

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held via Skype, on Tuesday 13 October 2020 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT. Mr A E Farnese (Chairman), Mr T Fisher, Mr J Hay, Mr P Morrison, 1 Visitors
Mrs L A Bates (Clerk).

10574: APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS. Apologies were received from Mrs Jan Fielder, Mrs J Harvey (leave of absence).
The Chairman welcomed all those present, including Mr A Halliday.

10575: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest.

10576: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

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

10577: CORRESPONDENCE.

Application to Remove SLTC Hedge. The six-week period for informing WBC of the proposal had expired on 6 October but no official notification had been received.

Berkshire Sports Club Tennis Section. The Tennis Club had been given permission to install floodlights to their courts and said that the Tennis Association had suggested a merger with Sonning as the two facilities were so close to each other. The SLTC Chairman was consulting his members on the proposal.

QR Notice for Pavilion. It was agreed that although the pavilion was not being used that the Notices should be put up.

10578: CASUAL VACANCY.

The Chairman said that Mr Halliday had been attending Council meetings for some time and would now like to become a member. The Chairman asked Mr Halliday to outline his reasons for joining the Council and some background. Mr Halliday said that he had lived in Sonning for three years but had known Sonning for longer, his wife had lived in Sonning for twenty years. There were various issues in Sonning that he would like to become involved in, traffic, the Wharf, bus shelters, planning to name a few. Mr Halliday said that he was a teacher, originally, he had taught religious knowledge but retrained as an Art teacher and taught 11 to 18-year olds in Langley. The Chairman thanked Mr Halliday and said that the Parish Council was non-political, the local MP was Conservative but not everyone in Sonning was of the same persuasion. The Parish Council were keen to involve younger residents and Mr Halliday would be a welcome addition. Following discussion this was unanimously agreed that Mr Halliday should fill the vacancy and the Clerk would supply Mr Halliday with the necessary papers ready for the November meeting.

10579: PLANNING.

Report. The Chairman said that the following applications had been approved: Berkshire Sports Club (201422); Little Barn Holme Park Farm Road (201915). Holme Park Sports Club Sonning Lane (201409) had been refused.

10579: PLANNING (Con't).

The following applications were ongoing. Land South of Old Bath Road (201833): Old Readingensians Sports Ground. (201882): Holme Park Farm, Holme Park Farm Lane: The Pilgrims Thames Street (202433) Sonning Place Pearson Road. (202337).

The following applications had been approved. See above

The following applications had been refused. See above.

The following applications had been withdrawn. No applications had been withdrawn.

The following appeal was ongoing: Linkside Duffield Road 19/24/38) APPEAL APP/X0360/W/20/3254803

Neighbourhood Plan. Mr Fisher said that the volunteers were being organised into groups considering different aspects (Finance and Grants: Historic Environment & Conservation Area: Landscape & Environment etc.) and this would include research and putting questions together for their section. There was a possibility that the questionnaire would be ready in time for delivery before Christmas.

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.

The following applications were on the agenda for a decision as the planning meeting had not been quorate.

Holme Park Farm, Holme Park Farm Lane (202350). The Chairman said that all three planning Councillors had seen the plans. These were similar, to a previous application, but the size had been reduced. In principle there didn't seem to be a problem but the increased activity could attract additional traffic to the area and put pressure on the drainage (which appeared to be via septic tank) due to the additional use of water. Mr Fisher said that he shared the Chairman's concerns and the increase in size was 30% more than the original. Other concerns included the removal of animal waste. Mr Morrison said his concerns were about the additional use of water on the site and potential increase in traffic. Following discussion, it was agreed to object to the application for the above reasons.

The Pilgrims Thames Street (202433). Mr Morrison said that planning permission had already been given and this was for a small change to the footprint. Following discussion, it was agreed to say that SPC could find no reason to object.

Sonning Place Pearson Road. (202337). Mr Fisher said this application had been submitted as WBC considered it to be in the curtilage of a listed building, although the land had now been transferred to the neighbouring property. Mr Fisher said that the pool and changing room were a long way from the Listed Building and could not be seen from the building, as they were located behind Sonning Place. Following discussion, it was agreed to say that SPC could find no reason to object but couldn't get involved in the legalities.

