

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the Pavilion, Pound Lane, Sonning, on Tuesday 11 February 2020 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT. Mr A E Farnese (Chairman), Mr T Fisher, Mrs J Fielder, Mrs J Harvey.
By invitation Cllr M Firmager (WBC). 2 visitors. Mrs L A Bates (Clerk).

10472: APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS. Apologies were received from Mr P Morrison (holiday).
The Chairman welcomed all those present.

10473: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations.

10474: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

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

10475: CORRESPONDENCE.

Operation Bridge. Wokingham Town Council had investigated and obtained 200 copies of black edged, lined paper to be in in condolence books, on the occasion of the death of a significant member of the Royal Family, and also a binder to keep the loose leaves in place. Once these had been collected the plan was to bind copies from all parishes to be bound together as a permanent memorial and it was hoped that all parishes would use to same paper/binders for consistency. Photographs of the Royal member were also available from the same stationers.

WBC Sports Council AGM. This would take place on 2 March 2020 at 7.30pm in the David Hicks Room at Shute End. Councillors intending to attend should inform the Clerk.

Veteran Tree Request. This had been discussed at the July meeting but overlooked when considering the 2020/21 Budget. Following discussion, the Chairman proposed, and Mr Fisher seconded that a one-off donation of £50, from the 2019/20 budget, should be made immediately and reconsidered again when discussing the 21/22 budget.

Dog Attack. Mr Fisher had brought this the Council's attention the previous week after seeing comments on a website. An email from another dog owner explained there had been a previous attack in October 2019, which involved her dog. Cllr Firmager said that he had emailed the police after becoming aware of the situation and understood that there had been three or four previous attacks by the same dog, all witnessed by other dog walkers. A resident said that he had contacted the dog warden, but nothing had happened (the dog warden was responsible for West Berkshire, Bracknell and Wokingham areas) so he had made contact with WBC. The Clerk would gather information and contact the dog warden.

Local Plan Exhibitions. As part of the WBC Local Plan Consultation they were holding information evenings in four different locations. Grazeley 26 February: St Crispin's School Wokingham 2 March: Oakwood Centre Woodley 10 March: all at 7 to 9pm and one daytime exhibition at Dinton Pastures Activity Centre on 5 March 10am to 1pm.

Thames Water Thames Street. Unfortunately, this had created chaos due to drivers ignoring the no through signs and trying to drive through the village by driving down the High Street and up the one-way part into Pearson Road. The police were called out to deal with the problem. Cllr Firmager said that the behaviour of some drivers was unacceptable including racial and verbal abuse. Cllr Firmager said he would ask for more advance warning of such closures.

10476: PLANNING.

Report. The Chairman said that there were no new applications. Applications 193377 Berkshire Sports, and Chyreen Holmemoor Drive, 193391, had been approved.

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:

The following applications had been approved. Berkshire Sports Club (193377).

The following applications had been refused. No refusals.

The following applications had been withdrawn. None.

The following new applications had been received. None.

Neighbourhood Plan. It had been agreed to meet in the Hall at 5.00pm to set up for the Neighbourhood Plan meeting on 18 February. The doors would be open to the public at 7.00pm and the meeting would start at 7.30pm. There would be a short interval when a drink would be available. The Chairman would purchase drinks and nibbles.

10477: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR.

Mr Fisher asked if there was any update on the third Thames Bridge. Cllr Firmager said that there were sign of some movement, but no details were available. Mr Fisher mentioned the increasing number of vehicles driving over the pedestrian crossing while people were still on the crossing or failing to stop when people were waiting to cross. The Chairman said that SPC had agreed to pay for the crossing to be updated, which was the figure, quoted by Sara Allman at the time. WBC were now being evasive about the costs involved. Mr Fisher had emailed Martin Heath (WBC) about meeting in Charvil Lane and was waiting for confirmation. It was agreed that it would be an advantage if Mr Heath then visited Pound Lane during school times and Mr Fisher would try to arrange a short meeting following the one in Charvil Lane. However, it was understood that WBC's view was that there was no statistics to suggest they should change their view on upgrading the crossing.

10478: PARISHIONER QUESTIONS.

