

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

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

8840: APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS. There were no apologies. The Chairman welcomed all those present.

8841: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

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

8842: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations.

8743: CASUAL VACANCY.

This was ongoing. It was agreed to include mention of this in the Chairman's letter and Mrs Pownall would include it on the SPC Facebook page.

8844: CORRESPONDENCE

Thank you for Donations. Several thank you letters had been received but not from all beneficiaries. Shinfield Neighbourhood Plan Consultation. This had been circulated to all parishes for comment. Future Role WDALC. Parishes had been asked to comment on the current, and future role, of the association.

D of E Volunteering. The RBCS student had accepted, another opportunity and thanked SPC.

Condition of the Pavilion. The Chairman of SCC had complained about the state of the pavilion at the end of the football season. The Chairman suggested employing a cleaner once a week and to pass the charge onto the clubs. The Chairman would check out possibilities.

Letter from the Chairman. The Chairman had circulated a draft letter to residents and this was approved unanimously. The Clerk would add the Casual Vacancy. Delivery would be via Councillors.

8845: PLANNING.

a) Report. Mr Runnalls said that the August/Acre Field Inspector had been supportive of the Conservation Area and was anxious that no harm should be done by the development and had refused demolition when dismissing the appeal. The Inspector had considered that Acre Field made a contribution as it was set back in a spacious site with many trees and her report was very good. There had been split decision on the RBCS application, 152342 F/2014/2319, but only one condition had been approved. The Little Shire application had been withdrawn but the WBC website said it had been refused. Glebelands had been refused as it required planning permission.

The following applications were on going: 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): 20 Old Bath Road (152751): Holme Park Farm House, Holme Park Farm Lane (153218): Pavilion, Holme Park Sports Ground (153301) Revised Plans: Land adjacent To Model Farm Cottages Bath Road (153307):

The following applications had been approved: Microsoft Ltd Thames Valley Park Drive (153300): Reading Blue Coat School (160110): 48 Pound Lane (160282) Prior Approval given: 21 West Drive (0332): 51 Pound Lane (160376): Reading Blue Coat School (160848).

8845: PLANNING (Cont'd).

The following applications had been refused. Glebelands Thames Street (153390).

The following new applications had been received. Greendown (160641). Certificate of lawfulness for the proposed single storey rear extension to existing dwelling: 31 Old Bath Road (160624). Raising of roof height to create first floor accommodation to include dormer extensions: The Rockery High Street (160761). Part single storey, part two storey and part first floor side and rear extensions to include roof dormer extensions and conversion of garage to habitable accommodation: 75 Pound Lane (160794). Two storey side and rear extension to the dwelling: 61 Pound Lane (160907). Single storey side extension and two storey side and rear extension to dwelling. 9 Glebe Lane (160926) Single storey front and rear extensions to existing dwelling.

The following appeal had been dismissed. Acre Field, Charvil Lane (F/2015/0235), August Field and Acre Field Charvil Lane (F/2015/0354).

8846: CONSERVATION AREA ASSESSMENT.

There was no further update. The Chairman said that there had been a lot of talk about Parish Plans at the quarterly meeting at WBC and officers would be happy to visit Parishes to provide more information.

8847: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR.

In the absence of Cllr Haines, there were no questions.

8848: PARISHIONER QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

8849: FINANCE.

- a) Payment of Accounts. Mr Morrison proposed making the following payments, Mr Runnalls seconded and these were unanimously approved.

March

PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS APRIL '16 (1 TO 31 MARCH)