Unit 2 East Reading Retail Park Shepherds Hill, Woodley. (202464).

This was in the adjoining parish but SPC had been consulted as it was close to the boundary. The Retail Park consisted of a row of buildings with existing retail use on Shepherds Hill roundabout

10579: PLANNING (Con't).

between the railway line and the A4 Bath Road. The retail use was restricted, and the application was for unrestricted retail use, which would make the building more attractive to potential tenants. Following discussion, it was agreed to say that SPC could find no reason to object.

10580: PARISHIONERS QUESTIONS.

There were no questions from parishioners.

10581: BOROUGH COUNCILLORS QUESTION TIME.

The Chairman said that he and Mr Fisher would attend the WDALC remote meeting, which Cllr Firmager chaired. The Chairman explained that WDALC was a joint meeting between WBC and parishes and there were several interesting items on the agenda for the forthcoming meeting.

10582: FINANCE.

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

PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS OCTOBER (1-30 September '20)

Date	Chq	Name	Service Item	Gross	VAT	Net	Committee	Sub-comm
12/09/20	723	Henley Land	Main Mow	260.00	0.00	260.00	REC	Main Mow
17/09/20	724	Heritage Tree Service	Fell 1 Beech + 1 Pine	3090.00	515.00	2575.00	REC	Tree care
17/09/20	725	Mr P Doyle	Car Park Signs	220.00	0.00	220.00	REC	Mtnce boun
17/09/20	726	Avoncrop	Materials field	399.20	18.00	381.20	REC.	Weed/Feed
25/09/20	727	Son Land	Mow Rec	32.00	0.00	32.00	REC	Mow Play
25/09/20	727	Son Land	KGV Hedge Cut	50.00	0.00	50.00	REC	Cut Play Hedge
25/09/20	727	Son Land	Mow Wharf	56.00	0.00	56.00	ENVIRON	Mow Wharf
25/09/20	727	Son Land	Wharf hedge	30.00	0.00	30.00	ENVIRON	Cut Wharf Hedge
25/09/20	728	Henley Land	Mow Main	260.00	0.00	260.00	REC	Mow main
25/09/20	728	Henley Land	Pond Mowing	150.00	0.00	150.00	POND	Pond Mow
28/09/20	729	Steelmakers	SLTC Gate deposit 50%	600.00	100.00	500.00	REC	SLTC Gate repairs
28/09/20	730	Mrs Bates	Honorarium (after Tax)	2790.50	0.00	2790.50	CLERK	Honorarium
28/09/20	730	Mrs Bates	Telephone	40.00	0.00	40.00	ADMIN	Print Post Stat.
			TOTAL	7977.70	759.00	4297.00		

10583: HIGHWAYS

Speed Indicators (SID). Mr Fisher gave the latest update from SID. Thanks, were again due to Mr Runnalls who had assisted in moving the mobile SID into Thames Street, where it had been for the last month. The highest speed was 50 mph at 9.25 on a Monday morning. Approximately 5000 vehicles now used Thames Street regularly, which was below the pre-lockdown figure. The mobile

10583: HIGHWAYS (Cont'd)

SID had now been moved to Charvil Lane and it would be interesting to see if its appearance would slow vehicles down. The Pound Lane results were similar with a vehicle travelling at 60 mph at 12.30 am and 3300 vehicles from Monday to Friday, numbers for the same period in 2019 had been 4200. Mr Fisher had written to Mr Heath (WBC) but he was now on leave until 19 October. Mr Fisher now had lots of videos showing vehicles on the crossing when pedestrians were using it and Mr Fisher confirmed that all the reports from the SID's were sent to WBC and the Police.

