

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the Pavilion, Pound Lane, Sonning, on Tuesday 12 January 2016 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT. Mr A E Farnese (Chairman), Mr T Fisher, Mrs S Jacobs, Mrs P Pownall (from 7.30PM), Mr I Runnalls. By invitation Cllr M Haines (WBC) (from 8.00pm). Mrs L A Bates (Clerk).

8791: APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS. Apologies were received from Mr Morrison (abroad), and Mr Evans (unwell). The Chairman welcomed all those present.

8792: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

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

8793: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations.

8794: CASUAL VACANCY.

This was ongoing. Mrs Jacob's said that a resident had shown some interest in joining the Council when they were less busy.

8795: CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE.

The Chairman said that it was a new year and he wanted to know if everyone was happy with the current process of Councillors managing their own responsibility. It was agreed that this was working well and no changes were required.

8796: CORRESPONDENCE

SLTC Request. The Chairman of SLTC had asked for advice on improving the path between the tennis courts and the hedge. The hedge was overgrowing the path and they would like it to be cut back. The Chairman said that Henley Landscapes had looked at the hedge, which had grown excessively high and was now 8ft wide at the top. It was too high making it difficult, and costly to maintain. They recommended removing it and planting a new, more manageable hedge, such as Beech. The additional leaf fall from such a hedge was discussed. The Clerk agreed to ask Henley Landscapes for a quote and ask SLTC for their views on the proposal. The Chairman would discuss options for the SLTC path with Henley Landscapes.

WBC – Paperless Workshop. WBC were changing over to paperless planning applications and charging for paper plans from 1 March 2016. A workshop to provide assistance to Councillors in managing the new process was being offered. The Chairman and Mr Fisher would attend the workshop on 19 January. The Chairman would collect paper plans, which had not been received, from the Planning Department on 14 January and ask what the charges would be for similar sized plans once the charges were introduced.

Feedback from Newsletter. Two new residents had sent their thanks for the newsletter, which they found very helpful and informative. Only one response had been received regarding residents opinion on a new pavilion. There had been three enquiries about the vacant half allotment and the allotment had been allocated immediately. The Chairman said that thanks were due to Mrs Pownall for editing and organising the printing.

RRFC Unauthorised Use of KGV Field 10 January. RRFC had organised, a practice match on the field between the car park and the SCC practice nets. This area was not being used during the current season allowing it to rest following overuse the previous season. Maintenance work and re-seeding had been done at the end of the cricket season. The weather had been very wet and the players and supporters had damaged the area. Additionally a number of cars had been parked on

8796: CORRESPONDENCE (Cont'd).

Pound Lane as the car park was locked. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Craig Hunter at RRFC.

WBC Call for Sites. As part of an ongoing process WBC were asking for proposal for suitable development sites, which might be included in their Allocated Reserve Housing Sites.

Wokingham Playing Pitch Strategy. SCC had copied the Clerk in on an e-mail to a contact at 4 Global, who were carrying out a Pitch Strategy on behalf of WBC and wanted to meet up with someone representing the footballers, and a representative of the field owners, to assess the field during the football season on 13 January at 130pm. 4 Global had met with SCC during the summer of 2015 but SCC had no connection with the field during the football season. The Clerk would e-mail to say that there not enough time to make arrangements but the Chairman would visit the field at the allocated time. 1.30 pm on 13 January, in case anyone turned up.

WBC Spring Clean 19 & 20 March 2016. The Chairman would be away over this week-end and suggested that residents might be encouraged to clear outside their own property cutting back hedges etc. The towpath would require a spring clean. It was agreed to discuss this further at the February meeting.

Railway Embankment. Mr Runnalls said that Mr Driver had e-mailed Network Rail, about the need to trim the ivy from the pollarded trees on the railway embankment by 15 March prior to the bird breeding season. This was the responsibility of Network Rail.

8797: PLANNING.

a) Report. Mr Runnalls said that May Tee House, 8 Glebe Lane, Manor Barn and Hillside had all been approved. There was no news about a date for the appeal at August Field/Acre Field. There were three new applications in. Holme Park Sports Ground, The White House and Microsoft.

