

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held via Skype, on Tuesday 25 May 2021 at 7.00 pm.

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

10695: APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS. Apologies were received from Mrs Jan Fielder.

The Chairman welcomed all those present. The Chairman proposed the following: That, in the interest of the health and safety of its members and members of the public, Sonning Parish Council would continue to hold meeting via Skype until such time as it the health and safety of members and members of the public, could be assured'. Mr Morrison seconded, and this was unanimously approved.

10696: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest. Mr Farnese stood down as Chairman, and Mr Fisher took the Chair for the next item.

10697: ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN.

Mr Fisher said that Mr Farnese was an excellent Chairman and proposed his as Chairman for the following year, Mr Morrison seconded, and this was unanimously approved. Mr Farnese thanked everyone and resumed the Chair.

10698: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

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

10699: COUNCILLORS PORTFOLIOS.

The following were confirmed.

GROUP	MEMBERS
PLANNING	Mr Farnese (Chair), Mr Fisher, Mr Halliday, Mr Morrison, Clerk
HIGHWAYS	Mr Fisher (Chair), Mr Farnese, Mr Halliday
FINANCE	Mr Morrison (Treasurer), Clerk Accounts
RFO	Clerk
RECREATION	Mr Farnese (Chair), Mr Fisher, Mrs Fielder
TECHNICAL SERVICES (Wharf, Spring Clean, Allotments)	Mr Farnese (Chair), Mrs Fielder
POLICE & SECURITY	Mrs Fielder
WEB SITE	Mr Morrison, Mr Gilmore

16700: APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES.

The following ongoing appointments were confirmed,

ALMSHOUSE TRUST	Mr Parker (from Feb '09)
SONNING & DISTRICT WELFARE TRUST	Mrs Baldwin (ongoing)
SONNING EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION	Mrs Baldwin (ongoing)
PEARSON HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	Mrs Robinson (Ongoing)
SONNING TWINNING ASSOCIATION	Chairman (ex-officio)
FIRE BRIGADE TRUST	Chairman (ex-officio)

16701: CORRESPONDENCE.

Household Rubbish in Litter Bins. It had been reported that household rubbish was still being put in the litter bin at the entrance of Liguse Way and bins in other locations. WBC were looking into this. Mr Fisher said that the Support group were working together with WBC.

WBC Covid Roll of Honour. WBC had recognised two foster families for going the extra mile during the pandemic. They would represent the WBC foster carers who had done an amazing job in challenging circumstances. Mr Fisher said that the Sonning Covid Help Group had been recognised in the WBC Covid Roll of Honour

WBC Draft Leisure Strategy. This was now out for consultation.

10702: PLANNING.

List. The Chairman said that the following applications had been approved: 20 West Drive (210115): 35 West Drive (210919): The Beeches Bath Road (211073): Orchard End Parkway Drive (211251): 36 Glebe Lane (210973).

The following applications were ongoing). Microsoft Campus Building 5 (210435): Reading Blue Coat School (210693). Uppfield Charvil Lane (210287). Berkshire County Sports Club (210694). Bank Cottage Holme Park Farm, (210826): Weir House (210925):

The following Appeals had been dismissed: Linkside Duffield Road 19/24/38) APPEAL APP/X0360/W/20/3254803 Holme Park Sports Ground APPEAL APP/X0360/W/20/3260833:

The following applications had been refused. No refusals.