Date	Cheque	Name	Service Item	Gross	VAT	Net	Committee
8 March '16	254	WBC	Election Exp.	251.75	0.00	251.75	ADMIN
8 March '16	255	Henley Cont.	Fell Wharf Tree	325.00	0.00	325.00	ENVIRONMENT
8 March '16	256	Mrs R Hulley	Litter Feb	145.83	0.00	145.83	HIGHWAYS
8 March '16	257	SLCC	Annual Subs	149.00	0.00	149.00	ADMIN
16 March '16	258	Age Concern	Donation	200.00	0.00	200.00	DONATIONS
16 March '16	259	T V Air Amb.	Donation	200.00	0.00	200.00	DONATION
16 March 16	260	Sonning PCC	Donation	200.00	0.00	200.00	DONATION
16 March '16	261	ReadiBus	Donation	150.00	0.00	150.00	DONATION
16 March '16	262	Sue Ryder	Donation	100.00	0.00	100.00	DONATION
16 March '16	263	Berks Vision	Donation	50.00	0.00	50.00	DONATION
16 March '16	264	Wok. CAB	Donation	50.00	0.00	50.00	DONATION
16 March '16	265	TwyVol.	Donation	50.00	0.00	50.00	DONATION
16 March '16	266	Keep Mobile	Donation	50.00	0.00	50.00	DONATION
16 March '16	267	Relate	Donation	50.00	0.00	50.00	DONATION
23 March 16	268	Nat. Savings	Investment	3715.52	0.00	3715.52	SLTC
23 March '16	269	Quadron	Dog Bins	111.18	18.53	92.65	AMENITIES
31 March '16	271	SSE Contract	St Lighting Maint.	727.50	121.25	606.25	LIGHTING
31 March '16	271	SSE Contract	St. Lighting Repairs	206.99	34.50	172.49	LIGHTING
31 March '16	272	Mrs L A Bates	Honorarium	2508.00	0.00	2508.00	CLERK
31 March '16	273	Mrs L A Bates	Telephone	40.00	0.00	40.00	ADMIN
			Months Total	9280.77	174.28	9106.49	

8849: FINANCE.

- b) Report. The Report had been circulated and was noted.

8850: HIGHWAYS.

Mr Evans said that the A4 barrier had finally been repaired. The next Neighbourhood Meeting would be in two weeks. The 'No Cold Calling' signs had been erected in Charvil Lane, at the bridge, Sonning Lane and Old Bath Road. Mr Runnalls asked about electronic speed signs and Mr Evans said that as an alternative, these could be hired from WBC. Two sizes were available and would provide an analysis of traffic and speed. Mr Runnalls preferred a small round sign and in Pound Lane if there was only funding for one and these could be read from both sides. Mr Evans would speak to Mr Horton, WBC Highways to find out why Twyford had a mobile speed indicator and if they would install one in Sonning. The police actively supported Speed Watch and the Clerk would ask for volunteers in the Chairman's letter.

8851: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G.

- a) Report. Mrs Pownall said that there had been a very useful meeting with SLTC, SCC and CFC. Parking was discussed and it became known that there was a regular ballet class in Beech Lodge, from 9.00 am to mid-day on Saturday mornings, and they took up most of the spaces in Liguge Way. It had been suggested that marking out car spaces in the car park would provide more space. CFC wanted to put cones in Pound Lane, between the steps and the Plants drive, but had been advised that this was illegal and it would require a TPO to permit their use. The Chairman would speak to Mr Horton about this. Mr Runnalls felt that cones were a good idea and would provide a passing space for vehicles. The Chairman said that the school car park was always full of footballer's cars and they had used the main school car park when the gates had been left open. Mrs Pownall had met Beverly Thompson (WBC) about funding for the pavilion and had been advised to apply for grants to refurbish or rebuild. The next step was to speak to the football foundation and she was aiming for a meeting on 9 May. Apparently there was some funding available but sports grants were on hold. The Chairman asked if there was a contact at Fields in Trust and Mrs Pownall would look into this. Mrs Pownall said that a modular build would be less expensive, Shinfield had built one and modified it to improve the look.
- b) Safety Checks. Mrs Pownall said that these had been carried out.
- c) Water Drain-Off Work. Mr Beckinsale had been asked to carry out the work but a permit was required from WBC to carry out works next to the trees. The Chairman would let the Clerk know what species the trees were.
- d) Pavilion Drain Works. Mrs Pownall said that this would be done soon.
- e) Quotes for the Playground. The Chairman said that he and the Clerk had met Angie Gibson, who dealt with the S106 applications, and she had advised that it would be more expensive to have the old swing professionally removed and reinstalled than it would be to purchase a new swing. It had to be done professionally to comply with safety regulations. Ms Gibson had suggested a similar swing, which could also be used by the disabled, and that it could go in the playground where the old tree stump had been removed. A representative from Hags/SMP, who could provide the new swing had been asked to get in touch to give a quote for the work. Mrs Pownall asked about the picnic seat and it was agreed that the £400 version should be purchased.
- f) Quote for Wharf Works. Mrs Jacobs said that one of the seats was in poor condition and the Chairman agreed to demolish it and retain the plaques. There had been no update from the Great House and it was noted that the exposed electric cable had not been removed.
- g) SCC Practice nets. The Chairman said that SCC had confirmed that the surface was porous, which was one of the main concerns when refusing the proposal as was the amount of space