The following applications were on going: South Lodge Sonning Lane (F/2014/1832): Acre Field, Charvil Lane (F/2015/0235) (Appeal): August Field and Acre Field Charvil Lane (F/2015/0354) (Appeal): The Great House at Sonning (F/2015/0283): 29 Old Bath Road (150735): Reading Blue Coat School Sonning Lane (152342- F/2014/2319) split decision: Little Shire Mustard Lane (152478): Unit 1 Sonning Farm (152363): Birchley Old Bath Road (152701): 20 Old Bath Road (152751): 47 West Drive (152543).

The following applications had been approved: 8 Glebe Lane (152826): May Tree House (152239): Manor Barn Charvil Lane (153045): Hillside (1530800).

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

The following new applications had been received. Holme Park Farm House, Holme Park Farm Lane (153218). Partial demolition and re-building of existing weather indoor manege and stables including ancillary storage building office and trainee accommodation: Land adjacent To Model Farm Cottages Bath Road (153307). Proposed use of land for the stationing of caravans for residential purposes for 2no gypsy pitches together with the formation of utility/dayrooms and hardstanding ancillary to that use: Glebelands Thames Street (153390). Certificate of lawfulness application for the proposed erection of a single storey side/rear extension to dwelling: The White House High Street (153369). Erection of a single storey rear extension to include swimming pool and terrace: Pavilion, Holme Park Sports Ground (153301). Amendment to planning permission F/2014/2196 to approved sports and physiotherapy clinic building involving reorientation, redesign, improved landscaping and parking provision: Microsoft Ltd Thames Valley Park Drive (153300). Construction of a new external goods and passenger lift, alterations to existing fenestration, to include new double doors, construction of an external access ramp to match existing and installation of 1no condenser unit and 3no Air conditioning units.

8798: CONSERVATION AREA ASSESSMENT.

The Society had received an update from WDC. The consultation with official bodies period had ended and no comments had been received from consultees. The next stage was now underway, which included adding maps and other information. Once this had been completed the public consultation could commence possibly by the end of January.

8799: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR.

Cllr Haines said that he had listed the proposal for Model Farm land and he had received complaints about the proposal from the Golf Club. The application would probably go to the WBC Planning Committee in February if the officer was minded to approve the application. If refused WBC would serve an Eviction Notice and the applicant would almost certainly go to appeal. The travellers had children on the site and had enrolled them at a local school and registered at a local surgery. They were saying that they had been moved on from another site. Mr Runnalls asked if WBC could ensure that the site would be restored but Cllr Haines was unsure about this. Mr Runnalls said that the application form had been completed by a company not from the area and was incorrect and there had been warnings about more flooding, the adjoining properties could be affected now the site had been raised and resurfaced with hard-core and tarmac.

8800: PARISHIONER QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

8801: FINANCE.

a) Payment of Accounts.

Mr Fisher proposed making the following payments, Mrs Pownall seconded and these were unanimously approved.

December

Payments									
Date	Chq. No	Name	Service item	Gross	VAT	Net	Committee	Sub-committee	A/C
1 Dec '15	100230	Henley Landscapes	Mow Field x 1	240.00	00.00	240.00	RECREATION	Rec. Mowing	Barc.
1 Dec '15	100231	Henley Landscapes	Mow Field x 1	240.00	00.00	240.00	RECREATION	Rec. Mowing	Barc.
1 Dec '15	100232	Sonning Landscapes	Mow Playground 2	56.00	0.00	56.00	RECREATION	Rec. Playground	Barc.
1 Dec '15	100232	Sonning Landscapes	Mow Wharf 1	28.00	0.00	28.00	ENVIRONMENT	Environ. Wharf	Barc.
1 Dec '15	100233	Street Furnishings	Dog Signs + Posts	276.00	46.00	276.00	RECREATION	Rec. Misc.	Barc.
1 Dec '15	100234	Thames Water	Allotments	72.59	0.00	72.59	ENVIRONMENT	Environ Allot	Barc.
1 Dec '15	100234	Thames Water	Pav. Water	127.57	0.00	127.57	PAVILION	Pav. Water etc	Barc.
1 Dec '15	100234	Thames Water	Square Water	80.47	00.00	80.47	SPORTS	Cricket/Soccer Pitches	Barc.
10 Dec '15	100235	Playdale	Zip Repairs	281.17	46.86	281.17	RECREATION	Mtnce. Equip	Barc.
10 Dec '15	100236	Quadron	Dog Bins	85.02	14.17	70.85	AMENITIES	Amenities Dog Bins	Barc.
10 Dec '15	100237	Happy Drain	Liguge Drains	594.00	99.00	495.00	RECREATION	Rec. Misc.	Barc.
			Months Tot	2080.82	206.03	1874.79			