The Chairman asked if the visitors had any other questions, but they agreed the dog problem and traffic were their main concerns.

10479: FINANCE.

- a) **Report.** The Clerk had circulated a report, which was noted.
- b) **Payment of Accounts.** Mr Fisher proposed and Mrs Fielder seconded making the following payments and this was unanimously approved.

SPC PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS FEB (1 to 31 Jan '20)

Date	Chq	Name	Service Item	Gross	VAT	Net	Committee	Sub-committee
14/01/20	657	SSE Contract	St. Light repairs	204.29	34.16	170.13	HIGH & LIGHT	St Light Repair
14/01/20	658	Pest UK	½ year payment	200.64	33.44	167.20	ENVIRON	Rat Control
14/01/20	659	Scribe	A/C system	416.40	69.40	347.00	ADMIN	Subs
14/01/20	660	L Bates	Honorarium	2723.75	0.00	2723.75	CLERK SALARY	Hon. less TAX
14/01/20	660	L Bates	Telephone	40.00	0.00	40.00	ADMIN	Telephone
14/01/20	661	TIVOLI	Dog Bins	165.60	27.60	138.00	ENVIRON	Dog Bins
22/01/20	662	Castle Water	Square Water	40.00	0.00	40.00	SPORT	Square
22/01/20	663	Inland Rev	Tax	151.00	0.00	151.00	CLERK SALARY	Tax
22/01/20	663	Inland Rev	NIC	99.03	0.00	99.03	CLERK SALARY	NIC
			TOTAL	4040.71	164.60	3876.11		

10479: FINANCE.

- c) Pound Lane Improvements. Mr Fisher was to meet Mr Heath concerning high speeds in Charvil Lane and hoped to be able to discuss these improvements.

10480: HIGHWAYS

School Crossing. Mr Fisher said that he was arranging a meeting with Mr Heath.

Speed Indicators (SID). Mr Fisher said that the readings from SID 2, in Charvil Lane, showed five vehicles travelling at 60mph, six up to a 55 and 27 at 55mph, the average speed was 24mph. Mr Fisher had been told about cars racing in Charvil Lane but he couldn't see a pattern that would indicate this. Traffic numbers were about 3900, which was less than in Pound Lane. All these reports were sent to Martin Heath (WBC). Mr Fisher had to thank Mr Runnalls for his assistance in transferring SID to Thames Street. There had been a big storm that night, which caused some concern as the SID had been positioned on a metal pole and he and Mr Runnalls had removed SID the following day. This new position did allow speed monitoring from both directions. Readings from Pound Lane showed a vehicle travelling at 50mph at 3.30am but this was the maximum speed recorded. The average speed was 27mph, slightly higher than the previous average of 24 ½mph.

Lorry Watch. Mr Fisher said that the lorry watch was ticking along. Kirsten at West Berks was very helpful and sent out warning letters regularly. An 18t lorry had driven down Thames Street as far as the High Street and, realising it would be impossible to negotiate the narrow bend on the hill, had turned into High Street to reverse. Mrs Fielder said that SAT NAV's were being blamed and she had seen a notice in another village advising 'Do Not Follow Your SATNAV'. The Chairman agreed to obtain a price for a similar sign.

Speed Watch. Mr Fisher had assisted the group in other locations, and it would soon be Sonning's turn. Three trained people were required each time, one of these could be a PCSO, but they were difficult to locate.

Pound Lane Survey and Charvil Lane Speeds. These were two of the items being taken up with Mr Heath,

10481: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G.

