

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the Pavilion, Pound Lane, Sonning, on Tuesday 10 September 2019 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT. Mr A E Farnese (Chairman), Mr T Fisher, Mrs J Harvey, Mr P Morrison. By invitation
Cllr Michael Firmager (WBC), 3 members of the Sonning Society. 1 visitor.
Mrs L A Bates (Clerk).

10382: APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS. Apologies were received from Mrs J Fielder (holiday),
Mrs J Harvey (recovering from operation). The Chairman welcomed all those present.

10383: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations.

10384: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

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

10385: NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN.

Mr Hine was invited to give an overview of the situation. Mr Hine said that the meeting with representatives had been very productive and they had given a lot of help, supply software that was required in order to produce a Neighbourhood Plan. The main benefit for having a neighbourhood Plan was that it would become a statutory planning document and the parish could decide where they would accept any development and what type. Mrs Harvey asked about the process and Mr Hine said it would be essential to get as many people involved as possible and a public meeting in the Hall would be the first stage in achieving this, the whole process would probably take about two years. Mr Gilmour said that he had spoken to several young couples in the village and they were all enthusiastic. Mr Fisher said the Plan would fit in well with the timing of the emerging WBC Local Plan. The Chairman asked about the inclusion of the Readingensians site as a potential development site and Mr Hine said that this would require planning permission. Mr Firmager said that a neighbourhood Plan was a good idea. He would like to attend any public meeting and asked to be kept advised of this and that WBC should be kept informed of progress. The Clerk agreed to find out about the process to nominate Sonning as a Neighbourhood Area, which had to be agreed before the process could begin and about any grants. The Chairman asked how residents might get involved and Mr Hine said the some might come forward following the public meeting, several groups might be set up of people with the necessary skills (I.T – planning) who would report back on a regular basis. Mr Morrison said that he would like to see the SODC Plans, he had already looked at the Hurst Plan. Following discussion the Chairman proposed progressing to the first stage of a Neighbourhood Plan, which would be to apply to WBC for the parish to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area and if this were approved by WBC, moving on to developing a Sonning Neighbourhood Plan, Mr Fisher seconded and this was unanimously approved. The Chairman thanked everyone for their contributions.

10386: CORRESPONDENCE.

CAB AGM 27 September. The Princess Royal would be the guest speaker. The Chairman and Mrs Harvey would attend. Time to be confirmed nearer the time.

Public Right of Way Improvement Plan Consultation. This would end on 27 September.

SCC Proposal for Artificial Cricket Square. It was agreed that SCC needed to speak to each other about this and come back with more information.

10386: CORRESPONDENCE (Cont'd).

Dog Bins. A dog bin at the top of the field had not been emptied and the Clerk would check if this was a SPC bin.

WBC Draft Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy Consultation. This was on the WBC website and the consultation would end on 27 September.

Parking in Thames Street. Complaints had been received about customers at the Great House/Coppa Club parking in Thames Street due to the lack of onsite parking. Most cars were parking and obstructing the pavement making it impossible for pedestrians, particularly those with pushchairs, to use the pavement. The Chairman said that the police had been called and were dealing with it.

Thames Street Wall. The brick wall on the boundary of the Great House and Thames Street opposite the Deanery was laminating badly and there were concerns about its safety. It was agreed that SPC had a duty of care to bring this to the attention of the owners. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the management and also the owner of the adjoining property, the Red House.

10387: PLANNING.

Report. The Chairman said that no new applications had been received but Berkshire County Sports Club (191526) and Chyreen Holmemoor Drive (191283), had been approved.

The following applications were on going). The Lawns Old Bath Road (190693): TVP Building 1 Thames Valley Park Drive Earley (191243): TVP Building 1 Thames Valley Park Drive Earley (191243): RH&CC Sonning Lane (191555): The Atrium (191808): Little Shire Mustard Lane (191594).

The following applications had been approved. The Great House at Sonning (190825).

The following applications had been refused. No refusals.

The following applications had been withdrawn. None.

