drain Off Work. Mr Fisher had met with the second contractor who had different ideas to Henley Contracting and had provided schemes and quotes. These had been very expensive and Mr Fisher felt that it was important to get the right scheme for the field although this might take some time. The Chairman said that the school gully would be emptied on 28 July. The drain in Ligure Way was blocked but if it were cleared it might relieve the flow. The Chairman suggested that a small group should get together to progress this. He would also ask Mr Napper for his opinion. Mr Fisher would obtain additional quotes (everyone would be welcome to attend any meeting with the contractor) and keep everyone updated. The ground in the compound needed some work.
- c) Pavilion Drain Works. Mr Fisher said that Dyno-Rod had been unable to shift the blockage. Thames Water had been very helpful and had put a camera and dye down the drain to investigate and had identified the location of the blockage, which was on a bend. However, having spent two hours on site, Thames Water realised that, as it was a single premises drain, they could not carry out any more work and SPC would have to employ a contractor. Luckily the work that had been carried out had shifted the blockage and the three toilets in the pavilion were now flowing properly. Further rodding might be necessary and if this did not work three contractors would be asked to quote.

8718: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

Wharf Safety Checks. The Chairman had carried these out and commented that the boundary between the Great House and the Wharf was looking a mess.

The light outside parkway Drive, and the other light lower down Pound Lane, were still being obscured by overgrown greenery. It was agreed to ask Mr Collier to cut these both back. It was also noted that the trees overhanging the Deanery walls were far too low and obstructing the pathway. The Clerk would write to the owner asking him to attend to this and that SPC would do so if this was not carried out.

Mrs Jacobs said that the Ivy were leaving their large rubbish receptacles for several days at a time on the footpath alongside the High Street Pump and they were always gave off an offensive smell. The Chairman would speak to the management.

8719: ACTION LIST.

The Action List was reviewed and updated.

8720: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The date of the next meeting would be Tuesday 8 September 2015 at 7.30pm.

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