

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the Pavilion, Pound Lane, Sonning, on Tuesday 14 January 2020 at 7.00pm.

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

10455: APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS. There were no apologies. The Chairman welcomed all those present.

10456: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations.

10457: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

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

10458: CORRESPONDENCE.

Bridge Lights. The Chairman had spoken to Mr Stevens (SEC) and asked him to find out why the lights were not working, and Mr Stevens had said he would reply within two weeks. Mr Stevens would also provide detailed drawings of his suggestions on the lights.

Cars in KGV Field at Night. There had been reports about cars in the car park late at night with headlights on and causing general disturbance. Mrs Fielder suggested that the Clerk contact Karen Collins (Neighbourhood Administrator Wokingham LPA). The first thing Ms Collins had advised was that those witnessing these events should report the incidents by calling 101 or through the Thames Valley Police website, which had already been done. Ms Collins had also said that she would copy the information to the Twyford Neighbourhood Policing Team. Following discussion, it was agreed to close the gates at night from 1 March and the Clerk would inform the school.

Community Policing Awards. The deadline for submitting a proposal was 24 February.

Urgent Roadworks in Thames Street. Information had been received belatedly. Mr Fisher would report a large pothole in Pearson Road.

The Future of Berkshire Sports Tennis Club. SPC had been copied in on email correspondence about a meeting to discuss these tennis courts. The Clerk would copy the Chairman in on details of the date of the meeting so he could attend.

Advice Task Force. A request to hold a CAB information event somewhere in Sonning had been received. The plan was to bring CAB advice into communities rather than in Wokingham. It was agreed to make the pavilion available in March.

Request to Use the Field for a Fundraising Event. This would be a family sports day on behalf of Get Kids Going a charity that helped enable disabled children to engage in sport. Following discussion, it was agreed to allow this and also allow use of the pavilion. There would be no charge.

Request to Access Wharf. The Clerk had received a call from the Fire Service Water Rescue Team, earlier in the day, who wanted a key to the Wharf so they could launch their inflatable from the Wharf. This would save 15 minutes over launching at Thames Valley Park. The Clerk had explained that permission of SPC would be required and an additional key had to be obtained from Thames Water. It was agreed and the Clerk would respond positively to Fire Service Team.

PC Stan Robinson. The Chairman said that it was with regret that he had to inform Councillors that Stan, the long serving Sonning policeman, had died.

10459: PLANNING.

Report. The Chairman said that there were no new applications. Linkside (192438) had been refused

The following applications were on going). 20 West Drive (192050). Full application for the proposed erection of one 5no. bedroom dwelling with detached double garage, following demolition of existing dwelling. Microsoft (193226). Full application for the proposed erection of a fenced enclosure for air conditioning plant and external freezer and chiller, plus formation of an enlarged door opening, canopy, gate and access ramp to the west elevation of the existing building Berkshire Sports Club (193377). Application to vary condition 4 of planning consent (F/2006/7491) for the proposed formation of 2 artificial pitches plus floodlighting, fencing, bunding and landscaping. Condition 4 refers to floodlight operating hours and the variation is to the hours of operation of pitch 1 on weekdays.

The following applications had been approved. See above.

The following applications had been refused. No refusals.

The following applications had been withdrawn. None.

The following new applications had been received. Chyreen Holmemoor Drive (193391). Householder application for the proposed erection of front/side single storey extension following demolition of existing single front/side extension. Also two storey side and rear extension including 1no Juliet balcony and two rear dormers following demolition of existing single storey rear extension.

Neighbourhood Plan. There would be a meeting with members of the Society to discuss the way forward on 22 January.

Request for Link to Neighbourhood Plan web site. It was agreed that Mr Gilmore should add a link from the SPC website to the Neighbourhood Plan web site when it was launched.

10460: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR.

