

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held via Skype, on Tuesday 8 December 2020 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT. Mr A E Farnese (Chairman), Mr T Fisher, Mr A Halliday, Mr P Morrison, By invitation Mr M Firmager (WBC). 1 Visitor. Mrs L A Bates (Clerk).

10608: APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS. Apologies were received from Mrs Jan Fielder and Mrs J Harvey. Mr Hay had some issues and the Chairman would discuss these with him. The Chairman welcomed all those present.

10609: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest.

10610: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

One correction was made, Minute 10600, Architect's fee final sentence should read £1000. Having been corrected the Minutes of the last meeting, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

10611: CORRESPONDENCE.

WBC Car Parking Fee Christmas 2020. The WBC car park in Woodley and other areas in the Borough would be free of charge on 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 19 December 2020.

WBC Discretionary Business Grant. Wokingham wanted to publicise their business grants in the Borough.

WBC TPO, 7 Pound Lane. Following an application to fell three trees at 7 Pound Lane WBC had refused and put a TPO, on the trees, which were considered to be an asset.

Friendship Alliance, A Christmas Sing Along was being organised for 22 December, 3 pm, via Zoom. Anyone wishing to take part should email [Jayne@Linkvisiting.org](mailto:Jayne@Linkvisiting.org).

Grass Cutting Glebe gardens. The Chairman said that the grass cutting over the summer had been unsatisfactory, and residents had complained. Thelma Babbist had written to those residents affected and apologised for a poor service and said that those affected would be compensated by having £105 credited to their rent statement. The Chairman said this was exceptional and he was most grateful.

10612: PLANNING.

Report. The Chairman said that the following applications had been approved: Holme Park Farm, Holme Park Farm Lane (20235: Sonning Place Pearson Road. (202337): 17 Pound Lane (202613: Little Court Charvil Lane (202620).

The following applications were ongoing). Land South of Old Bath Road (201833: Field Lodge Thames Street (202998).

Holme Park Sports Ground APPEAL APP/X0360/W/20/3260833. Full application for the erection of a single storey detached, dwelling to include 2No rooflights and 9No photovoltaic panels following the demolition of the existing buildings including sports club changing facilities, club bar and external store. Comment to Planning Inspectorate by 21 Dec. '20 Details under 201409 on WBC website:

The following new applications had been received. Sonning Church of England School (203230). Full application for the proposed erection of a detached, single storey building to create a drama and music studio with associated facilities. 103 a Pound Lane (203293). Householder application for the proposed erection of a single storey outbuilding to form a swimming pool enclosure with

## 10612: PLANNING (Cont'd).

decking to replace the existing retractable glass enclosure, plus a single storey plant room following the removal of existing shed.

The following applications had been approved. See above

The following applications had been refused. No refusals.

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.

Mr Fisher said that a resident had made some good observations on the appeal at Holme Park Sports Club. The Society had made some observations including the fact the approval would encourage ribbon development.

Cllr Firmager said there had been no movement on the application for 57 houses off the Old Bath Road.

Neighbourhood Plan. The Clerk said that there had been some discussion about naming certain areas as Public Open Space. The Chairman said that 'Under Trust' should be added to indicate its special status.

## 10613: PARISHIONERS QUESTIONS.

Mrs Halliday asked who had priority on the KGV Field, the cricketers and dog walkers both behaved as if they had preferential rights over people enjoying other activities. It was agreed that all users ought to respect each other's rights. Mr Halliday said that irresponsible dog walkers were spoiling the field by allowing their dogs to run wild, annoying other dog owners and other users. They were also allowing their animals to foul the area.

## 10614: BOROUGH COUNCILLORS QUESTION TIME.

The Chairman said that it was good to see Cllr Firmager and he would like him to pass his thanks on to WBC regarding their dealings with the grass cutting issues in Glebe Garden's.

Mr Fisher said that a resident had cleared a length of Pearson Road, which had become overgrown with leaves and rubbish, and now had 30 bin liners full of the debris. Mr Firmager was aware of this and someone from WBC would contact the resident to arrange collection.

Mr Halliday asked if Cllr Firmager was aware of any objections to the traffic calming proposals, which he was not. Mr Fisher said there had been a recent traffic survey in Pound Lane, support of speed humps had been mixed (50/50). Mr Morrison said that road humps were not the solution without some other kind of traffic calming. Cllr Firmager suggested that a better crossing plus humps would be an improvement but there had been some doubt about the position of the existing crossing. Mr Morrison said that Pound Lane was not the right place for a chicane, there were too many vehicles involved. Cllr Firmager said that the smiley face SID in Pound Lane was successful and had the right effect. The Chairman said that delivery vehicles were a law to themselves and ignored the speed limit everywhere. They had tight schedules to meet. Parents also added to the parking problems in Pound Lane as most remained talking long after picking up their children. Cllr Firmager said that it was time to get Martin Heath back for a site visit. Mr Fisher said that he had sent several emails to Mr Heath but no response. Cllr Firmager said that there had been more time available to offers in the past to undertake issues. Mr Fisher said that Mr Heath's predecessor had provided and price to upgrade the crossing, SPC had agreed £20,000 quote but nothing had happened. The Chairman said this needed to be on the agenda for the next meeting with a view to taking a more proactive approach and a subcommittee would be organised. Cllr Firmager asked to be included on this group, which would include The Chairman, Mr Fisher and Mr Halliday. Mr Fisher said that the Society had recently met with Mrs May (MP) and had discussed traffic.

