

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held via Skype, on Tuesday 12 January 2021 at 7.00 pm.

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

10624: APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS. Apologies were received from Mrs Jan Fielder and Cllr M Firmager (WBC).

The Chairman welcomed all those present and said that he had spoken to Mr Hay, who had said that he was happy to help with the allotments but confirmed his resignation.

10625: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest.

10626: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

The Minutes of the last meeting were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

10627: CORRESPONDENCE.

WBC Equality Plan Consultation deadline 24 January. WBC were encouraging Councillors to complete the consultation.

Wayfinding Signs. WBC were hoping that Parishes would use CIL money on wayfinding signs. Rob Curtis (WBC) had offered to meet up. The Chairman, Mr Fisher and the Clerk would attend.

Climate Emergency Drop in Session 20 Jan 11.00 am to 12 noon via Microsoft Teams. The Chairman encouraged everyone to attend.

Playground Inspections, Tivoli had sent an example monthly playground report and asked if they layout was suitable. It was agreed it was and the Clerk would ask for a quote,

Police Commissioner Appeal for Support. The police wanted to increase their share from Council Tax. Following discussion, it was agreed to support this proposal.

Hotspots to be included in WBC Monitoring. WBC has appointed Covid Marshalls to patrol areas of concern large groups were gathering. This was not currently a problem in Sonning.

WDALC AGM 21 January 7.30 pm. Mr Fisher had agreed to attend this.

Sonning Primary School Admissions Consultation. The deadline for comments was 27 January.

Request for dedicated Parking, Robert Palmer Alms-houses. Residents had written asking for parking to be provided for them outside their cottages. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk should contact the Chairman of Trustees, who had responsibility for the managing the cottages as it was felt that this for them to make representation rather than SPC.

Eye and Dunsden Fast Broadband Proposal. The Chairman of Eye and Dunsden PC had contacted the Clerk about the provision of faster broadband in both parishes and he had provided a list of properties in Sonning than might be included. Thames Street, part of Charvil Lane, part of Pound lane and most of Pearson Road were on the list. If sufficient residents agreed to take part the cost for each household was £1,000, which government grants were likely to cover. The Clerk agreed to ask Mr Gilmore for his expert advice.

WBC Standards Board. It appeared that the WBC constitution did not allow members of the executive to take up certain roles on sub-committees. The Chair and Vice Chair of the Standards Board were to be replaced.

10628: CASUAL VACANCY.

Regrettably Mr Hay had resigned, and the Clerk had advertised the casual vacancy as required. The Chairman said that Mr Hay would be missed but had agreed to keep an eye on the allotments.

10629: PLANNING.

Report. The Chairman said that the following applications had been approved: Field Lodge Thames Street (202998).

The following applications were ongoing. Land South of Old Bath Road (201833: Linkside Duffield Road 19/24/38) APPEAL APP/X0360/W/20/3254803. Holme Park Sports Ground APPEAL APP/X0360/W/20/3260833: Sonning Church of England School (203230):

The following new applications had been received. 103 a Pound Lane (203293). Householder application for the proposed erection of a single storey outbuilding to form a swimming pool enclosure with 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.

Planning Application Sonning Church of England School (203230). To consider any comments.

Mr Fisher was concerned that the siting of the proposed building would hinder the access for emergency vehicles. Other comments included the bland design (although Mr Halliday explained that this was necessary for a drama and music studio), noise nuisance to residents in Parkway Drive, if used in the evenings. Mr Morrison said there was no information about how the building would be used, if it would be hired out, or used during the holidays. Mr Halliday felt the building was probably too small to hire out. Following discussion, it was agreed to say no objections in principle but to mention the following concerns: disturbance to residents in Parkway Drive, Fire and Rescue to be consulted on emergency access, not enough information about the proposed use of the building and to ask for a condition limiting the use to normal school-working hours, for school use only and not let out to organisations or individuals.

Neighbourhood Plan. There would be more news after the meeting scheduled for 18 January.

10630: PARISHIONERS QUESTIONS.

There were no questions.

10631: BOROUGH COUNCILLORS QUESTION TIME.

In the absence of Cllr Firmager there were no questions.

10632: FINANCE.