Cllr Firmager would ensure that the work in Thames Street was completed satisfactorily. Cllr Firmager would be meeting the police after reports of suspected drug taking in the Churchyard. It was pointed out to Cllr Firmager that there was a poor police presence in Sonning and it was unclear if there was a PCS allocated to Sonning as no one had been seen for a long time. Cllr Firmager explained that Linkside had been refused. As a large development it would have automatically gone to the planning committee if the officer had been of a mind to approve. Cllr Firmager mentions river safety and said he would like to meet up with the management of the Coppa Club. Mrs Fielder would email the information to the Clerk to send to Cllr Firmager. The Chairman would ask the Mill where they obtained their safety lifebuoy.

10461: PARISHIONER QUESTIONS.

There were no questions.

10462: FINANCE.

- a) Report. The Clerk had prepared a report which was noted.
- b) Draft Budget 2020/2021. The revised draft 2020/2021 Budget had been circulated. Following discussion Mr Morrison proposed and the Chairman seconded accepting the revised Budget,

10462: FINANCE (Con't).

which showed an expenditure of £41497 and a Precept of £38046 and this was unanimously approved.

- c) Payment of Accounts. Mr Morrison proposed and Mr Fisher seconded making the following payments and this was unanimously approved.

SPC PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS JAN (1 to 31 Dec '19)

Date	Chq	Name	Service Item	Gross	VAT	Net	Committee	Sub-committee
02/12/19	644	Castel Water	Square Water	44.29	0.00	44.29	SPORTS	Sport Other
02/12/19	645	Castle Water	Pavilion Water	58.52	0.00	58.52	SPORTS	Pav. Utilities
02/12/19	646	RES	Allot.	14.23	0.00	14.23	ENVIRONMENT	Allot Water
02/12/19	647	Environ Agency	Omitted £.90	0.90	0.00	0.90	ENVIRON	Wharf Licence
10/12/19	648	OCS	Clear Compost	354.00	59.00	295.00	ENVIRONMENT	Allot. M'tnce
10/12/19	650	A E Farnese	Christmas	76.28	0.00	76.28	ADMIN	Admin Misc.
10/12/19	651	Son. Land	Mow Play x 1	30.00	0.00	30.00	RECREATION	Mow Playground
10/12/19	651	Son. Land	Turf Allot. area	100.00	0.00	100.00	ENVIRON	Allot. M'tnce
10/12/19	652	PurcoPrint	Newsletters	65.00	0.00	65.00	ADMIN	Admin Photocopy
31/12/19	652	TIVOLI	Dog Bins	165.60	27.60	138.00	ENVIRONMENT	Dog Bins
			TOTAL	908.82	86.60	822.22		

- d) Pound Lane Improvements. Mr Fisher was to meet Mr Heath concerning high speeds in Charvil Lane.
- e) Sport Match Funding. A further request, from Cllr Angus Ross, asking for Sonning to match fund any award WBC awarded to a young sports person from Sonning, had been received. Following discussion it was agreed to say that Sonning was agreeable to the suggestion but would consider each award on a case by case basis.
- f) Request for Funding for Link Visiting Scheme. This scheme aimed to visit old and or lonely people in the area at least once a week and organised events, which these people were encouraged to attend. A request to make a donation towards their events had been received. Although this was a worthwhile scheme it was felt that Sonning already had the Church Visiting Scheme and the Monday Club, which offered Sonning residents the same care. Following discussion it was agreed to make a one off donation of £50.

10463: HIGHWAYS

School Crossing. Mr Fisher said that Mr Heath was unable to attend the February meeting but would attend the March one. In the meantime Mr Fisher would meet Mr Heath to discuss speeds in Charvil Lane. Mr Fisher agreed to ask Mr Heath if the pelican crossing could be installed if SPC paid for it to be done.

Speed Indicators (SID). Mr Fisher said that the readings from SID 2, in Pound Lane South, showed a vehicle speeding at 65mph at 2pm on a weekday, in the West Drive area. The area was a 30pmh zone and was a very well used route (6000 to 6500 vehicles per day), meaning that the battery didn't last as long. The results also showed that a lot of vehicles were travelling at 55mph. Thanks were again due to Mr Runnalls for his assistance.