10584: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G

- a) Safety Checks. The Chairman said that the playground was locked due to corona restrictions.
- b) Football 2020. Mr Fisher said that the U14 Girls Football Team were now playing between 9.00 am and 12 midday on a Saturday. The pitch had been marked out and everything seemed to be going well. The nets were removed after each game to deter any unauthorised use of the goals. Mr Fisher had prepared a simple agreement, but this had not been returned so far. Mr Fisher said that he had spoken to Ethane Greene and had contacted the Chairman of Berkshire Football Club regarding the problem of footballers parking in Holmemoor Drive rather than using the Berkshire Sports Car park to avoid the longer walk to the pitch.
Single Storey Pavilion. The Chairman said that, after a period when SCC time had been taken up with the cricket season, SCC had asked for a meeting to discuss progress. In advance of the meeting it had been mentioned that drawings for a less expensive single storey pavilion had been drawn up. It had come as a surprise that in fact these drawings were not simple sketches but fully drawn up plans together with the engineers drawing and Richard Anderson had asked for £1,000 for the work. There had followed an exchange of emails with Richard Anderson pointing out that SPC had agreed to pay £1,000 for his fee and he would invoice SPC accordingly. SCC wanted to proceed with the tender process on the single storey option. The question was whether to proceed with the single storey design as drawn. The Chairman felt that the timing was not good given the current situation and it wasn't the right time to be spending money on new plans. However, the Chairman said that SPC had a duty of care and some updating of the pavilion facilities might be in order, although the virus and finances would lead this. There were also concerns that the new plans were lacking in some ways, there were insufficient number of showers and not for multigender use, inexplicably the largest room was the 'cold store', this and other aspects would need to be discussed. Mr Fisher said that Mr Anderson's initial thoughts were that the potential cost of the single storey pavilion was £350,000 to £360,000 plus VAT taking the cost up to £400,000. With donation, SPC's contribution and money raised at the supper the fund was still substantially short. It would be short sighted if the pavilion were demolished and work started before the funds were in place. Importantly the funding source had been closed due to the situation. Mr Greene had said that he might have scope for funding and Mr Fisher would obtain more information, but Mr Morrison said he couldn't see how grants and funds could be obtained in the current uncertain situation. Mr Halliday thought the plans looked fine, but more showers were needed. In such uncertain times, and without the money, it was difficult to see how to proceed. There was a need to wait until it was the right time for the economy. Mr Fisher said he had said that a form of guarantee was needed for the large personal donations, possibly an insurance before the project could be started. Mr Fisher agreed to draft a reply to SCC, which would be circulated for approval. It was unanimously agreed that SPC needed to be sure before beginning the project.

10584: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G (Cont'd)

- c) Security Proposals. The Chairman and Mr Fisher had walked over the site to assess the situation. Mr Fisher had asked RBCS if there had been any progress in their idea to put a gate between their pond area and Ali's Pond but there had been no reply. The main gate to KGV Field had been locked but, although not secured the gap was not wide enough for the large traveller vehicles and they had forced their way in. It was understood that RBCS would not leave their bus across their access to their main field, which acted as a barrier, permanently. Mr Halliday said he would be happy to assist.
- d) Car Park Update. New signs had been installed to say that the car park would be closed from 6.00pm each evening. So far there had been no further incursions.

10585: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

Safety Checks. The Chairman said that he had checked the Wharf. The Clerk would chase Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service about the safety throw line they had suggested in the summer. The Chairman said that litter in the parish improved now the high season was over.
Litter Pick. There would be no Litter Pick during 2020 but there would be ne in 2021.

10586: POLICE & SECURITY.

In the absence of Mrs Fielder there were no figures.

10587: ALLOTMENTS.

Mr Hay said that carpet was being used on allotment 3b, the Clerk would write requesting its removal. The new fence was discussed, it was likely that 28 6 ft panels with 28 posts would be needed. Unfortunately, Mr Hay said that the neighbours rubbish was piled high against the existing fence, much of it 6 ft high. The Chairman agreed to inspect the area.
Mr Fisher said that there was some work to be carried out on trees on the recreation ground. Mr Fisher agreed to seek quotes.
Mr Fisher said that he had a second quote for the work to the Ligure Way bus shelter, which was cheaper. Following discussion, it was agreed to proceed with the second quote but to ask that a different stain was used. It was noted that the stain wouldn't work if the weather was too cold and the work needed to proceed quickly.

10588: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 10 November 2020 at 7.00 pm via Skype.

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