## 10615: FINANCE.

- a) Report and 21/22 Budget. The Clerk had circulated a report, which was noted. A draft budget had also been circulated. It was agreed that Mr Morrison and the Clerk would produce a draft CIL budget separately once the budget was agreed. A budget for Bailiffs in case of traveller occupation of the field was ruled out in favour of obtaining insurance to cover such an event. The Parish Council were also looking at preventative measures in discussion with RBCS and Mr Driver. The Clerk would make the changes and send a redraft to Mr Morrison for final adjustments so that a final budget could be set at the January meeting and the Precept agreed.
- 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 DECEMBER (1-30 November '20)

Date	Chq	Name	Service Item	Gross	VAT	Net	Committee	Sub-committee
02/11/20	743	Mr Fix It	Repairs to Field Bus Shelter	600.00	00	600.00	HIGH & LIGHT	Shelter M'tnce
03/11/20	744	Mr Fix It	Repairs to 4 Bus Shelters	400.00	00	400.00	HIGH & LIGHT	Shelter M'tnce
03/11/20	745	Mr T Fisher	Materials for Bus Shelter	130.78	00	130.78	HIGH & LIGHT	Shelter M'tnce
27/11.20	746	Tivoli	Dog Bin Emptying	165.60	27.60	138.00	ENVIRON.	Dog Bins
27/11/20	747	Anderson Orr	Architectural fee Pavilion	1200.00	200.00	1000.00	SPORT	Pavilion
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2496.38</b>	<b>227.60</b>	<b>2268.78</b>		

Annual Return. The Clerk had circulated the Completed Annual Return Sheet, together with the Auditors comments, which were: 'The AGAR was not accurately completed before submission for review. Please ensure that amendments are corrected in the prior year comparatives when completing next year's AGAR' This was noted and would be undertaken.

## 10616: HIGHWAYS

Speed Indicators (SID). Mr Fisher said that thanks were due to Mr Runnalls again for helping to move the SID to Charvil Lane, the previous Saturday evening. The Chairman said that there should be some acknowledgement of Mr Runnalls assistance and he agreed to arrange something. The average number of vehicles over the speed limit was 80% with 65% travelling at 33 mph in the 20 mph zone. Worrying, one vehicle had been clocked at 80 mph, travelling towards the mini roundabout at 8.55 pm on 5 December. In Pound Lane the maximum speed during the same period was 50 mph, which reflected the fact that it was half term. Mr Fisher said that he would be supplying Mr Heath with the figures as usual. Given the speed in Charvil Lane it was agreed to leave the SID in Charvil Lane for another month when consideration would be given to moving to another location.

## 10617: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G

- a) Safety Checks. The Chairman said that these were satisfactory.
- b) Re-opening Playground. Following a meeting with the WBC representative the recommendation was to keep the playground closed during school term time due to its proximity to the school (unique in Wokingham and virtually on the school grounds) but to reopen at weekends and holidays if SPC felt able to do so. The school was agreeable to this. Mr

## 10617: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G (Cont'd)

Fisher would be prepared to lock/unlock the gates and Mr Halliday would assist. Following discussion, it was agreed to open the playground and reassess if necessary. The Clerk would obtain 2 posters on boards from Mr Josey (WBC) and some spare copies. Mr Fisher would inform those residents who had enquired about reopening. Mr Fisher would ask if Mr Fixit was able to undertake pressure washing of one of the surfaces.

- c) Pavilion TV Licence. This had not been renewed for 2020/21 as there was little use of the pavilion. Having discussed with SCC, they had confirmed that they no longer used a TV in the pavilion. Mr Fisher had now registered the pavilion as unused until April 2021 and this would be reviewed at that time.
- d) EV Charging Unit. WBC had asked SPC if they would be prepared to install vehicle charging units cost approximately £75,000 for 15. While this would-be an asset, the expenditure was too high, and it would require the car park to be open day and night. Costs might be reduced as more were installed and it was agreed not to commit to the project at this time.
- e) Mr Fisher had asked 4 tree specialists to quote, of the three who had quoted Heritage were the cheapest. Having used Heritage previously Mr Morrison proposed using Heritage at £1875 on the initial tree work, seconded by Mr Halliday, and this was unanimously approved. Mr Fisher would inform all those who had quoted.
- f) Security Proposals. This was currently with the Chairman for consideration.
- g) SCC Proposal. This needed further consideration, as part of the 2021/22 budget.
- h) Bulbs for Pound. The planting and clearing had been completed and was a great improvement

## 10618: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

Safety Checks. The Chairman said that there was nothing to report but he would return to inspect the benches on the Wharf.

Litter. While not such a massive problem as in the summer large amounts of cardboard coffee cups were being thrown into the litter bins on the Wharf which had been filled to overflowing. The view was that the majority came from the Coppa Club who were offering a takeaway service, but some might be from the Picnic Hamper in the High Street, which also offered take away coffee in cardboard cups. Mr Fisher had spoken to the manager at the Coppa Club who said they were operating with a skeleton staff so couldn't promise to clear up. The Sonning Litter Group would be asked if they could help. The Chairman said that the tree stump, which Uri Geller had installed a sculpture on had rotted and could be dangerous to pedestrian on the towpath. The Clerk would ask WBC to look.

## 10619: CLIMATE CHANGE.

Mr Fisher said that tree planting would support climate change and it had been suggested that 4 native trees should be planted in the new Beech hedge, which was to replace the old hedge by the tennis courts. Suggestion included Field Maple, Hawthorn and Crab Apple and Mr Fisher would discuss with Henley Landscapes and ask them for a quote.

## 10620: POLICE & SECURITY.

In the absence of Mrs Fielder there were no figures.

10621: ALLOTMENTS.

There had been no reply from Mr Hillier regarding the hedge. The Chairman would obtain a firm quote and speak to Mr Hillier.

10622: ACTION LIST.

This was reviewed and updated.

10623: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 12 January 2021 at 7.00 pm via Skype.

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