- a) Safety Checks. Mrs Harvey had inspected the exercise equipment and said that dog mess was a real problem.
- b) Pavilion Fund Raising – Invitation to Tender. A letter had been sent to SCC and a reply received agreeing to a joint meeting, but SCC members had been unable to meet on the suggested dates. Following discussion, it was agreed to suggest Wednesday 11 March as both Mrs Fielder and Mr Morrison would have returned from their holidays.
- c) ROSPA Report. Completed
- d) Rec. Path. Mr Fisher said that the contractor had carried out the necessary repairs.
- e) Charvil Football Club Property. Mrs Harvey said that the Club had cleared their property from the compound.
- f) Use of the Pavilion. It had been previously agreed to allow the pavilion to be used on Saturday 14 March by a group holding a Charity Sports Day in order to raise funds for a disabled children's charity. They wished to set up at 12.30pm and to finish by 5.30pm. Mr Fisher agreed to open-up for them. It had also been agreed that CAB should hold an open morning to allow residents to meet CAB staff to discuss any concerns they might have. Mr Fisher offered to open-up at 9.45am. As the pavilion would be open to the public if would be necessary to provide soap/towels/toilet roll, etc. Mrs Harvey offered to ensure the toilets were clean and provide soap etc. Mrs Harvey and Mr Fisher were thanked for offering their assistance.

10481: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G (Cont'd).

- g) SLTC Main Gate, Water & Signs. The Chairman and Mr Fisher had met with the SLTC Chairman at the tennis courts on 10 February. The Chairman had agreed to follow up the water problem with Thames Water. SLTC would ask the contractor carrying out the surface work to the courts about the proposed colour scheme as the site was in a CA. The Chairman had confirmed that SPC would release £6,000 for the sinking fund for the work to the courts. The work would extend the life of the existing courts by at least five years, allowing the sinking fund to mature enough to cover resurfacing when it became necessary. The SLTC Chairman had asked if the SPC contract with RES for the fire extinguisher yearly service included the tennis extinguisher. The Clerk had replied that there was no contract with RES and was done on a year to year basis and did not include SLTC. SLTC had asked for the grass to be cut and the Clerk would request this was done by the contractor. The SLTC Chairman had agreed that a clear up was necessary and the idea of a skip was discussed as was the cost of installing a car parking area. The SLTC Chairman agreed to attend to an exposed electrical earth lead and to the broken gutters. The idea of an electrical supply from the tennis area to the cricket practice nets was discussed. SLTC would not be against this idea as long as a separate meter was installed. and all costs were the responsibility of the cricket club.
- h) Closure of Car Park at Night from 1 March. The Clerk had informed the school who were happy for their caretaker to open the gates before school hours. SPC would lock the gates.

10482: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

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

Lights. The Chairman was dealing with this.

VE Day 2020. Mrs Fielder said that regrettably the Vicar had been unable to offer any help this year as the Church would be taking part in a three-hour bell ringing exercise to celebrate the occasion. Expert bell ringers had been called in to carry this out and he and other Church members would be involved. Mrs Fielder felt that she had relied a great deal on the Vicar's assistance and this had played a large part in its success and that without it she would not be able to organise the planned event. The Chairman said that he would look at other ways to mark the occasion.

10483: ALLOTMENTS,

Mrs Fielder said that Pest Control were very good and the report reflected the situation, which was working well. The Chairman said that he had someone looking at the fence on the far boundary. There was some concern about one or two allotments and the Clerk would mention this when sending out the new tenancy agreements. The Clerk would also ask if allotment holders wished to make a £10 contribution to the new seat.

New Seat. Mrs Fielder had purchased the seat, which had come with the words Time For a Rest already engraved.

Litter Pick. This would take place on Sunday 29 March starting at 10am at the Pavilion. Mrs Fielder showed a poster displaying all the information needed for the Litter Pick, which would go on the back of the next Newsletter. The Clerk would laminate 10 copies for displaying around the parish. WBC would collect the full rubbish sacks after 3.00pm and Mrs Fielder would serve some refreshment, including tea, coffee and biscuits, which the Chairman would purchase. The Chairman was concerned about volunteers collecting from the riverbank and would check this out. Mrs Fielder would collect black sacks and litter pickers from the Chairman on Saturday 29 March.

10484: POLICE & SECURITY.

Mrs Fielder said that there was only one reported crime and that was a can of cooking oil stolen from the garbage area outside the property.

10485: NEWSLETTER.

Mr Fisher agreed to put the newsletter together and any items for inclusion should be with him by March 1st. This would allow time to complete the edition and get it to the printers for circulation after 10 March in time for the Litter Pick.

10486: WEB SITE.

There was no update.

10487: ACTION LIST.

This was reviewed and updated.

10488: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 10 March 2020 at 7.00pm.

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