

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the Pavilion, on Tuesday 8 September 2020 at 7.00 pm. Social distancing rules were observed, face masks and hand sanitisers were used.

PRESENT. Mr A E Farnese (Chairman), Mr T Fisher, Mrs J Fielder, Mr J Hay, 2 Visitors
Mrs L A Bates (Clerk).

10559: APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS. Apologies were received from Mr P Morrison (holiday).
The Chairman welcomed all those present, including Mr A Halliday and Mr Gibbs.

10560: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest.

10561: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

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

10562: APPROVAL OF PROPOSED LEAVE OF ABSENCE

The Chairman said that he had discussed Mrs Harvey's circumstances with her. The Chairman therefore proposed agreeing that Mrs Harvey should take a leave of absence until the New Year, when the situation would be reviewed. Mr Fisher seconded and this was unanimously approved.

10563: CORRESPONDENCE.

Holmemoor Drive Parking Problems. Since football had restarted in the Reading Hockey and Cricket Club/Berkshire Sports Club players and supporters had recommenced parking in Holmemoor Drive in order to access the fields and were crossing the busy A4. This was dangerous and the parking was making residents ability to access their properties difficult. The parking was so bad that it did not allow access for emergency vehicles. Requests to not park were met by rudeness and the cones placed outside one residents house had been moved to allow footballers to park. The Clerk had advised the resident to speak to Mr Firmager and Mr Fisher would obtain the name of the Clubs Chairman so a letter could be sent to him about the nuisance.

Climate Change. WBC were producing a plan for reducing their carbon footprint and parishes were being asked to do the same.

Housing Numbers Consultation. Mr Halsall, Leader of WBC, was urging parishes to object to the governments proposed changes to the planning system, which would require WBC to build 1600 houses per year, double the existing requirement of 800, which was already too high.

10564: PLANNING.

Report. The Chairman said that 7 a South Drive (200455). Sonning Golf Club (200951). The Atrium (201262). Sonning Dene Pearson Road (201363). Sonning Dene (201417: Little Barn Holme Park Farm Lane Woodley (201207): Keepers Cottage Duffield Road (201952), had been approved. Sonning Court Thames St (201358) had been withdrawn.

The following applications were on going. Star Court, Thames Street, (200747): Sonning Golf Club (200951): Holme Park Sports Club Sonning Lane (201409).

The following applications had been approved. See above

The following applications had been refused. No refusals.

The following applications had been withdrawn. See above

10564: PLANNING (Con't).

The following new applications had been received. Little Barn Holme Park Farm Road (201915). Householder application for the proposed erection of a two-storey rear extension with observation dome, plus single storey side/rear extension, alterations to existing single storey roof and changes to fenestration: Linkside Duffield Road 19/24/38) APPEAL APP/X0360/W/20/3254803. Full application for the erection of 12 No flats, a detached car port & cycle store, car parking, widened site access and landscaping following demolition of the existing dwelling and outbuildings: Old Readingensians Sports Ground. (201882). Full planning application for the proposed installation of LED floodlights to existing stadium football pitch.

Old Readingensians Sports Ground (201882). This application was on the agenda for approval as the details had arrived too late to be discussed at the previous Planning meeting. The Chairman said that all three planning councillors had seen the plans. There were concerns about the lighting spill, the columns were 15 metres high, and were next door to Sunrise, the care home, and the lighting would extend the use of the pitch and there would be associated noise and increased traffic in the area. This was likely to have a detrimental effect on adjoining landowners. Mention was made of 1000 people attending a match, which had been 'trouble free' from the applicant's point of view but was likely to have caused some nuisance adjoining landowners and a detrimental effect on the infrastructure. Following discussion, it was agreed to mention these concerns ask that there is a limit on the number of large events that could take place during the season and that this should be controlled by a condition.

Neighbourhood Plan. A meeting had taken place on 1 September but had been poorly attended. A second meeting was planned, and Mr Gilmore would be circulating dates.

10565: PARISHIONERS QUESTIONS.

