

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in various locations via Skype, on
Wednesday 12 January 2022 at 7.00 pm.

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

10803: APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS. Apologies were received from Mr Morrison (holiday).
The Chairman welcomed everyone.

10804: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest.

10805: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

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

10806: CORRESPONDENCE.

Advice from HALC (BALC). Following the advice from HALC on remote meetings the Chairman called an Emergency Meeting on Monday 20 December at 6.00pm in the Pavilion and approved the following Resolution unanimously.

That Sonning Parish Council adopts the following Scheme of Delegation

The purpose of this scheme is to set out emergency delegation arrangements to be applied should the Covid-19 situation worsen and prevent the council from making decisions at its normal scheduled physical meetings.

The Parish Council therefore proposes a temporary scheme of delegation, in order to protect business continuity. The Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, has been given delegated powers to make decisions on behalf of the council.

The Parish Council to resolve that in response to the worsening Covid-19 situation and, in the event that it is not possible to convene a meeting of the council in a reasonable time, the Clerk shall have delegated authority to make decisions on behalf of the council where such decision cannot reasonably be deferred and must be made in order to comply with a commercial or statutory deadline. This will be carried out where possible by consultation with members via remote meetings, electronic means, or telephone and the Clerk will consult with the Chairman. The delegation does not extend to matters expressly reserved to the council in legislation or in its Standing Orders or Financial Regulations. Any decisions made under this delegation must be recorded in writing and must be published in accordance with the relevant regulations. This delegated authority ceases upon the first face to face meeting of the council after the council meeting at which the delegation was put in place.

Items that can be delegated:

Placing orders for any items required.

Responding to planning applications having first consulted with councillors who could make recommendations.

Making payments, including salary payments, for anything already agreed by the council by resolution via the budget and in line with the limits set by financial regulations.

Arrange for the emergency repair of any council owned assets in consultation with councillors.

The council will not be able to delegate certain matters such as:

Appointment of chairman/vice chairman

Agreeing the annual budget/precept

Appointing a clerk

Making byelaws

Borrowing money

Considering any matter required by law to be considered by full council

Signing off the Annual Return (AGAR)

This would protect business continuity during Covid -19

10806: CORRESPONDENCE (Cont'd).

ENERVIO Repairs to St Lights. SEC were now using the trade name of Enerveo and had tried to repair the streetlight in the High Street opposite the Mews, but cars had been parking in the way. They had asked the Clerk to issue a parking suspension order, which was outside SPC remit, and they would try again. Separately Enervio had discovered that a new light in Little Glebe was broken and had offered to return it to the manufacturers and would install a temporary replacement to ensure the area was lit. It was agreed to recommend accepting the proposal.

St Lighting Transfer. The Clerk understood the Andy Glencross had indicated that there might be some feedback on the request from parishes that their streetlights be transferred to WBC, in the summer. There would, however, be no decision until 2023.

Potential Meeting with Marcia Head. Ms Head had suggested 28 or 31 January.

QE 11 Street Party. Mr Hart had encountered problems in applying to close Pearson Road off to traffic for the street party. WBC had now reduced their charge for permitting it to £100 but a Traffic Management Plan was very expensive in the region of £1500. The Chairman was in the progress of putting a plan together to cover the Beacon event.

10807: PLANNING.

List. The Chairman said the following applications had been approved: 103a Pound Lane (213769): RBCS (app 213870): RBCS (214048).

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): 35 West Drive (213249): 18 Pound Lane (213122).

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). Sarum Cottage (214067). Householder application for the proposed Loft conversion to form a bedroom, two new rear roof windows, erection of a single storey rear extension: Elm House (213985). Householder application for the proposed erection of front canopy following demolition of existing front porch, infill side extension, front/side/rear extension, part garage conversion to create habitable accommodation, erection of boundary wall, plus the insertion of 1no. balcony and 2no. dormer windows to first floor, the insertion of 3no. roof lights, erection of new wall boundary following demolition of existing conservatory, front porch and parapet wall: 16 Old Bath Road (213956). Householder application for the proposed erection of a first-floor side and rear extension with three roof lights, erection of a first-floor balcony installation, conversion of loft space to create habitable accommodation and installation of dormer, following demolition/removal of chimney, erection of single storey front extension, plus changes to fenestration, installation of access and egress driveway to include gates and brick piers, with an additional dropped kerb, and erection of a boundary fence. To follow the proposed demolition of an existing conservatory: Deanery Cottage (214147). Application for Listed Building consent for the proposed erection of a single storey rear extension with one roof light and internal alterations to the existing kitchen to form a utility/cloakroom: Land Adjoining Sonning Golf Club (214173). Full application for the proposed development of a specialist dementia/residential care home (Use Class C2) with the creation of new pedestrian, cycle and vehicular access, plus landscaping and associated works.

