

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in various locations via Skype, on Tuesday 9 November 2021 at 7.00 pm.

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

10785: APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS. Apologies were received from Mr Morrison (holiday).
The Chairman welcomed everyone.

10786: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest.

10787: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

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

10788: CORRESPONDENCE.

WBC Black Box Recycling Discontinued. The collection from the old recycling boxes was no longer available.

Fundraising Christmas Fair. This would take place in Carnation Hall in Bracknell on Sunday 28 November, 12 noon to 4.00 pm, and was in aid of the Mayors Charity Chance to Dance.

Consultation on WBC's 250,000 Tree Strategy. This was currently underway.

Local Plan Update – Revised growth Strategy Consultation. This would run from 22 November to 17 January 2022. Two drop in events were open to the public, one at St Crispin's School Wokingham on 22 November, the other in Arborfield on 30 November both 7 to 9 pm. There were four one-hour virtual meetings two on 2 December 6-7 pm and 7.30- 8.30 pm and the other two on 6 December, times as on the 2nd.

SLTC Request to Use Pavilion Toilets. The Club were having problems with their bio-loo and with to use the pavilion facilities occasionally. They needed a key, which the Chairman would obtain. Mr Fisher said that he had turned the pavilion water off after the high water bill when the urinals were running every few minutes and he was happy to meet up with the SLTC representative to explain this and hand over the key.

Tackling Knife Crime. WBC were working with TV Police to divert young people away from crime.

WBC Tackling Financial Hardship Survey. This would run from 6 November until the 6 December.

Post Covid Boot to Borough Bus Services. WBC were endeavouring to boost the use of the bus services in the Borough, which had reduced significantly during Covid.

10789: PLANNING.

List. The Chairman said there had been no decisions.

The following applications were ongoing). Land South of Old Bath Road (213022). 9 Old Bath Road (212966): Elm House (213154): 3 Augustfield. (213010): 3 Augustfield. (213010).

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The following applications had been withdrawn.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). 35 West Drive (213249). Householder application for the proposed erection of front gates and a fence: 18 Pound Lane (213122). Householder application for the proposed erection of a two storey rear/side extension with 3 no. Juliet balconies and 1 no. roof light to the rear elevation, erection of a single storey side extension to form orangery with 1 no. roof light,insertion of 2 no. roof lights to the front elevation.

10789: PLANNING (Cont'd).

The Great House At Sonning. (213290) Application for Listed Building Consent for the proposed boundary wall repairs, **NOT CONSULTED:** Sonning Golf Club Duffield Road (212418). APPLICATION FOR WORKS TO PROTECTED TREE(S) TPO1505/2015, WOODLAND 1 S1, Oak Stump – Fell G1, Various Species: Elm, Sycamore, Norway Maple, Oak, Hawthorn – Fell.

Neighbourhood Plan. Mr Fisher said that Mr Gilmore had completed more analysis and he had offered to assist Mr Gilmore as this was a time consuming exercise. There had been a lot of discussion about Berkshire Sports and there had been fruitful meetings with Lady T May (MP) and Cllr John Halsall (Leader of WBC). Mr Hine had been in touch with James McCabe, the WBC representative on the Local Plan Update. Mr McCabe had reassured Mr Hine that, of the Sonning sites that were included in the consultation, only the site at Bull Court (25 houses) and the Golf Club (2 sites, 24 houses) were being considered by WBC. Neither of these sites were high on the priority of those responding the Questionnaire. Each of the NP sub-groups were drawing up their visions, based on the results from the questionnaire and this would help in the preparation for draft policies to be included in the final document.

WBC's Reply to Complaint. The Clerk would chase Mr Turvey.

10790: BOROUGH COUNCILLORS QUESTION TIME.

In the absence of Cllr Firmager there were no questions.

10791: PARISHIONERS QUESTIONS.

There were no questions.

10792: FINANCE.

- a) Finance Report. This had been circulated and was noted. The Clerk would tell the mowing contractor to stop mowing until March 2022. The Clerk would check out other mowing contractors to ensure the contractors prices were competitive..
- b) Payment of Accounts. Mr Fisher proposed, and Mr Halliday seconded making the following payments for November and this was unanimously approved.

PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS NOV (01 Oct to 31 Oct '21)

Date	Chq	Name	Service Item	Gross	VAT	Net	Committee	Sub-committee
01/10/21	828	TIVOLI	Dog Bins	170.57	28.43	142.14	ENVIRON	Dog Bins
01/10/21	828	TIVOLI	Play Inspect	24.00	4.00	20.00	REC	Play Inspect
01/10/21	829	Henley Land	Main Mow x 1	260.00	0.00	260.00	REC	Main Mowing
01/10/21	829	Henley Land	Pond Mow	440.00	0.00	440.00	POND	Pond Mow
01/10/21	830	L A Bates	Honorarium	2793.00	0.00	2793.00	CLERK	Hedges
01/10/21	830	L A Bates	Tel.	40.00	0.00	40.00	ADMIN	Post/Stationary/ Tel
01/10/21	831	P K Littlejohn	Audit	360.00	60.00	300.00	ADMIN	Audit
06/10/21	832	J Hill	Paint for Allot. Bench	15.00	0.00	15.00	ENVIRON	Allot
20/10/21	833	Sonning Land	Mow Play x 1	32.00	0.00	32.00	REC	Play Mow
20/10/21	833	Sonning Land	Mow Wharf x 2	56.00	0.00	56.00	ENVIRON	Mow Wharf
20/10/21	835	Sonning Litter	Litter x 3	512.49	0.00	512.49	HIGH & LIGHT	Litter collection
28/10/21	836	Henley Land	Main Mow x 2	520.00	0.00	520.00	REC	Main Mow
				5223.06	92.43	5130.63		

10792: FINANCE.