The following Appeal had been dismissed, 22 Pound Lane (APP/X0360/D/19/3228021).

The following new applications had been received. West Drive (191767). Householder application for the proposed erection of a two storey rear extension, garage conversion to create habitable accommodation, insertion of 1 balcony to the rear of the property, plus internal alterations: Little Shire (192072). Householder application for the proposed erection of a 1.8m high fence to the rear of the flat roof: 29 West Drive (191767). Householder application for the proposed erection of a two storey rear extension, garage conversion to create habitable accommodation, insertion of 1 balcony to the rear of the property, plus internal alterations: 37 Glebe Lane (192191). Householder application for a proposed single storey rear extension and alterations to fenestration.

37 Little Glebe (192191). The Chairman said that this was for a single storey rear extension, and was well away from the boundary. Following discussion it was agreed to say that SPC could find no reason to object.

29 West Drive (191767). The Chairman said that this was to build a single storey infill between two existing gables at the rear of the property and would not affect the neighbours. Following discussion it was agreed. There were concerns about the proximity of a side wall to the boundary but it was agreed to say that SPC could find no reason to object but to mention concerns about the proximity of the side wall to the boundary.

10388: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR.

The Chairman informed Cllr Firmager that SPC were trying to locate the air quality monitoring units in Sonning. Mrs Harvey would check the area by the Bridge and the Clerk would follow up

10388: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR (Cont'd).

with the WBC contact, who had provided previous year's figures. Cllr Firmager said that some Councillors had challenged that there was congestion in Sonning, Mr Fisher agreed to provide Cllr Firmager with the results from SID to assist in disputing this. Mrs Harvey asked if anything could be done about WBC highway contractors not cleaning rubbish in the hedges surrounding the A4. Cllr Firmager would look into this.

10389: PARISHIONER QUESTIONS.

There were no questions.

10390: FINANCE.

- a) Report. The Clerk had prepared a report which was noted.
- b) Payment of Accounts. Mr Fisher proposed and Mr Morrison seconded the following payments:

SPC PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS SEPT (1 TO 31 AUG) '19

Date	Chq	Name	Service Item	Gross	VAT	Net	Committee	Sub-committee
10/08/19	612	HALC	Ann. BALC Subs	359.30	0.00	359.30	REC.	Main Mowing
10/08/19	613	Son, Litter	Litter June (part)	110.00	0.00	110.00	HIGHWAYS	Litter
10/08/19	614	TIVOLI	Dog Bins x 1 (Aug)	165.60	26.60	139.00	ENVIRON	Dog Bins
21/08/19	615	Son. Land	Mow Playground x 1	30.00	0.00	30.00	RECEATION	Play Mow
21/08/19	615	Son. Land	Remove shrubs Wharf	28.00	0.00	28.00	ENVIRON	Wharf M'tnce
21/08/19	616	Castle Water	Allot. Water	21.46	0.00	21.46	ENVIRON	Allot Water
21/08/19	617	Castle Water	Square Water	84.29	0.00	84.29	SPORTS	Sports Other
21/08/19	618	Castle Water	Pav. Water	85.37	0.00	85.37	SPORTS	Pav. Utilities
21/08/19	619	A E Farnese	LED for Pagoda Light	10.00	0.00	10.00	REC.	Rec. Misc.
			TOTAL	894.02	26.60	867.42		

The August (01-31 July) payments would be presented at the October meeting.

- c) Pound Lane Highway Improvements.

WBC had asked if SPC would pay £27,000 for improvements to Pound Lane from CIL It was agreed that SPC would be willing to pay this amount if full details of the proposed improvements were provided. The Clerk would respond accordingly.

10391: HIGHWAYS

School Crossing. Waiting for a response from WBC Highways.

Speed Indicators (SID). Mr Fisher said that the figures for Charvil Lane showed similar vehicles numbers per day as in previous months. A vehicle driving at 75mph at 3.30 am had been recorded and figures showed that others were travelling at 50 to 60mph. Pound Lane figures were similar to previous months but one vehicle had been travelling at 70mph at 5am in July. During the school holidays the number of vehicles were down but speeding was up.

