

Minutes of the Virtual Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held via Skype from various location., on Tuesday 21 April 2020 at 6.00pm.

PRESENT. Mr A E Farnese (Chairman), Mr T Fisher, Mr P Morrison. No visitors.
Mrs L A Bates (Clerk).

10508: APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS. Apologies were received from Mrs J Fielder.

The Chairman said he was sorry to say that Mrs Harvey would be standing down from the Council soon. Mrs Harvey was doing wonderful work with the SSC-19 Group of volunteers who were doing a sterling job helping more vulnerable members of the community during these difficult times. The Chairman would speak to Mrs Harvey to assure her that she would be very welcome to re-join SPC at any time.

The Chairman welcomed all those present.

10509: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

The Chairman said that he knew the resident living next door to 11 South Drive, item 5 d. It was agreed that this was not a prejudicial interest.

10510: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

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

10511: CORRESPONDENCE.

Regular Correspondence for WBC. The Clerk said that there had been a stream of information from WBC regarding their Community Response to the pandemic. This included contact details for CAB who were the first point of contact and leading the response. Those in need could be given help in different forms such as supplies (food and other essential supplies, picking up medication and friendly chats for the lonely) as well as their usual assistance with benefits and housing. Once someone had contacted them, they would automatically be registered for ongoing support. Food parcels were also being distributed. Mr Fisher mentioned that the resident in Little Glebe had received a letter from WBC to say they would be receiving a food parcel but nothing had turned up. The Clerk would try to check this out.

Prior to this, in mid-March Mr Fisher had suggested that a help group might be set up as he had heard about one being set up in another community. The Parish Council had given their support and Mr Fisher and Mrs Harvey had contacted numerous residents who had offered their services as volunteers. Initial flyers were distributed to all households and the scheme had immediately become very successful, so much so that it had become clear that it could be self-sufficient with many professional and skilled residents being involved. The group then became the Sonning Covid-19 Support Group and were supporting the community daily. A recent request to make 100 sets of scrubs for a local hospital had been undertaken with enthusiasm and they had 43,000 followers on facebook. The Chairman said the success was admirable and that Mr Fisher and Mrs Harvey were to be congratulated.

10512: PLANNING.

Report. The Chairman said that 2 Hawthorn Way (200452) had been approved. There was one new application new Little Gogs Holme Park Farm Lane (193344) and Chyreen Holmehoar Drive, 193391, had been approved. The application on Land to the West of The Range, Old Bath Road (200354).

10512: PLANNING (Cont'd)

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: Little Gogs Holme Park Farm Lane (193344).

The following applications had been approved. No new approvals.

The following applications had been refused. No refusals.

The following applications had been withdrawn. None.

The following new applications had been received. 11 South Drive (200757). Full application for proposed erection of one 5 no. bedroom dwelling with associated landscaping and car parking, following the demolition of existing dwelling: Chyreen (200775). Householder application for the proposed erection of front/side single storey extension following demolition of existing single front/side extension, plus single storey side and two storey rear extension including loft conversion to create habitable accommodation, 1no balcony and two rear dormers following demolition of existing single storey rear extension.

Neighbourhood Plan. The Government was discontinuing this for the time being but this would not affect the Sonning Neighbourhood Plan and the Government's involvement was towards the end of the process.

The following applications were discussed.

Chyreen (200775). Mrs Harvey had looked at this application and had sent her report by email. The roof to the side extensions sloped away, so it did not appear to impact on the neighbours at number 9 or 10 and all the surveys have been carried out with care. The materials appeared to be in keeping. Mrs Harvey had spoken to No9, who had no objections. Unfortunately, the other neighbour had just suffered a bereavement, so Mrs Harvey had not been able to seek their opinion as it was inappropriate. No other objections had been forthcoming. Following discussion it was agreed that the property was known to everyone and that there was no valid reason to object.

11South Drive (200757). The Chairman said that the existing property was a 1 ½ storey bungalow with a particularly fine eyebrow window to the front elevation, adding to the character of the dwelling and the street scene. The design was a unique and particularly important design feature and should be retained. The existing dwelling would benefit from some improvements including extensions in keeping with the existing character and could provide a fine family home. It was disappointing that the applicant wished to demolish it and replace it with a modern dwelling, which would be out of keeping with the area. The proposed replacement dwelling was a large detached property to be built within 1metre of the side boundaries and would be double the length of the side walls to the existing dwelling and significantly deeper than the adjoining properties. There was concern about the additional height and width of the proposed dwelling, it would dominate the street scene and be overbearing on the adjacent dwellings. Following discussion it was agreed to object for the above reasons and also loss of light to the adjoining dwelling, that it would be to the detriment of the amenities currently enjoyed by the adjoining land users (contrary to TB06 (a) and (b)), not of an appropriate scale, mass, layout, built form or height, represented over development of the site and out of character with the area (contrary to CP3 (a), and CP3 (h)).