Mr Gibbs said that he was conscious of the speeding vehicles in Pound Lane, often in excess of 50 mph (a 20 mph. zone). The Chairman said that SPC were working hard to address this but there was little co-operation from WBC or the school. The Parish Council believed that the crossing in Pound Lane should be upgraded to a Puffin crossing but WBC wouldn't fund the project. Many vehicles sped up after the crossing. Mr Fisher had carried out a lot of work and his highway comments could be seen on the SC website. It was pointed out that a resident in Pound Lane had put their own 30 mph sign up in Sonning Lane. Mr Fisher said that he regularly submitted the results of the speed camera to WBC Highways and, also videos showing that vehicles did not stop if a pedestrian was on the crossing. The Parish Council were working together with the Sonning and Sonning Eye Society to resolve speeding and other highways issues. Mr Fisher said that he had emailed Mr Heath, the WBC Highways Officer, but there had been no reply, he understood that many officers were working from home. There was a need to work on the school crossing. Asked about a speed watch Mr Fisher said that there had to be three trained people to carry these out now, he had been trained and had assisted in other areas but had yet to carry one out in Sonning. Mr Halliday asked what happened if a car was caught speeding. Mr Fisher said there were reported to the police who would write to the offender in the first instance.

10566: BOROUGH COUNCILLORS QUESTION TIME.

In the absence of Cllr Firmager, there were no questions.

10567: FINANCE.

- a) Report. The Clerk had circulated a report, which was noted.

10567: FINANCE Cont'd).

- b) Payment of Accounts. The Chairman proposed, and Mr Fisher seconded making the following payments for August and September and this was unanimously approved.

PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AUGUST 2020 (01 to 31 July '20)

Date	Chq	Name	Service Item	Gross	VAT	Net	Committee	Sub-committee
22/07/20	711	Pest UK	Allot Rats part fee	200.64	33.44	167.20	ENVIRON	Allot Rats
22/07/20	712	Wicksteed	Replace net on Multiplay	723.60	120.60	603.00	REC	Play equip repairs
22/07/20	713	A R Hulley	Litter Feb & Mrch	300.00	0.00	300.00	HIGHWAY	Litter
22/07.20	714	Henley Land	Mow Main 2 x '19 + 4 x '20	1560.00	0.00	1560.00	REC	Mow main
29/07/20	715	L A Bates	Honorarium less Tax	2790.50	0.00	2790.50	CLERK	Hon Less Tax
29/07/20	715	L A Bates	Telephone	40.00	0.00	40.00	ADMIN	Telephone
29/07/20	716	Sonning Land	Mow Playground	32.00	0.00	32.00	REC	Mow Playground
29/07/20	716	Sonning land	Remove Beech Branch	65.00	0.00	65.00	REC	Tree Care
29/07/20	716	Sonning Land	Mow Wharf	28.00	0.00	28.00	ENVIRON	Mow Wharf
29/07/20	717	Henley Land	Main Mow	260.00	0.00	260.00	REC	Main Mowing
			TOTAL	5934.74	154.04	5780.70		

PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS SEPT 2020 (01 Aug to 30 Aug '20)

Date	Chq	Name	Service Item	Gross	VAT	Net	Committee	Sub-committee
14/08/20	718	Henley Land	Main Mow	260.00	0.00	260.00	REC	Main Mow
14/08/20	719	CRC Bailiffs	Evict Travellers + 2 chains +2 locks	4554.00	759.00	3795.00	REC	Misc. Travellers
14/08/20	720	Sonning Land	Mow Play x 2	64.00	0.00	64.00	REC	Mow Play
14/08.20	720	Sonning Land	Mow Wharf x 1	28.00	0.00	28.00	ENVIRON	Mow Wharf
14/08/20	721	Intersmart	Repair lights pav.	150.00	0.00	150.00	SPORTS	Pavilion m'tnce
			TOTAL	5056.00	759.00	4297.00		

