

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the Pavilion, Pound Lane, Sonning, on Tuesday 11 June 2019 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT. Mr A E Farnese (Chairman), Mrs J Fielder, Mr T Fisher, Mr P Morrison. By invitation Cllr Michael Firmager (WBC). Mrs L A Bates (Clerk). 2 Visitors.

10346: APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS. There were no apologies. The Chairman welcomed all those present and in particular Cllr Firmager, who was introduced to everyone.

10347: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations.

10348: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

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

10149: CORRESPONDENCE

Pavilion Fundraising Dinner 21 September. Tickets were going well and it was agreed that SPC should support it. The Chairman, Clerk and Cllr Firmager agreed to attend with their partners.

D Day Celebrations Little Glebe. The Chairman said that the British Legion, including Richard Adams, were to be thanked for putting on the street party on Sunday 2 June. It was very well attended including the Prime Minister, Mrs May and her husband.

10350: PLANNING.

**Report.** The Chairman said that planning permission at The Great House at Sonning (190825, had been approved.

**The following applications were on going):** Sonning Golf Club (190557): Holme Park Sports Ground (190606): The Lawns Old Bath Road (190693).

**The following applications had been refused.** No refusals.

**The following new applications had been received.**

**The following applications had been withdrawn.** Little Shire (191426).

**Adjoining Parish Consultation.** TVP Building 1, Thames Valley Park Drive, Earley, RG6 1PT. (191243). Full planning application for the proposed alterations to the side wide landscaping including amendments to the car parking provision, erection of cycle parking store provision of electric charging points plus bin store and other associated works (191243). Mr Fisher would check the application out to establish if a response was necessary as SPC did not normally comment on application in adjoining parishes.

10351: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

Mr Fisher said that there was resistance from some Borough Councillors to the need for a Puffin crossing in Pound Lane and outlined the history from WBC's decision to withdraw the school crossing patrollers up to the present time, including discussions with Sara Allman and the results of the Pound Lane Survey. Recently Mr Fisher had been in touch with Martin Heath and a meeting had been arranged with him on 4 June to look at the onsite conditions, the Chairman and Mrs Harvey had also been present. Unfortunately 11.00am was not the busiest of times. Cllr Firmager said that he would like to visit the site during school times and Mr Fisher said that SPC would

## 10351: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR (Cont'd)

appreciate Cllr Firmager's support. The Chairman said that he was concerned about children's safety. Cllr Firmager said that he had met a Pound Lane resident, who was concerned about the noise from the speed humps, and that they didn't slow vehicles down. Cllr Firmager said that he was now Deputy Executive member for Environment and Leisure and had been appointed to the Borough/Parish Liaison Forum, Building Control Board and Licensing and Appeals. Mrs Fielder asked about progress on the 3<sup>rd</sup> bridge. The volume of traffic was now at the same levels as during the week and the fumes from standing vehicles were noxious. Unfortunately Cllr Firmager had not been involved in the progress of this and had no current information. Cllr Firmager said that he had some association with Sonning through his brother, Paul, who had been a Sonning postman for many years and was anxious to get to know the parish better. Mr Fisher said that it would be nice to see some progress and to mitigate the existing traffic problems. Cllr Firmager said that the flooding near the Golf Club had improved since WBC carried out some upgrades and the proposed changes to the road associated with the Golf Club development should improve site-lines. The Chairman said that he was concerned about the proposed development in the area and the effect it would have on the already unacceptable amount of vehicles on Sonning roads.

## 10352: PARISHIONER QUESTIONS.

There were no questions.

## 10353: FINANCE.

- a) Report. The Clerk had prepared a report which was noted.
- b) Payment of Accounts.

### **SPC PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS June (1 TO 31 May) '19**

Date	Chq	Name	Service item	Gross	VAT	Net	Committee	Sub-committee
29/04/19	592	Henley Land	Field Mtnce	2835.00	0.00	2835.00	RECREATION	Field Mtnce
29/04/19	592	Henley Land	Mowing	260.00	0.00	260.00	RECREATION	Main Mo
14/05/19	593	Tivoli	Dog Bins	156.00	26.00	130.00	ENVIRON	Dog Bins
14/05/19	594	Henley Land	Mowing	260.00	0.00	260.00	RECREATION	Main Mow
14/05/19	594	Henley land	Mtnce Boundary	295.00	0.00	295.00	RECREATION	Net repairs
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3806.00</b>	<b>26.00</b>	<b>3780.00</b>		

- c) 2018/19 Annual Return – Annual Governance Statement.

The Clerk had circulated the 2018/19 AGAR documents, pages 1 to 6, which, included the Internal Auditors report, the Annual Governance Statement and the Annual Accountancy Statement which were all reviewed. Following discussion Mr Morrison proposed approving the Annual Governance Statement, Mr Fisher seconded and this was unanimously approved.

- d) 2018/19 Annual Return Accountancy Statements

Having reviewed the Annual Accountancy Statements the Chairman proposed approving the Accountancy Statement, Mr Fisher seconded and these were unanimously approved. Mr Morrison said that thanks were due to the Clerk for keeping the day to day finance records.

## 10353: FINANCE (Cont'd).

- e) New Signatory. It had been agreed at the May meeting that Mrs Harvey should replace Mrs Pownall as the new signatory on the Barclays account. Mr Morrison agreed to progress this.
- f) Accountants Draft Outline of Letter to HMRC reference VAT on Pavilion.

The accountants had redrafted their outline of their proposed approach to HMRC and had emailed it the previous day for circulation. They had previously agreed a fee of £2,000, to draft a letter to HMRC, and a liability of £50,000. Following discussion it was agreed that the proposed approach was a good one and the Chairman proposed accepting the fee and asking the accountants to progress to the next stage. Mr Morrison seconded and this was unanimously approved.

