

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the Pavilion, Pound Lane, Sonning, on Tuesday 12 November 2019 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT. Mr A E Farnese (Chairman), Mr T Fisher, Mrs J Fielder, Mrs J Harvey. By invitation Cllr Michael Firmager (WBC). 1 visitor. Mrs L A Bates (Clerk).

10420: APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS. Apologies were received from Mr Morrison (holiday). The Chairman welcomed all those present.

10421: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations.

10422: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

Mr Fisher said that, Minute 10410 Lorry Watch line 5, should read West Berks, not East Berks. The Minutes of the last meeting, having been circulated and amended, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

10423: CORRESPONDENCE.

British Gas. BG were pursuing their standing charge claim for the dangerous gas meter. The Clerk would suggest an onsite meeting.

WBC Free Christmas Car Parking. There would be no charge for WBC car parks on 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> December.

Jude Whyte. WBC's Mark Redfearn had emailed to say that Jude had resigned due to ill health and that Nick Austen had taken over as Assistant Director for Localities. The Chairman suggested that the Clerk reply to wish Ms Whyte SPC's best wishes.

Request for Speed Bump, Charvil Lane. Mr Fisher was progressing this.

WBC Countryside Watch. This was to encourage local communities to take an active role in monitoring fly-tipping, Mark Redfearn was leading this.

Planning Training Wednesday 27 November, Shut End 6-730pm. The Chairman, Mrs Harvey and the Clerk would attend.

Thames Street Wall. The Great House had provided the professional report on the wall as agreed. This said that the wall would become unsafe and they provided details of certain essential repairs that had to be carried out. The Clerk would chase as the report had been prepared in 2018.

Invitation to Mayors Schools Carole Concert. The Chairman and guest were invited to attend then on Sunday 8 December at 5.00pm. The Clerk would accept on the Chairman's behalf.

Travellers on Land next to Model Farm Cottages. The Clerk had been asked about progress on vacating this site. One large caravan plus a large white van were on site and none of the clearance had been undertaken. The Clerk would ask WBC Enforcement for an update.

10424: PLANNING.

**Report.** The Chairman said the following applications had been approved: Little Shire (192072): West Drive (191767): 29 West Drive (191767): 37 Glebe Lane (192191): 7 Glebe Lane (192599).

**The following applications were on going.** The Lawns Old Bath Road (190693): South Meadow Cottage (192249): 11 South Drive (192182): The Atrium (192312): Linkside Duffield Road (192438). 15 South Drive (19). Householder application for proposed two storey side / rear extension, first floor front extension, new front and rear facing dormers, repositioning of front entrance and internal alterations

**The following applications had been approved.** See above.

10424: PLANNING (Cont'd).

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

**The following applications had been withdrawn.** None.

**The following Appeal had been dismissed.** None

**The following new applications had been received.** No new applications

15 SOUTH Drive (192118) to agree comments.

The Chairman said that he had visited the site but hadn't been able to speak the neighbours, there was an improvement at 12a, as the site had been tidied up. In regards to number 15, the Chairman said that the proposal was very close to both boundaries, particularly as it would be two storey, and parts would provide additional opportunities for overlooking the gardens of adjoining properties. The proximity of the proposal to adjoining properties would result in a terracing effect. Following discussion it was agreed to object for the above reasons.

Neighbourhood Plan.

Wokingham had approved the application for the whole Parish to be declared a Neighbourhood Area,

10425: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR.

Mrs Fielder asked Cllr Firmager about reports that money might be available for the third Thames Bridge. Cllr Firmager said that this was to do with the bid by Transport for South East (which plans strategic transport across the region), for £800,000 government funding towards the proposal. Cllr Firmager said that he had made contact with Cllr David Bartholomew (OCC and SODC) in order to discuss the issues but nothing had been arranged so far. Cllr Firmager said that two planning applications were listed, Linkside, Duffield Road and The Atrium/Pool Court. Linkside was automatically listed due to the size of the proposal and he had listed The Atrium/Pool Court at the request of the Parish Council. It was unclear when the applications would go to Committee but the agenda was published the week prior to each meeting.