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

The following new applications had been received. **Reading Blue Coat School (211054).** Invalid Works to TPO Trees – TPO Reference 2/1951 (W3 and G2). (Full): **41 West Drive (211022).** Householder application for the proposed erection of a part single/part two storey rear extension, alterations to existing rear pitched roof and changes to fenestration to facilitate the creation of a first-floor balcony, plus the insertion of 1 no. rooflight: 19 Sonning Meadows (211280). Householder application for the proposed erection of a single storey side/ front infill extension: **Fairway 7 West Drive (211077).** Full application for the proposed single storey side extension to existing dwelling to form garage, following demolition of existing annexe, carport and garage, demolition of existing detached garage, plus the erection of one 5no. bedroom dwelling and garage to the rear of the existing property, and new access: **Fairway 7 West Drive (211078).** Full application for the demolition of existing dwelling and erection of 2no. 5 bedroom detached dwellings: **14 South Drive (211492).** Application to vary conditions 2 and 4 of planning consent 200162 for the proposed erection of a part two storey and part single storey rear extension and raising of the main roof to create additional habitable space, plus insertion of 7 no. rooflights, 1 no. rear juliet balcony and changes to fenestration, following demolition of existing conservatory. Condition 2 refers to the approved details and condition 4 to the insertion of additional windows; the variation is to allow use of slate roof instead of tile; changes to fenestration; amendment to the front porch canopy roof and a single storey rear extension of the existing utility room: The Gatehouse (211495). Householder application for the proposed erection of a single storey side extension following demolition of existing utility room and the conversion of existing loft to create habitable accommodation with the insertion of 3no. dormer windows: 8 Old Bath Road (211178). Full planning application for the proposed erection 1no. dwelling, following demolition of existing dwelling.

10703: BOROUGH COUNCILLORS QUESTION TIME.

Cllr Firmager said that he would have liked to have met everyone in person on this occasion. Following the recent elections there had been some changes at WBC including a new planning committee with some new faces. Simon Week's was no longer a member of the committee. Cllr Firmager had listed the applications for 7 West Drive due to the concern it had generated. The Chairman said that he was concerned that Social Services were involved in the litter issue and that this might lead to the person involved being rehoused. Cllr Firmager said that this wouldn't happen. Mr Fisher said that the cat tin labels generated from the property were being recycled to form shopping bags, which were on sale. Mr Fisher asked about the application for 57 flats in Old Bath Road, as it was showing as decision currently pending on the WBC web site. Cllr Firmager said that this meant that the officers were still working on the conditions. Mr Fisher said that the CEO still hadn't replied, and Cllr Firmager suggested that she should be chased up. The Chairman said that there was a lot of litter being generated by youngsters using the top end of the field. Cllr Firmager said that WBC might be able to help and suggested speaking to Richard Bisett.

10704: PARISHIONERS QUESTIONS.

There were no questions.

10705: FINANCE.

- a) Finance Report. This had been circulated and was noted.
- b) Income & Expenditure Account. These had been circulated and Mr Morrison proposed approving the accounts, the Chairman seconded, and these were unanimously approved.
- c) Payment of Accounts. Mr Morrison proposed, and Mr Halliday seconded making the following payments for April and this was unanimously approved.

PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS MAY 2021 (01 APRIL to 30 APRIL '21)

Date	Chq	Name	Service Item	Gross	VAT	Net	Committee	Sub-committee
16/04/21	790	Intersmart	Pav. Elect Inspect	721.20	120.20	601.00	SPORT	Pav. Electrics
16/04/21	791	Sonning Litter	Litter x 10	1666.66	0.00	1666.66	HIGH & LIGHT	Litter Collection
30/04/21	792	Royal Mail	Post Licence	119.40	19.90	99.50	N PLAN	Post Paid Licence
30/04/21	793	TIVOLI	Dog Bins + Play Inspect	194.57	32.43	162.14	ENVIRON	Dog Bins + Play
30/04/21	794	Henley. Land	Main Mow x 2	520.00	0.00	520.00	REC	Main Mow
30/04/21	795	Castle Water	Allotment Water	54.88	0.00	54.88	ENVIRON	Allot Water
30/04/21	796	Castle Water	Square Water	168.79	0.00	168.79	SPORT	Square Water
				3445.50	172.53	3272.97		

10706: HIGHWAYS

Speed Indicators (SID). The Chairman said that thanks were due to Mr Runnalls who had assisted in changing the battery again. The maximum speed recorded outside the school in Pound Lane was 60 mph at 7.30 pm in the evening and generally speeds seemed to be increasing. The mobile SID had been moved to Pound Lane south near West Drive. The maximum speed was 60 mph at midnight. Mr Fisher had spoken to martin heath at WBC, but his figures differed from those

10706: HIGHWAYS (Con't)

supplied by SPC. Ashley Waite (WBC Highways) had sent a copy of a document analysing the use of white lines on highways and the report had concluded that removing central white lines on carriageways saw a significant reduction of vehicle speeds. It did however say that not all roads were suitable for such modification. Mr Fisher said that it had been reported on Sonning Buzz that a speeding vehicle had overturned and crashed into the low wall outside Bishop's Close.