Lorry Watch. Mr Fisher said that he needed to get everyone together. The Chairman said that an eight wheeler lorry had gone over the Bridge and became stuck on the corner.

Pound Lane Survey. Mr Fisher said that he had agreed to install a SID at the top of Pound Lane to monitor the speed so that WBC could decide if they would extend the 20mph zone up to the A4 roundabout and he was hoping that WBC would make a contribution. The Chairman said that it

10391: HIGHWAYS (Cont'd)

was important that SPC support the school crossing and he hoped the school might support the process. Mrs Harvey said that her request had not met with any success they thought it was SPC's responsibility, there was no interest. Cllr Firmager said that there was a time when schools saw it as a duty of care to support such initiatives. Mr Fisher said that this seemed to have lost momentum. It was important that the Martin Heath visited Pound Lane during school times to appreciate the problem.

Pound Lane resurfacing. The Chairman said this had been poorly organised and the advertised dates differed for the actual dates the work was undertaken.

Mrs Woodhouse said that she had found it very dangerous walking down Pound Lane with her two young grandchildren due to the speed of vehicles and the narrow pavement. The speed of vehicles had increased during the school holidays, which was worrying. Mrs Woodhouse felt that SID was needed at the Pearson Road end of Pound Lane as vehicles seemed to speed up once they turned into Pound Lane. It was explained that request to use the SID in other locations in the parish had been received and it would be difficult to justify putting the 'mobile' SID in Pound Lane as well as the mobile one. An additional SID would cost in the region of £3,000. Mr Morrison said that the only successful speed humps were in Burchett's Green, which were high and wide so that vehicles had to slow down. Mr Morrison also mentioned a sink hole in Charvil Lane which had been repaired several times but the ground continued to sink. Mr Morrison agreed to chase this up.

10392: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G.

- a) Safety Checks. The Chairman had inspected the playground.
- b) Pavilion Fund Raising. The next fundraising event would be the Supper on 21 September. The application for a grant had been withdrawn due to the start date being moved back to September 2020. Grant funding had to be used in the year it was approved, a new application would be submitted in the new-year.
- c) Rec. Path Quotes. Two quotes had been received, Terra Firma had underestimated the area to be covered and when corrected the two quotes were similar in price. Following discussion it was agreed to appoint KS Paving as the contractors. Mr Fisher proposed and the Chairman seconded accepting KS Paving quote of £4200 plus VAT and this was unanimously approved.
- d) Pagoda Light. This had been purchased and installed. The Chairman would contact the police about the smoking of substances in the pagoda and the pavilion verandah.
- e) Charvil Football Club Property. Mrs Harvey continued to liaise with the Club.
- f) SLTC Main Gate. This was ongoing.

10393: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

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

Lighting Upgrade. Mr Fisher said that the shield for the Parker's light had been delivered. There had been reports that the Bridge lights were out and Mrs Harvey agreed to check out the fuse box.

Wharf Gate. The Clerk would chase Henley Contracting again

10394: V.E. DAY 2020.

In the absence of Mrs Fielder there was no update.

10395: POLICE & SECURITY.

Mrs Fielder has submitted the latest police figures in her absence. In July there had been a burglary in a Thames Street hotel room, where jewellery had been taken and a car had been broken into and ransacked in Old bath Road, a vehicle in Holmemoor Drive had been ransacked and an item taken and there had been a report of £1000 cash being taken from a car in West Drive. A vehicle had been damaged in Little Glebe in August.

Mr Fisher said that there was a NAG meeting in 10 September, Mrs Harvey said that she would attend.

10396: ALLOTMENTS.

The Chairman said that Mr Collier had cut the hedge but had found an amount of builders waste in a corner of the allotments. The Chairman would follow this up.

10397: NEWSLETTER.

The Chairman said that he would do a report in October and would include a plea for applicants to join the Council.

10398: WEB SITE.

This continued to work well.

10399: ACTION LIST.

This was reviewed and updated.

10400: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 8 October 2019 at 7.00pm

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