10513: PARISHIONERS QUESTIONS.

There were no questions.

10514: FINANCE.

- a) Report. The Clerk had circulated a report, which was noted. Mr Morrison said that the end of year figures showed a break-even situation and a final set of Income and Expenditure accounts would be available shortly.
- b) Payment of Accounts. Mr Morrison proposed and Mr Fisher seconded making the following payments and this was unanimously approved.

SPC PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS MARCH (1 to 31 March '20)

Date	Chq	Name	Service Item	Gross	VAT	Net	Committee	Sub-committee
03/03/20	669	Shadow	Replace Brazier	60.00	0.00	60.00	ADMIN	Misc..
03/03/20	671	PHMC	Hall Hire N Plan	36.00	0.00	36.00	ADMIN	Admin N Plan
03/03/20	672	Mr A Farnese	N Plan refresh	294.76	0.00	294.76	ADMIN	N Plan
20/03/20	DD	SEC	St Light Energy	133.69	6.37	127.32	HIGH & LIGHT	St Light Energy
24/03/20	673	Veteran Trees	1 off Donation	50.00	0.00	50.00	DONATION	Veteran Tree
24/03/20	674	Castle Water	Square Water	28.40	0.00	28.40	SPORTS	Square Water
27/03/20	677	PurcoPrint	Newsletter	65.00	0.00	65.00	ADMIN	Print, Post
27/03/20	678	Tivoli	Dog Bins	331.20	55.20	276.00	ENVIRON	Dog Bins
27/03/20	679	Castle Water	Allot. Water	98.17	0.00	98.17	ENVIRON	Allot Water
27/03/20	680	P J Doyle	Tel. Box Signs	107.00	0.00	107.00	ADMIN	Misc.
31/03/20	681	Berks Vision	Donation	50.00	0.00	50.00	DONATIONS	Berks Vision
31/03/20	682	Age Concern	Donation	200.00	0.00	200.00	DONATIONS	Age Concern
31/03/20	683	T V Air Amb.	Donation	200.00	0.00	200.00	DONATIONS	Air Ambulance
31/03/20	684	Sonning PCC	Donation	150.00	0.00	150.00	DONATIONS	Sonning PCC
31/03/20	685	ReadiBus	Donation	100.00	0.00	100.00	DONATIONS	ReadiBus
31/03/20	686	Sue Ryder	Donation	150.00	0.00	150.00	DONATIONS	Sue Ryder
31/03/20	687	CAB	Donation	50.00	0.00	50.00	DONATIONS	CAB
31/03/20	688	Twyford Vol.	Donation	50.00	0.00	50.00	DONATIONS	Twyford Vol.
31/03/20	689	Keep Mobile	Donation	50.00	0.00	50.00	DONATIONS	Keep Mobile
31/03/20	690	Relate	Donation	50.00	0.00	50.00	DONATIONS	Relate
31/03/20	691	Me2 Club	Donation	50.00	0.00	50.00	DONATIONS	Me2 Club
31/03/20	692	L A Bates	Hon. (less Tax)	2875.00	0.00	2875.00	CLERK	Honorarium
31/03/20	692	L A Bates	Telephone	40.00	0.00	40.00	ADMIN	Telephone
			TOTAL	5219.22	61.57	5157.65		

10515: HIGHWAYS

Speed Indicators (SID). Mr Fisher said the latest figures showing a maximum speed of 60mph had been recorded at 8.35pm one evening, southbound in Pound Lane. Vehicle numbers had come down since the lockdown hovering between 1000 to 1500, which was significantly down from the normal 4000 to 4500. Traffic numbers were running at about 25 – 30% of what they were pre-lockdown but did show an increase during the previous week. The battery of the SID in Thames Street needed to be changed but it was a two man job and the required distancing could not be achieved so this couldn't be carried out during the lockdown.

10516: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G.

- a) Safety Checks. The Chairman said that the children's playground was closed but the main recreation area was open. Mr Fisher would check the exercise bikes.

10517: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

Safety Checks. The Chairman had been unable to carry out the safety checks, but his wife had been observing it. Mr Morrison said that he would look in on his daily walk.

10518: POLICE & SECURITY.

There were no further updates

10519: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The Chairman said that he hoped there would be an improvement on the current situation by the next meeting.

The next meeting would be a virtual one and held on Monday 11 May 2020 at 6.00pm.

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