

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the pavilion, Pound Lane, on Tuesday 20 July 2021 at 7.00 pm.

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

10732: APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS. Apologies were received from Mrs Fielder and Mr Morrison. The Chairman welcomed all those present.

10733: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest.

10734: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

The Minutes of the last meeting were unavailable and would be presented at the next meeting.

10735: CORRESPONDENCE.

Confirmation letter from SSE. Mr Fisher had renegotiated the contract for the next two years for street lighting. Having researched other options SSE were the only supplier offering a contract for non-metered supplies and the price had increased by 25% in two years since the last agreement had been agreed. Mr Fisher was thanked by everyone.

WBC Friendship Month. WBC had allocated September 2021 as Friendship Month

Plans to extend Cycle Link between Woodley & Reading. Wokingham had just released this information.

Contact from Developer Regarding Development of Holme Park Farm. Plans to develop Holme Park Farmland to the north-west of the farmhouse had been included in proposals for inclusion in the Local Plan and had been included in the NP Questionnaire. The developer had been in touch and had suggested a meeting. Following discussion with interested parties, the Chairman of the NP Group, Mr Gilmore had replied to say that the Group were not in a position to discuss the proposal at this time.

Berkshire Sports Tennis Club. The Club Chairman had been in contact regarding the possibility of the two clubs joining together, this would mean reviewing at the existing Licence and the sinking fund, which was earmarked for resurfacing the courts. The Clerk had also been asked why SPC did not fund the Berks Sports Tennis Club. It was agreed that SPC were unlikely to make a donation as the Club was a tenant of WBC.

Dog Wardens to Visit Areas in Wokingham. The Dog Wardens would be visiting other recreation grounds in the area and the Clerk had asked for KGV Field to be included. During their visits they would be answering resident's questions and checking their animal's microchips. There was the possibility of visiting Sonning on 27 August, when in the area but this was time dependent.

Hole on KGV Field. A hole had been reported when one of the football posts had been removed for the summer. These were usually capped off. Thanks were due to Mr Fisher who had spoken to the football club Chairman who found that one of the caps had been removed and the other bent by the grass mower. The lost cap had been replaced and another hole filled until a new cap could be purchased.

Covid-19 Vaccine. WBC had arranged for two pop-up busses in different locations to encourage vaccinations in those areas.

Big Belly Bins. The demonstration clashed with the SPC meeting, so the Clerk had asked for a video or any slides from the presentation.

WBC Libraries. These were now open.

QR Posters. Those displaying posters had been asked to keep them up after the restrictions come to an end on 19 July. It was agreed to keep these up as long as necessary.

Reading Golf Club Planning Application for 257 Houses. The application would be decided by the Reading Planning Committee on 21 July. The planning officers were recommending refusal.

10735: CORRESPONDENCE.

Proposed Liguge Way Restrictions. Following late night activity in the KGV car park in the summer of 2020 a resident had mentioned a barrier in Liguge Way to resolve the ongoing late-night activities next to Beech Lodge. It was thought that these included drug use. The neighbour had sought support from the Head at Sonning Primary School, who had written to say that, although a school responsibility, he would support a barrier if SPC were to install a barrier. Following discussion, it was agreed that there were too many drawbacks to having a barrier as Liguge Way was too well used and was also the only emergency access for Beech Lodge and the School. The Clerk would reply to say that SPC were not planning to install a barrier.

10736: PLANNING.

List. The Chairman said that the following applications had been approved: Microsoft Campus Building 5 (210435): Reading Blue Coat School (211054): 41 West Drive (211022): The Gatehouse (211495): 19 Sonning Meadows (211280): Land at A4 Bath Road RG4 (212606): Weir House (210925).

The following applications were ongoing). Reading Blue Coat School (210693). Uppfield Charvil Lane (210287). Berkshire County Sports Club (210694). Bank Cottage Holme Park Farm, (210826): Fairway 7 West Drive (211077): Fairway 7 West Drive (211078): 8 Old Bath Road (211178).

Appeals: No appeals

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). Sonning Mead Thames St. (211818). Householder application for the proposed erection of a single storey side extension, plus erection of a single storey rear extension with 1 no. rooflight. (22/06/21): Weir House Thames Street (211801). Householder application for the proposed erection of a part single part two storey rear extension following the demolition of existing conservatory additi plus changes to fenestration and replacement of existing windows. 08.07/21. 59 Pound Lane (212397). Householder application for the proposed erection of a single storey front extension to form porch, erection of a part single part two storey side/rear extension with 1 no. pitched roof dormer to the rear elevation, plus erection of a pitched roof on the two existing dormers. 09/08/21

Neighbourhood Plan. Mr Fisher said that work on the questionnaire returns was well under way and Me Gilmore hoped to complete them soon. The Chairman said that the recent planning training provided by WBC was disappointing, and the presenters were clearly no interested in hearing any input from parishes. The Clerk would send the slides, which WBC had proved, to Cllr Firmager.

10737: BOROUGH COUNCILLORS QUESTION TIME.