Contact with Cllr Jorgensen. It was agreed that it was unlikely that there would be a reply now.

Wayfinding Signs. The Chairman said that a suitable time needed to be found to meet up, but this was dependent on the weather. The Society had objected to the 'urban' example provided by WBC.

10707: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G

- a) Safety Checks. The Chairman said that Tivoli were now carrying out a monthly check of the playground in addition to Councillors checks. The Chairman and Mr Fisher had used the ROSPA report to draw up of list of repairs. Mr Fisher would copy the ROSPA list to contractors, dealing with playground repairs, asking for quotes.
- b) RBCS Proposal for 5-bar Gate Ali's Pound. Following a meeting with the Chairman and Mr Fisher RBCS had obtained a quote for a wooden 5-bar gate, including pedestrian gate, to close the gap between Ali's Pond and the RBCS Nature Reserve and asked if SPC would like to make a contribution to the cost of £828 plus VAT. Mr Fisher proposed sharing the cost and the Chairman seconded saying that it was unlikely to stop the travellers but by supporting the installation of the gate SPC would be seen to making a gesture. This was unanimously agreed. The Chairman and Mr Fisher would double check the location of the gate and if satisfactory the Clerk would confirm the agreement with RBCS.
- c) Proposal for Boat Hire from the Wharf. The Chairman said that he was concerned about the boats, which were 14 ft long and could be difficult to manoeuvre and might not be suitable for everyone. Mr Morrison said that legal advice was needed so that there was some indemnity to protect SPC and for the boat owners to take responsibility. There was a short discussion about other boat hire operation taking place in many locations along the river. The Chairman said that the boats would need to come into the bank forwards and wondered how users would be protected at this point. Mr Fisher said that the owners would take on the risk. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact SPC's solicitors, Blandy & Blandy for a quote and that any expenses involved in setting up an agreement should be borne by those operating the business.
- d) Proposed Open Air Theatre. Mr Fisher had been approached by the SCC about holding an open-air theatre on the recreations ground. Following discussion there was general support but more details were required. Mr Fisher would reply to SCC.

10708: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

Safety Checks. These had been carried out.

Litter KGV Field. The litter bins at the top of the field were being filled to overflowing and bags were too heavy to take down to the Wharf for collection. The Chairman had agreed to contact WBC about this.

10709: CLIMATE CHANGE.

WBC Tree Scheme. There had been no further news about tree planting.

Offer of 7 Small Oak Trees

10710: HIGH SPEED BROADBAND.

Mr Gilmore said that if enough Sonning residents got together they might be able to get a good discount. Early indications from the Neighbourhood Plan questionnaires were that a lot of people were happy with the speed they had, even if it wasn't the fastest. Some were happy but wanted to hear about joining in a community scheme. Once he had the numbers M Gilmore would speak to Mr Stewart who was keen to proceed.

10711: POLICE & SECURITY.

The Chairman said that there had been several break-ins to garden sheds and the police were giving advice on how to make shed more secure. There had also been a flurry of car break-ins. Reports from residents showed that they had CCTV pictures showing figures stalking their cars. *99

10712: ALLOTMENTS.

The Chairman said that the main problem was the fence. Mr Halliday suggested a second fence bult inside the existing. It was agreed to take another look in the autumn.

10713: ACTION LIST.

This was reviewed and updated.

10714: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 29 June 2021 at 7.00 pm in the pavilion.

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