- c) Conclusion of 20/21 Audit. The 20/21 Audit had been signed off and a copy of the documents had been circulated. Following discussion Mr Fisher proposed, accepting the signed document, Mr Halliday seconded, and this was unanimously approved.
- d) 22/23 Budget. Ideas for inclusion were welcome and a draft budget would be circulated at the December meeting in order to agree the Budget at the January meeting and agree the precept..

10793: HIGHWAYS

Speed Indicators (SID). Mr Fisher said that thanks were due to Mr Runnalls for his assistance with the speed signs and cutting back the branches that were obscuring the 20 mph speed signs. West Berkshire Highways had said that obscuring the signs would prevent any prosecution. Mr Fisher said that the fixed SID in Pound Lane showed the maximum speed to be 60 mph at 7.50 am on the 7 November. The of volume of vehicles was 3500, 82% of the number in 2019. The maximum speed in Pearson Road was 40 mph at 1.45 pm on the 14 October and the average number of vehicles was 80% of the previous reading. This had been over half term which showed that school traffic added three times to the number of vehicles

Highways Sub-committee. This was going well

Wayfinding Signs. There had been no further update.

Community Speed Watch. Mr Fisher had undertaken the online training required and other volunteers would need to do the same. Mr Halliday asked how often and for how long the sessions would be. Mr Fisher said that members of the Society would assist and three people were needed for each session, one to hold the gun, and two taking details, reporting could take place between sunrise and sunset but the weather needed to be good. A 100 m stretch of clear road was necessary which couldn't be achieved on some roads and volunteers could not block the footpath. It wasn't clear if the A4 could be included. After each session Mr Fisher would put the report on the Cloud. Mr Fisher had estimated the cost of equipment required, including signs to make the area part of the Speed Watch Scheme. Mr Fisher felt that signing could help to slow drivers down. The speed gun itself was £189 and signs would be approximately £858 including VAT. It was agreed that a budget figure of £1,000 should be allowed, The Clerk would put this on the agenda for approval at the December meeting and ask if this expenditure could be taken from the CIL fund.

10794: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G

- a) Safety Checks. The Chairman said there were still some outstanding issues to address.
- b) Security Proposals. This was ongoing and delayed due to the proposed gate being 11 ft wide and the gap approximately 9 ft.
- c) Pavilion Meeting. Mr Fisher would explain that SPC were reluctant to see any reduction in the car park size.
- d) Pavilion Drain. The Clerk would chase the insurance company.
- e) Tree Work. Mr Fisher said that the tree contractors would carry out the work on the 1st and 2nd of December and he hoped they would be able to visit the Wharf at the same time.

10795: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

Safety Checks. The Chairman had checked the Wharf and it was hoped that the tree contractors would give a view on work to the trees.

Litter. Nu further update.

Boat Proposal 2022. Mr Fisher said that he and the Clerk had met James Ruffell (Sonning River Charters) at the Wharf. The area of interest was between the landing stage and the boundary with the great House moorings. Mr Ruffell was looking for a safe access for his rowing boats and his

10795: TECHNICAL SERVICES (Cont'd).

30 ft launch during the summer, it would be too difficult to utilise the area on the opposite side of the Thames. A 6 ft access to the water where a floating pontoon could be erected for use as a landing stage was anticipated. The rowing boats had been a great success during the summer of 2021, despite a wet August and he already had plans to hold a Santa grotto on his launch, he also suggested that the David Penny memorial tree would be ideal for Christmas lights. Further explorations showed the remains of a wide concrete step at the waters edge, which appeared to have been used to launch boats in the past. It was agreed that so far, the idea sounded acceptable, and the Clerk would ask Mr Ruffell to provide more details. The Chairman said that following the recent paddleboarding tragedy he was against paddleboards being used from the Wharf.

Bridge Lights. The Clerk would provide Mr Fisher with Mr Stephens email.

10796: CLIMATE CHANGE.

WBC Tree Scheme. The Chairman said that he had seen a news item showing extensive tree planting on Exmoor. Mr Halliday agreed to get in touch with the people who had the Oat trees in their garden to arrange collection. Mr Halliday said that he could keep the trees in sacks until a planting position was agreed.

10797: QUEEN ELIZABETH 11 JUBILEE 2022 SPC PLANS.

It had been agreed that SPC would hold an event similar to the previous one on KGV Field with a brassier to be lit at the allotted time on 2 June 2022. The Chairman would draw up plans.

10798: HIGH SPEED BROADBAND.

This was ongoing.

10799: POLICE & SECURITY.

Mr Fisher was hoping to get in touch with the police representative.

10800: ALLOTMENTS.

Fence. A quote had been received from Fencing Products of £2,788 plus VAT to remove existing fence, dispose and then erect 18 6 ft Waney panels. An extra £364 plus VAT for vertical panels and for steel, slotted galvanised post an extra £114 plus VAT. It was agreed that, due to the cost, another quote was required, and the Clerk agreed to obtain one

10801: ACTION LIST.

This was reviewed and updated.

10802: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 14 December 2021 at 7.00 pm in the pavilion. (changed to Skype).

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