Mr Halliday said that he had written to Tony Baker regarding a demonstration in Pound Lane and the use of placards, but he had been unable to advise. Mr Halliday agreed to copy his request to Cllr Firmager who also suggested writing to Andy Glencross. Mr Halliday said that the inquests on the cyclist killed in Thames Street was misadventure. Mr Firmager said that he had been invited to attend the meeting of the Sonning Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. The Chairman said that there had been no mention of the Neighbourhood Plans during the WBC planning training session and he was keen to invite planners to a SPC meeting. Mr Firmager said that since the recent local elections the planning committee had changed and there was a new chairman.

Cllr Firmager said that WBC were looking for an officer to take charge of the tree planning initiative.

10738: PARISHIONERS QUESTIONS.

There were no questions.

10739: FINANCE.

- a) Finance Report. This had been circulated and was noted.
- b) Payment of Accounts. Mr Fisher proposed, and the Chairman seconded making the following payments for July and this was unanimously approved.

PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS JUNE 2021 (01 JULY to 30 JULY '21)

Date	Chq	Name	Service Item	Gross	VAT	Net	Committee	Sub-committee
07/06/21	803	Castle Water	Pavilion Water	227.53	0.0	227.53	SPORT	Pavilion Water
07/06/21	804	Henley Land	Main mow x 2	780.00	0.00	780.00	REC,	Main Mowing
07/06/21	805	Business at CAS	Insurance	1610.10	0.00	1610.10	ADMIN	Various Inssure
14/06/21	806	DOE Sport	Repair/ Colour	8233.20	1372.20	6861.00	SPORTS.	Tennis Courts
30/06/21	807	L A Bates	Hon less Tax	2793.79	0.00	2793.79	CLERK	Honorarium
30/06/21	807	L A Bates	Telephone	40.00	0.0	40.00	ADMIN	Tel.
30/06/21	808	Inland rev.	Tax & NIC	302.13	0.00	302.13	CLERK	Tax & NIC
				13986.75	1372.20	12614.55		

10740: HIGHWAYS

Speed Indicators (SID). Mr Fisher said that thanks were due to Mr Runnalls for his assistance, once more. The maximum speed recorded on the SID near West Drive was 70 mph at 5.35 pm on 5 July 2021. The number of vehicles recorded on a Saturday was 7000, 14000 both ways, this was double that in Pound Lane north. The mobile SID would be put in Charvil Lane next and then Pearson Road. Outside the school the number of vehicles recorded was about 83% of that recorded in 2019. The maximum speed recorded was 55 mph at 7.40 pm on 15 June 2021. The data was sent to WBC Highways every month. Mr Fisher said that he had spoken to Ashley Waite about extending to 20 mph zone into Glebe Lane Hawthorne Way and Little Glebe but had been told that this would not be possible.

Highways Sub-committee. This was going well.

Wayfinding Signs. An onsite meeting had been arranged with WBC for 27 June at 12.00 noon.

10741: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G

- a) Safety Checks. Mr Fisher was waiting for Ricky Josie to provide a new contractor to carry out the repairs.
- b) RBCS Proposal for 5-bar Gate Ali's Pound. The Clerk had confirmed the revised plans to go ahead without the side gate to RBCS and was waiting for a reply.
- c) Open Air Theatre. Mr Fisher would chase SCC for more information.

10742: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

Safety Checks. These had been carried out.

Litter. As the presentation on the Big Belly compacting bins clashed with the meeting the Clerk had asked for slides or a recording of the presentation.

Boat Hire from the Wharf. The Chairman said that this appeared to be working well and Caroline Jobbins confirmed this was the case. There was a sign on the Wharf informing people that boats could be pre-booked by ringing in advance. So far those using the boats were all very nice and mostly families.

Paddleboarding. The Great House had come back with a proposal to do paddleboarding once a month. Following discussion, it was agreed to agree on a trial basis.

10742: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

Presentation – Community Events on the Wharf. Caroline Jobbins and James had asked to outline proposals to use the Wharf for Community events, in particular a Farmers Market. Producers displaying their goods at the Henley marketplace site were available for booking. The proposal was to open at 9.00 am, when the Wharf was usually quiet and finish by 12 noon. Following discussion, Councillors were very supportive but asked for more details. Ms Jobbins suggested that overnight mooring at the Wharf be discontinued as some owners stayed for several nights, preventing others from using the facility and larger craft limited views from the Wharf,

10743: CLIMATE CHANGE.

WBC Tree Scheme. No more news had been provided by WBC and the Clerk agreed to ask her contact if more details were available.

10744: HIGH SPEED BROADBAND.

Mr Fisher said that once the results of the questionnaire were evaluated it could be decided if this was of interest to enough residents to move on to the next stage.

10745: POLICE & SECURITY.

In the absence of Mrs Fielder there was no report.

10746: ALLOTMENTS.

Nothing to report.

10747: ACTION LIST.

This was reviewed and updated.

10748: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 14 September 2021 at 7.00 pm in the pavilion.

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