## 10354: HIGHWAYS

School Crossing. Mr Fisher said that, he had received an email to say that SPC could carry out the speed surveys in Little Glebe and Glebe Lane, which would speed things up. Once these were completed further consideration could be given to extending the 20 mph zone towards the A4, although this would involve the police. If this were agreed, some improved signs for the existing crossing, could be considered. Martin Heath had said that he would like to visit the site again during school opening and closing times to get a better understanding of the problems. The Chairman said that he regretted that the School were not being more proactive and Mr Fisher said that he would arrange a further meeting with Martin Heath and the school if possible.

Speed Indicators (SID). Mr Fisher said that the figures in Pound Lane over the past 29 days showed two vehicles driving at 60mph and, over the past 15 days, speeds of 50 mph had been recorded. Pound Lane was the most used of all the approach roads, averaging 4116 vehicles per day both ways. Charvil Lane reports showed 3600 vehicles and two vehicles driving at 65 mph. Mrs Fielder said that she understood that the police would now write to drivers caught speeding as part of the speed watch.

Speed/Lorry Watch. Mr Fisher said that unfortunately he had not been well so had not been able to progress this. Mr Runnalls had seen a lorry drive over the Bridge but there had been no response for the company. It was understood that Trading Standards, working from West Berks might be able to assist with this in future.

Pound Lane Survey-Speed Hump. No further update.

Sonning Lane TRO. The road markings had been installed without any prior notice and, despite agreement that small Conservation Area markings should be use (if only in the CA) the contractor had installed large yellow lines and these had continued into the High Street without consultation. The Clerk had emailed Sara Allman but had yet to receive a reply.

Rerouting High Power Electricity Cables in Sonning. Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks had emailed to say they were required to uprate the high voltage cables around Sonning village and would like the parish's involvement in determining the final route. A representative had contacted Mr Fisher, without prior notice, to say they were in Sonning and suggested a meeting. Three possible routes had been identified –from the corner of Charvil Lane, down Pearson Road and up Sonning Lane: Thames Street, High Street, Pearson Road, and Sonning Lane: Thames Street, Churchyard and Sonning Lane. The churchyard route appeared to be the simplest solution but they had recently had a new electricity supply across the churchyard for the Bull. Following discussion Mr Fisher agreed to suggest that SSE consult the Church before progressing further.

5k and 10k Race. Mr Fisher would contact the organisers about some small issues.

#### 10355: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G.

- a) Safety Checks. The Chairman had inspected the playground and he and Mr Fisher had found that the equipment could be cleaned with a good brush.
- b) Field Boundary Mowing. As Mr Fisher had been unable to mow the boundary SCC had done this. It was agreed to see if this could continue over the summer.
- c) Pavilion Fund Raising. Mrs Pownall said that more information had been required by the grant people, who it was hoped would allocate £150,000 to the project. The SCC were progressing the fund raising Dinner on 21 September and this was going well and leaflets had been produced to bring the event to the attention of all residents. It was agreed that Councillors and the Clerk would distribute to their usual areas and SCC to the ones not covered. Mrs Pownall would assemble the leaflets ready for everyone to collect. The Chairman said that the Fire Brigade Trust would be prepared to contribute but needed some details from Mr Anderson.
- d) Tree Work. The Chairman said that a large branch had fallen from a tree on the Wharf but someone had kindly cleared it away from the towpath. Heights Tree Care had been in the vicinity and had removed and cleared the branch and declared the tree dead, dying, or dangerous and had informed WBC as was required under the 5 day notice. They had supplied a quote and the Chairman proposed accepting the quote of £310 for the emergency work, removing the branch, and £320 for felling the tree. Mr Fisher seconded and this was unanimously approved.
- e) ROSPA Report. The Clerk said that she had asked the manufacturers for a quote for the safety surfaces.
- f) Pagoda Light. The Chairman had purchased this and would arrange for it to be installed.
- g) Charvil Football Club Property. Mrs Harvey would continue to liaise with the Club.
- h) SLTC Main Gate. The Chairman said that he was waiting for the welder.
- i) Churchyard Gate. Mrs Fielder said that she had received a reply to say that the PCC would unearth the gate from the undergrowth and establish what repairs were required.
- j) VE Day 2020. Mrs Fielder would look through the details and report back to the next meeting.

#### 10356: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

Safety Checks. The Chairman had carried out the safety checks on the Wharf.

Lighting Upgrade. Mr Fisher said that Volker still hadn't replied about the maintenance. The arrangement with SEC to attend as required seemed to work well, as long as lighting faults were reported to the Clerk. Everyone agreed to check lights in their vicinity.

Wharf Gate. No update.

#### 10357: ALLOTMENTS.

Mrs Fielder said there had been a request to replace an existing shed and, having visited the site, was happy to propose that the Clerk should reply to say that this was in order. While there Mrs Fielder had noticed the hedge needed to be cut and the Clerk agreed to ask Mr Collier. The Chairman agreed to provide a NO DOGS notice.

#### 10358: POLICE AND SECURITY.

Mrs Fielder said that the police had provided an update at the Neighbourhood Watch meeting. There had been a number of burglaries in Sonning, over a three month period, involving, sheds, houses, the Church and Thames Street. Travellers had removed the paving slabs from a residents drive in daylight but neighbours had assumed that this was part of building works. A wallet had been stolen at Sunrise. Mrs Fielder would email the full report to the Clerk.

10359: NEWSLETTER.

It was agreed to leave this until after the summer.

10360: WEB SITE.

This continued to work well.

10361: ACTION LIST.

This was reviewed and updated.

10362: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 9 July 2019 at 7.00pm

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