h) 8851: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G. (Cont'd)

they would take up. There were also concerns that the facility would not be open for others to use, about extending the cricket use of the field and the additional wear and tear. He understood that some Authorities were considering making a charge for runners using their facilities due to the extra maintenance. The Chairman was concerned that SPC should maintain and run the field in an organised way. Mr Fisher said that he was concerned about maintenance of the nets, that it might fall into disrepair and that it should be lockable. The Chairman also said that he would have preferred to hear from the SCC Chairman directly, about the condition the footballers had left the pavilion in, or that the clubs had discussed it between themselves. Mr Ray apologised and said that he was trying to take on more responsibility for communications between the clubs. The existing cricket nets were insufficient for the demands and that the new nets would hardly be visible from the pavilion end once they were installed. Mr Runnalls asked how many members were from Sonning and Mr Ray said that more than half were from Sonning, Charvil or Woodley. Mr Runnalls said that it was King George V Playing Field, for all sports, not a cricket academy and he would prefer it if the new nets replaced the existing. Mr Ray said that if a new pavilion was built the existing nets would need to go. The Chairman said that the increased use of the field was causing too much wear and tear and the treasurer was looking into costs and the charges being made for other venues. Mr Evans felt that the new nets, which were of an improved standard, would be good for the cricket club. The Chairman then proposed that the new nets should be installed and that SCC should apply for planning permission on behalf of SPC. This was approved six to one abstention. Mr Ray thanked the Council and said the nets would make a huge difference to SCC. More funding and planning had to be obtained so realistically the nets would be installed in April 2017.

- i) SLTC Hedge. The Chairman said that a quote was being sought for this and the Hags/SMP representative would be asked to look at the pathway for disabled players.

8852: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

Safety Checks. The Chairman had carried out the safety checks and he was concerned about the large swing, he would ask the Hags representative for advice.

Lighting Upgrade. Mr Fisher said that he had updated the spreadsheet and that he and the Chairman would meet up with Mr White about the next stage. There were 59 SPC lights, half in the CA, which were of the heritage design, and half outside which were non heritage. Two lights needed to be replaced urgently, one at the entrance to Glebe Lane and one in Little Glebe.

Request for Dog Bins. The Clerk said that Quadron no longer operated the dog bin emptying service and that the contract had been handed to ISS, who had worked for Windsor and Maidenhead for some time. Despite numerous e-mails the new department, not operative from the Toutley depot, had not responded, but they were emptying the dog bins. The Clerk would continue to seek an answer.

Quote for posts. The Chairman said that the posts were £54 each but they needed deeper footing than the existing posts. This was a concern as there were services running under the area but the Chairman would continue to investigate.

Allotments. Mrs Jacobs said that the allotments were all looking good.

Car Park Fencing. The Clerk would ask Mr Collier for a quote.

8853: WEB SITE.

It was agreed to put the Chairman's letter on the website.

8854: ACTION LIST.

The Action List was reviewed and updated. Mrs Pownall would ask Mr Sawyer to repair the broken pavilion door.

8855: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 10 May 2016 at 7.00pm. The AGM would be held on 17 May, 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm and the Clerk would book the Pearson Hall meeting room. Light refreshments would be served from 7.00 pm.

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