8801: FINANCE(Cont'd)

- b) Report. The Report had been circulated.
- c) 2016/17 Budget. Mr Morrison had circulated the revised budget. Cllr Haines said that WBC might raise their rates considering the cuts imposed by the government, the Fire Brigade and the Police were increasing theirs. Following discussion the Chairman proposed accepting the budget and setting the precept at £34700. Mr Runnalls seconded and this was unanimously approved.

8802: HIGHWAYS.

In the absence of Mr Evans there was no report.

8803: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G.

- a) Safety Checks. Mrs Pownall had checked the exercise machines and the Chairman had checked the playground. Some of the play equipment would benefit from power washing.
- b) Water Drain-Off Work. Mr Fisher had met the White Horse contractor as water was beginning to run off the field. They had come up with a constructive suggestion and were sending a quote. The proposal was to install an aco drain which would be connected to the gully in Ligure Way on the pavilion side of the field, just outside the playground. An inspection chamber would also be built. Another drain could be introduced at a later date if this was not sufficient. The Chairman said that the drain in Ligure Way was blocked and the road would need to be dug up to resolve the problem. This would be expensive. Mr Fisher would ask Eddie Napper, who had details about the existing drainage, to meet him on site for his opinion.
- c) Pavilion Drain Works. Mrs Pownall said that this was ongoing.
- d) Quotes for the Playground. It was agreed that the location proposed by Wicksteed for the large swing was not suitable and there was insufficient space in the playground. The Chairman said that Henley Landscapes had made a suggestion and the Clerk would ask for details and a quote.
- e) Quote for Wharf Works. Mrs Jacobs said that Thames Water were replacing the existing wall, which was leaning badly. A stronger, double layer, wall with brick faced breeze blocks was being built. Mrs Jacobs said everything was going well and she had contact numbers in case of need. The pumping station building would be painted. The Chairman said that Henley Landscapes would supply a quote to fell the leaning tree on the Wharf and for a new gate between the Wharf and the towpath/moorings. Henley Landscapes had given a verbal quote of £750, to fell the tree on the school boundary. The Clerk would write to Mr Barker, as WBC had said that the tree was on his land, and inform him that he needed to have it felled in the next few months.
- f) Meeting with Sports Clubs. Mrs Pownall said that she was planning to hold a meeting in February and would include Beverly Thompson (WBC).

8803: NEWSLETTER.

Mrs Pownall had already been thanked. Mrs Pownall agreed to update the front page of the web site (as requested by Mr Gilmore) and suggested including the article about the pavilion from the newsletter. The Clerk would supply Mr Gilmore's e-mail to Mrs Pownall.

8804: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

Safety Checks. The Chairman had carried out the safety checks and there was nothing to report.

8804: TECHNICAL SERVICES (Cont'd).

Meeting with WBC Re: Lighting Upgrade. The Chairman he and Mr Fisher would meet David White (WBC) to discuss the possible upgrade on Monday 19 January. Mr Fisher said that the light at the top pf the rec. steps was out. Mr Runnalls agreed to report the pot holes in Pearson Road and Charvil Lane to WBC through their telephone reporting facility. The Chairman would speak to WBC about the overgrown trees on the Shelvingstone boundary.

8805: WEB SITE.

This had already been covered.

8806: ACTION LIST.

The Action List was reviewed and updated.

88070: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 9 February 2016 at 7.00pm.

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