10568: HIGHWAYS

Speed Indicators (SID). Mr Fisher gave the latest update from SID. A vehicle, speeding at 50 mph, had been recorded at 7.50 am, this was similar to the previous month. The average speed was 22 mph, and the numbers were down during the holiday period, but two thirds were travelling over the 20 mph, speed limit. Overall, the numbers were down on the same period in 2019 and the peak time was now between 11 and 12 noon and between 4 pm and 5 pm in the evening. Since the school had reopened parking in Pound Lane had returned, this was becoming dangerous and Mrs Plant had complained. The number of vehicles had increased because families could not share with other families due to corona restrictions. The Chairman said that the school had restricted on-site parking but there were areas that could be cleared to allow staff to park onsite instead of in the SPC car park. Suggestions had been made about opening the playground but there were problems over responsibilities and cost. Mr Fisher said that parents might be prepared to organise a rota to monitor the numbers and cleaning in the playground. Mr Fisher agreed to discuss reopening the playground with the head teacher. The Chairman said that permanent signs for the car park should be obtained with the closing time clearly displayed and the key code would be changed. The gate was being opened late at night for the car park to be used as a meeting place for young people in cars who created noise and nuisance to residents often continuing into the early hours of the morning.

10569: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G.

- a) Safety Checks. The Chairman said that the playground was locked due to corona restrictions.

Proposals to Play Football. Ethan Greene, the Chairperson and U 14 Girls Manager of AFC Reading had asked if his team could use the football pitch over the winter. Mr Fisher had met with Mr Greene to discuss the possibilities in the light of SCC showing an interest in their Veteran Football Team playing. The size of the pitch had been discussed, 110 x 70 would allow both the juniors and the veterans to play but might encroach on the cricket outfield. Mr Greene had said that he would arrange for any wear on the field to be repaired on a monthly basis, they did not need to use the pavilion as they were close to the Berkshire Sports facilities, and they wished to start play on 26 September. Mr Fisher said that cricket would finish on 13 September. The Chairman said that it would be difficult to charge for using just the field as others could not be prevented from using it. Following discussion, it was agreed that a charge could not be made for using the field and as the pavilion was not to be used no licence would be provided. The situation would be monitored, reviewed and any changes made, as necessary.

- b) Security Proposals. The Clerk had met with the Deana Humphries, Community Engagement Lead at WBC Customer and Localities, who had offered to give advice about security measures to prevent future incursions by travellers. The Clerk had drawn up a list which was reviewed. The Chairman agreed to check out the field referring to the list.

10570: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

Safety Checks. The Chairman said that the playground was still closed.

Work to Pagoda and benches. Mrs Fielder said that the work to the Pagoda had been completed. The benches in the rec had also been completed but a new slat was still required for one. Mrs Fielder said that she had looked at the bus shelter next to the pound and it was in poor condition and would only get worse. The roof and back needed to be replaced and the slats at the front also needed some attention but repairs could be done in two phases. Andy Mancey had provided a quote which Mrs Fielder could circulate. The Chairman asked if Mr Mancey could also look at the other 3 bus shelters and provide advice.

Litter Pick. Mrs Fielder would check if WBC would be organising this. The litter problem in Sonning had improved but there were still areas of concern. The Chairman said that he had observed 7 narrow boats moored on the River, 5, didn't have licenses. The Chairman also reported that WBC were changing the manhole covers where the cyclist had lost his life in Thames Street. Mr Fisher said that the tree survey would be carried out the following week and CIL could be used for any remedial work.

10571: POLICE & SECURITY.

Mrs Fielder said there were no figures, but she would send them on to the Clerk when they arrived. Mr Fisher said that he was aware that the SLTC hut had been broken into and a vehicle in the RC&HC has its windows smashed.

10572: ALLOTMENTS.

Mrs Fielder said that the allotments were looking good. The Chairman agreed to obtain quotes for the damaged fencing, it was agreed that 6 ft height fencing would be sufficient.

10573: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 13 October 2020 at 7.00 pm in the pavilion (since then advice had since been provided recommending that local councils should continue to meet remotely).

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