Lorry Watch. Mr Fisher said that, although traffic offences were being reported to West Berks, witnesses would have to go to court to ensure prosecutions, People were naturally reluctant to do this. Mr Fisher said that a heavy lorry had been seen crossing the Bridge over to Sonning Eye, where it stopped by the Sailing Club, and again when it returned into Sonning.

Blow Up Bollards. Mrs Fielder had spoken to Knowl Hill School about the bollards and they had said they were very effective. Maidenhead Council had installed them. Mrs Fielder then spoke to WBC Highways Asset Team who came back to say that these bollards had not been approved for use in the Wokingham area.

10464: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G.

- a) Safety Checks. Mrs Harvey had inspected the exercise equipment but would appreciate going through things with the Chairman. The Chairman would ask Mr Doyle replace the existing sign.
- b) Pavilion Fund Raising – Invitation to Tender. The Architect had asked that SPC submit an Invitation to Tender for the Pavilion. Previous discussions were to do this in April or June. Additionally there were a number of concerns that had to be addressed. Following discussion the Clerk was asked to draft a letter outlining these concerns for Councillors approval.
- c) ROSPA Report. Completed
- d) Rec. Path. Mr Fisher would continue to chase the contractor about edges which showed signs of deteriorating.
- e) Charvil Football Club Property. This was ongoing, Mrs Harvey was dealing with the Club.
- f) SLTC Main Gate, Water & Signs. The Clerk said that she had been asked about progress over the water supply and would inform SLTC that the Chairman would be visiting the site the following week.

10465: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

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

Lights. The light was out on the Pagoda and another in the pavilion. The Chairman and Mr Fisher would deal with these.

VE Day 2020. Mrs Fielder said that she had arranged to meet the Vicar the following day and was hoping that Mr Peters would assist with the posters. It was agreed that cake and squash would be provided and wine would be for sale at £1 per glass. Mrs Fielder would ask Mr Doyle if he had any wartime music that could be played on the occasion and the beacon would be lit at 4.30pm

10466: ALLOTMENTS.

Mrs Fielder said that there had been a request to repair the 6ft fence on the northern boundary, the Chairman would look into this and would ask Mr Collier to clear the concrete from the area. Mr Fielder said that the newly laid grass was growing well and several allotment holders were supportive of the idea of a three seater seat. Mrs Fielder had seen a good example in Reading at a cost of £230, this would need to be assembled and one of the allotment holders had offered to do this, and to weather proof and install the seat. Following discussion Mrs Harvey proposed and the Chairman seconded purchasing the seat at a cost of £230

10467: POLICE & SECURITY.

Mrs Fielder said that the report showed that there had been an attempted burglary in Old Bath Road, where two men were seen running from a house where the alarm was ringing. In Thames Street a window had been damaged and in the High Street a wheelie bin had been stolen overnight. There were reports of several vehicle being broken into, an Audi in Old bath Road had its driver's window broken, a mini also in Old bath Road had been broken into smashing the rear windscreen, in Sonning Lane the drivers, side window, had been broken and a wallet taken from the front seat and in the High Street access had been gained through an insecure door while a dog was in the

10467: POLICE & SECURITY (cont'd).

car. Two sets of keys, for other vehicles, had been taken from the centre console as well as a large kit bag and contents.

10468: NEWSLETTER.

The newsletter would be timed for March 1st as the Litter Pick would be taking place on 29 March. Any other articles for inclusion should be with the Chairman at the February meeting.

10469: WEB SITE.

There was no update. The Litter Pick would be advertised on the website. Mrs Harvey agreed to tidy up the noticeboards,

10470: ACTION LIST.

This was reviewed and updated. The Chairman and Mr Fisher would check the possibility of an electricity supply to the practice nets while at the tennis courts.

10471: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 11 February 2020 at 7.00pm.

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