- a) Report. 21/22 Budget and Precept. The Clerk had circulated a report, which was noted. The draft budget was included. Mr Morrison proposed accepting the Budget and setting the Precept at £38046, Mr Fisher seconded, and this was unanimously approved. Mr Morrison said there was no increase in the Precept which reflected the negative effect the pandemic was having on the economy.
- b) Payment of Accounts. The Chairman proposed, and Mr Halliday seconded making the following payments for December and this was unanimously approved.

10632: FINANCE (Cont'd).

PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS JANUARY '21 (1-31 December '20)

Date	Chq	Name	Service Item	Gross	VAT	Net	Committee	Sub-comm.
02/12/20	748	P K Littlejohn	Annual Audit 19/20	360.00	60.00	300.00	ADMIN	Audit
02/12/20	749	Mr A Driver	Pound Wildflowers	320.00	00	320.00	REC	Planting
11/12/20	750	Son Land	Mow Play x 3	96.00	00	96.00	REC	Mow Play
11/12.20	750	Son Land	Mow Wharf x 4	112.00	00	112.00	ENVIRON.	Mow Wharf
11/12/20	750	Son Land	Cut Allot hedge	120.00	00	120.00	ENVIRON	Allot Hedge
11/12/20	751	L A Bates	SLTC Privacy Net	374.92	62.49	312.43	REC SLTC	SLTC Hedge
24/12/20	752	A E Farnese	Christmas Refresh	68.30	00	68.30	ADMIN	Misc
24/12/20	753	Tivoli	Dog Bin Emptying	165.60	27.60	138.00	ENVIRON	Dog Bins
24/12/20	754	L A Bates	Honorarium less Tax	2790.50	00	2790.50	CLERK	Honarium
24/12/20	754	L A Bates	Telephone	40.00	00	40.00	ADMIN	Post, tel. Stationary
24/12/20	755	Inland Revenue	Tax 159.50 + NIC 90.70	250.28	0.00	250.28	CLERK	Tax + NIC
24/12/20	756	R Adams	Clean Play Surfaces	100.00	0.00	100.00	REC.	Playground
			TOTAL	4797.60	150.09	4647.51		

CIL Expenditure. The Clerk had circulated a list of items previously agreed but not approved for expenditure from the current 20/21 financial year.

Bus Shelters	1130.78
Field Maintenance	3626.41
Tree care	2640.00
Pagoda	1000.00
Pavilion	2440.00
SLTC Hedge	3275.00
Tree Survey	950.00
	15059.19

Mr Fisher proposed using CIL funds to pay for the above items, Mr Morrison seconded and is was unanimously approved.

The Clerk had also circulated a list of items to be allocated for payment from CIL funds in the financial year 21/22. Mr Fisher proposed using CIL funds to pay for the items, below Mr Morrison seconded and this was unanimously approved. Final costs would be approved at the time.

WBC Play Inspections	1,200
Pound Lane Crossing	10,000 +
New Seats	2,000
Min SID	3,000
St Lights	?
REC Security	3,000
Weed Feed Seed (2 per year 1 from CIL	2,500
Welcome to Sonning Liguge Way	2,000

10633: HIGHWAYS

Speed Indicators (SID). Mr Fisher thanked Mr Runnalls personally for his continued help with the mini-Sid's. Mr Fisher said that the speed in Pound Lane was of concern but the speed's in Charvil Lane were higher and vehicles continued at the same speed after entering the 20 mph zone, only slowing down as they neared the speed humps. The number of vehicles travelling over the speed limit continued while the number of vehicles travelling in Charvil Lane was just 70% of the number the previous tear. It was disappointing as the same report reflected the situation in January,

10633: HIGHWAYS (Cont'd)

2020. Mr Fisher said that the maximum speed recorded in Pound Lane was 65 mph at 6.50 pm on Christmas Eve. Ways to prevent speeding were discussed with humps seen as the deterrent most likely to achieve this. Mr Fisher said that the 2017 survey showed that residents support was divided 50/50. The police regarded 20 mph zones as 'self-policing'. Chicanes were also discussed but were likely to cause tailbacks to the A4. The Chairman said that this was a continuing discussion and suggested that Mr Fisher contact the WBC Councillor responsible for Highways in the hope that this might achieve what SPC had been endeavouring to achieve over many years. Mr Fisher would do this and copy Cllr Firmager in on his email. The Chairman asked that councillors submit their ideas for traffic measure in Sonning to him so a plan could be drawn up.