Mr Fisher said that he hadn't received a reply from Highways about cars driving over the Pound Lane crossing when pedestrians were in the process of crossing. Cllr Firmager asked Mr Fisher to copy the email on to him and he would follow it up.

10426: PARISHIONER QUESTIONS.

There were no questions.

10427: FINANCE.

- a) Report. The Clerk had prepared a report which was noted.
- b) VAT Letter and 64/8 Form.

A draft letter regarding the VAT on the pavilion had been received together with a request to sign the 68/8 form. The proposed letter outlined two suggestions for reclaiming the VAT for HMRC to consider. The Chairman asked if the letter would commit the Council to anything even if they did not proceed with the building work, due to the time it had taken to raise a small proportion of the funds. Following discussion it was agreed to reply to say that in principle

## 10427: FINANCE (Cont'd).

there was agreement to send the letter on the proviso that the answer to the question was acceptable. The Chairman would read the form 64/8 and sign it.

- c) Payment of Accounts. Mr Fisher proposed and the Chairman seconded, making the following payments:

### SPC PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS OCT (1 TO 31 OCT) '19

Date	Chq	Name	Service Item	Gross	VAT	Net	Committee	Sub-committee
01/10/19	623	Mrs L A Bates	Honorarium	2723.00	0.00	2723.00	CLERK	Clerk Hon.
01/10/19	623	Mrs L A Bates	Telephone	40.00	0.00	40.00	ADMIN	Tel. Stat.
01/10/19	624	Inland Revenue	Tax	151.00	0.00	151.00	CLERK	CLERK Tax
01/10/19	624	Inland Revenue	NIC	99.63	0.00	99.63	CLERK	CLERK NIC
11/10/19	625	PK Littlejohn	Auditors	360.00	60.00	300.00	ADMIN	Audit
11/10/19	626	OMK	Pavilion Report	1440.00	240.00	1200.00	SPORT	Pavilion
11/10/19	627	Henley Land	Main Mowing	260.00	0.00	260.00	REC	Main Mowing
11/10/19	627	Henley Land	Mow Pond	385.00	0.00	385.00	REC	Pond Mow
11/10/19	627	Henley Land	Wharf Gate	652.00	0.00	652.00	ENVIRON	Wharf Mtnce
15/10/19	628	Environ Agency	Wharf Licence	57.00	0.00	57.00	ENVIRON	Wharf Licence
16/10/19	629	Castle Water	Allotments	7.23	0.00	7.23	ENVIRON	Allot Water
16/10/19	630	Castle Water	Pavilion	29.74	0.00	29.74	SPORTS	Pav. Utilities
26/10/19	631	Henley Land	Main Mowing	260.00	0.00	260.00	REC	Main Mowing
26/10/19	632	Sonning Land	Mow Wharf	28.00	0.00	28.00	ENVIRON	Mow Wharf
26/10/19	632	Sonning Land	Hedge Cut	30.00	0.00	30.00	REC	P Lane Hedge
26/10/19	633	Pearson Hall	Office Rent	250.00	0.00	250.00	ADMIN	Office Rent
26/10/19	634	P J Doyle	Wharf Gate Sign	80.00	0.00	80.00	ENVIRON	Wharf Mtnce
26/10/19	635	Castle Water	Square Water	15.89	0.00	15.89	SPORTS	Sports other
26/10/19	636	Castle Water	Pav. Water	58.52	0.00	58.52	SPORTS	Pav. Utilities
26/10/19	637	Castle Water	Allot Water	14.23	0.00	14.23	ENVIRON	Allot Water
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6941.24</b>	<b>300.00</b>	<b>6641.24</b>		

- d) Pound Lane Improvements – Request for CIL Contribution. This was ongoing.