10634: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G

- a) Safety Checks. The government had said that children's playgrounds should remain open, but skate parks and outside exercise equipment should not. Mr Fisher would put signs up next to the skate park and exercise equipment, which would be tied up as well. Mr Fisher said that the use of the playground was being managed well and no overcrowding.
- b) Pavilion - SCC Proposals for Next Steps. The suggestion was that SPC proceed with the plans, obtain planning permission, and go out to tender which would allow the Council to establish the cost to build a single storey pavilion. The Chairman felt this was not the time to spend additional funds until there was some certainty about the future. Nearly £7,000 had already been spent on the two-storey pavilion which was to be abandoned. Mr Fisher said he agreed with the Chairman's concerns, particularly as grants were not currently being given out for pavilions. Mr Morrison said that without a grant it was unlikely that sufficient funds could be raised prior to building, although Mr Murphy had said he would make good any shortfall. Much of the anticipated funding came from private individuals and SPC needed guarantees before launching into any building work. A plan was needed to establish what these guarantees were, and it should be set up formally, possibly using an escrow account where the funding could be held and only used for the pavilion expenditure. Mr Fisher suggested that the £30,000 plus that was raised at the supper might be used to pay for initial expenditure such as planning drawings. Following discussion, it was agreed that Mr Fisher would draft a reply to SCC. The Chairman said that, in the meantime a deep clean should be carried out on the pavilion. The electrical inspection and refurbishment of the urinals, which were flushing water continually, should also be carried out and the shower heads would need to be flushed out. Mr Fisher said that the electricians quote for a full inspection was £500 plus £60 for the PAT, both plus VAT. The urinals quote was £260. Mr Fisher proposed spending £560 for the electricians and £260 for the urinals, the Chairman seconded, and this was unanimously approved.
- c) Quotes for Tree Works. Mr Fisher said that the quote had been accepted but permission was required from WBC to carry the work out. Mr Fisher would chase the contractor.
- d) Security Proposals. The Chairman said there had been nothing from RBCS but he would ring the head teacher at the end of January.
- e) SLTC Hedge, Trees and Security Fencing. After the new privacy net had been installed, high winds, had caused the fencing to come loose at the bottom. Some eyelets had been damaged, and some had some had fallen off, causing some damage to the net itself. The contractor had replaced the ties and secured it. Mr Fisher said that the eyelets had cost extra and should have provided a longer life, it looked as if the cable ties had failed and were not fit for purpose. This had allowed the net to flap in the wind, tearing the eyelets out. The suppliers were proving difficult to contact with long waiting times. Emails had gone unanswered. The Clerk would persevere, and the Chairman would also make contact. Mr Fisher said that the new trees had now been planted but some of the original stumps remained. Mr Fisher would speak to the contractor about this.

10634: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G (Cont'd)

- f) CCTV. The details had only just been received and no one had been able to examine the proposal closely. This would be put on the February agenda for discussion.

10635: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

Safety Checks. The Chairman said that there was nothing to report but paper coffee cups were still filling the litter bins. Mr Halliday suggested larger bins, but the Chairman said this just attracted more rubbish, including household items. Mr Fisher would mention the problem to the ladies who had helped remove the litter during the summer.

Bridge Lights. Mr Fisher had contacted a resident whose company dealt with lighting. The lights would come on for a few moments after resetting and then go out. The resident would check the lights free of charge, it was hoped they had equipment that would locate any problem. Mr Fisher said that SEC had made other suggestions which included erecting supports on the Bridge itself, which was a listed building. The existing lights were permitted because they were in the tarmac surface rather than the Bridge itself. The Chairman said he had a contact and would ask his advice.

10636: CLIMATE CHANGE.

This was ongoing.

10637: POLICE & SECURITY.

In the absence of Mrs Fielder there were no figures. The Clerk would contact Mrs Fielder to offer the Council's support and best wishes during this difficult time,

10638: ALLOTMENTS.

There was nothing to report. The Chairman was obtaining a quote for the fence and would contact Mr Hillier when it was received.

10639: ACTION LIST.

This was reviewed and updated.

10640: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 9 February 2021 at 7.00 pm via Skype.

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