- e) Using Local Traders verses Companies

The Chairman asked if Councillors would consider the merits of using local traders as opposed to large contractors. Although more expensive there were times when small tradesmen were unable to respond quickly. Following discussion it was agreed that the Chairman and Mrs Harvey would produce a list of reliable contractors and others would add any contacts they could recommend.

## 10428: HIGHWAYS

School Crossing. Mr Fisher said that there was nothing to add except that a car had driven over the crossing while he was on it.

Speed Indicators (SID). Mr Fisher said that the figures for Pound Lane were similar to previous month's figures. A vehicle had driven at 60mph one evening and 4200 vehicles were regularly using Pound Lane on a daily basis, many were travelling between 22mph and 25mph. The mobile SID was now in Sonning Lane outside the RBCS and although the speeds were higher, the number of vehicles were lower with the average 5 day numbering 2500 north bound.

Mrs Fielder said that the overhanging branch on the Bridge remained a hazard. The Clerk would chase Eye and Dunsden PC.

Lorry Watch. Mr Fisher said it was proving difficult to link up with colleagues. Kirsten from Eye and Dunsden had completed a Lorry Watch but all had been underweight.

10428: HIGHWAYS (Cont'd).

TRO Double Yellow Lines. WBC had confirmed that these would be done.

10429: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G.

- a) Safety Checks. The Chairman had inspected the playground and he and Mr Fisher had checked the Exercise Equipment. Mr Doyle would be asked to replace the sign on the Exercise Equipment as the print had faded. The Chairman and Mr Fisher were looking for a replacement basketball, net and post.
- b) Pavilion Fund Raising. This was ongoing.
- c) ROSPA Report. Ongoing.
- d) Rec. Path. This had been completed and looked very good.
- e) Charvil Football Club Property. Mrs Harvey had mentioned this and would try again.
- f) SLTC Main Gate & Water. The gate was still under consideration and the Clerk had asked Thames Water to identify the source of the SLTC water supply.

10430: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

Safety Checks. The Chairman had carried out the safety checks on the Wharf. The bin lid was still missing and the Clerk would chase WBC about replacing it.

Bridge Lighting. The Clerk would chase Pete Stevens (SEC).

10431: V.E. DAY 2020.

Mrs Fielder outlined the proposal and said that a programme was needed. The Vicar had agreed to assist. The Churchill reading would take place at 3.00pm and a bugler was required. The Great House would provide food for the BBQ and the Scouts would cook it. It had been arranged for the Friday so not to interfere with Church on Sunday. Mrs Harvey would be working in Geneva but would help where she could. The Clerk would provide the SPC design on the headed notepaper for Mrs Fielder. Mrs Fielder also mentioned the Litter Pick and it was agreed to hold it on the 29 March so that WBC could collect the rubbish.

10432: ALLOTMENTS.

Mrs Fielder had two quotes to clear the compost. The Chairman proposed accepting the one from OCS at £350.00, which WBC had recommended, rather than the alternative at £540 from Berkshire Clearance, Mr Fisher seconded and this was unanimously approved. The area could then be laid to turf.

Mrs Fielder asked if SPC would be in agreement to offer £50 towards further improvements to the Lych Gate and this was agreed.

10433: POLICE & SECURITY.

Mrs Fielder said that there had been one crime reported on 18 September an aggressive man had damaged a vehicle in Pound Lane.

10434: NEWSLETTER.

The Chairman said that this was in hand and Mrs Pownall had agreed to prepare the draft ready for printing.

Beech Lodge. The Chairman and Mr Fisher had checked the area at the back of the building, which the Scouts wanted to use as storage. A roof was probably required and the Clerk would reply to say more time was required.

10435: WEB SITE.

This continued to work well.

10436: ACTION LIST.

This was reviewed and updated.

10437: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 10 December 2019 at 7.00pm. The Chairman would purchase the usual seasonal refreshments for residents, which would be served from 6.45pm.

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