Local Pan Update. Mr Fisher said that this was under consideration and proposed that it be further considered after the meeting with Mr McCabe on 13 January, to include site 8 (24 houses) and this was unanimously agreed. Mr Fisher said that the Society were against site 8 and WBC agreed that it was creeping development. The implications needed to be assessed in his estimation the 57 flats already approved equalled 8 years of SPC's contribution towards housing.

10807: PLANNING (Cont'd).

Neighbourhood Plan. Mr Fisher said that the N Plan group had posted leaflets to all households regarding the LPU.

10808: PLANNING APPLICATIONS TO RECOMMEND COMMENTS.

- a) Elm House. The Chairman said that this was to make changes to the garage replace the existing front porch. The property was set back from the road behind another property and was well screened and would not affect anyone, Following, discussion the Chairman recommended saying no reason to object and this was unanimously approved.
- b) 16 Bath Road. Mr Halliday said that he could see no problem with this proposal and following discussion it was proposed that a no reason to object comment should be submitted.
- c) Deanery Cottage. The Chairman said that this was for a small extension to the rear and could not be seen from the road. It was however in an area where historical finds had been discovered and a archaeological survey should be recommended. This was unanimously agreed.

10809: BOROUGH COUNCILLORS QUESTION TIME.

The Chairman said that he had been contacted by a representative of Berkeley Homes who were lobbying for support for their proposed development in Ruscombe, it was understood that he was also lobbying other parishes. Cllr Firmager said this was causing a lot of concern as it included 2500 dwellings. A representative from Aspire had also contacted Cllr Firmager about their proposed Care Home at 101 and 101 a Pound Lane. This was also giving rise to a lot of concern together with the 57 flats and the proposed Care Home on the Gold Club land was too much for Sonning. Cllr Firmager said that he had met the head teacher at RBCS following the accident involving a pupil at the A4 Sonning Lane junction and he understood that Mr Driver had been in touch with Laura Buck about trees. Cllr Firmager said that he was frustrated by the lack of progress on the 20-mph zone in Pound Lane, it seemed that small things happened quickly, but bigger things didn't. Mr Fisher said that WBC had supported the scheme, but the police had turned it down.

10810: PARISHIONERS QUESTIONS.

There were no questions.

10811: FINANCE.

- a) Finance Report & 21/22/23 Budget & Precept. This had been circulated and was accepted. Mr Morrison was proposing a Precept of £39002, this was unanimously recommended for approval.
- b) Payment of Accounts. Mr Fisher proposed, and Mr Halliday seconded making the following recommendation for payments for and this was unanimously recommended for approved.

PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS DECEMBER (01/Nov to 30 Nov 21)

Date	Chq	Name	Service Item	Gross	VAT	Net	Committee	Sub-committee
11/11/21	837	TIVOLI	Dog Bins	170.57	28.43	142.14	ENVIRON	Dog Bins
11/11/21	837	TIVOLI	Play Inspect	24.00	4.00	20.00	REC	Play Inspect
11/11/21	838	Sonning Land	Play Mow x 1	32.00	0.00	32.00	REC	Main Mow
11/11/21	838	Sonning Land	Wharf Mow	28.00	0.00	28.00	ENVIRON	Wharf Mow
11/11/21	839	RES	Extinguisher Service	44.64	7.44	37.20	SPORTS	Pavilion Mtnce
				299.21	39.87	259.34		

10811: FINANCE (Cont'd).

PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS JANUARY (01 Dec to 31 Dec '21)

Date	Chq	Name	Service Item	Gross	VAT	Net	Committee	Sub-committee
06/12/21	840	Environ Agency	Wharf Licence	61.20	0.00	61.20	ENVIRON	Wharf Licence
06/12/21	841	Castle Water	Allotment Water	165.64	0.00	165.64	ENVIRON	Allot. Water
06/12/21	842	TIVOLI (Nov)	Dog Bins	170.57	28.43	142.14	ENVIRON	Dog Bins
06/12/21	842	TIVOLI (Nov)	Play Inspection	24.00	4.00	20.00	REC	Play Mtnce
06/12/21	843	PHMC	Office Rent	250.00	0.00	250.00	ADMIN	Office Rent
15/12/21	844	Henley Tree Services	Work to Rec Trees	1830.00	305.00	1525.00	REC	Tree Care
15/12/21	845	Castle Water	Pavilion Water	485.99	0.00	485.99	SPORTS	Pav. Water
15/12/21	846	Sonning Litter	Litter Collect x 3	512.49	0.00	512.49	ENVIRON	Litter
15/12/21	847	Sonning Land	Cut Allot Hedge	170.00	0.00	170.00	ENVIRON	Allot Hedge
15/12/21	847	Sonning Land	Mow Wharf x 1	28.00	0.00	28.00	ENVIRON	Mowing
30/12/21	848	Pest UK ½ year	Rat Care	200.64	33.44	167.20	ENVIRON	Allot rats
				3898.53	370.87	3527.66		

10812: HIGHWAYS

Speed Indicators (SID). Mr Fisher said that thanks were due again to Mr Runnalls for his assistance with the speed signs. The mobile SID in Pearson Road was now facing in the opposite direction and showed one vehicle travelling at 50 mph at 5.35 pm on the 18 December. The mobile SID had now been moved to a danger spot in Charvil Lane as it had been in Pearson Road for 4 months. The Pound Lane SID showed a vehicle travelling at 55 mph on Christmas Eve at 11.40 pm. Overall the volumes were currently down on figures for the previous year.

Community Speed Watch. Mr Fisher said that he had sent out a request for volunteers and Mr Hulley had undertaken the training required for volunteers. T V Police had to inspect and approve any site selected, it had to have good site lines and only speeds of up to 50 mph would be recorded. Mr Fisher hoped to be able to have a group in place in the near future. It was unclear if the A4 could be included in the scheme.

10813: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G

- a) Safety Checks. The Chairman said there were still some outstanding issues to address.
- b) Playground Quotes. Mr Fisher was to meet the contractor on 13 January.
- c) Security Proposals. The new gate between Ali's Pond and the RBCS nature area was to be installed on 7 February. The contractor required access via the RBCS entrance, and the Clerk was waiting for RBCS to confirm.
- d) Pavilion Drain. Mr Fisher said that the contractor would attend on 4 February to dig down in order to carry out the repair. It would then be possible to ascertain if there was further damage to be repaired.
- e) Pavilion Plans. Mr Fisher said that he had seen a surveyor working on site.
- f) Tree Work. Mr Fisher said that the tree contractors were up to date but there might be more to do.

10814: 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. No further update.

Boat Proposal 2022. The Chairman had not received the email with the plans attached, Mr Fisher said that he would convert the plans from PDF for the Chairman so they were readable.

10814: TECHNICAL SERVICES (Cont'd).

Bridge Lights. Mr Fisher said that this was looking like a lost cause. Digging up the supply would be expensive, and it might not be possible to locate the fault and it would require closing the Bridge to traffic while the work was underway and this would require a TRO.

Wharf trees. Mr Fisher had a quote of £495 plus VAT to carry out the work to the Wharf and would include the dead trees on the Oxford side of the river. Following discussion, it was recommended that the quote should be accepted.

10815: CLIMATE CHANGE.

WBC Tree Scheme. It was understood that Mr Driver was looking into this.

10816: QUEEN ELIZABETH 11 JUBILEE 2022 SPC PLANS.

The Chairman would bring plans to the next meeting.

10817: POLICE & SECURITY.

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

10818: 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. A second quote for the same work had come in at £4319.98, no VAT. Following discussion it was agreed to recommend accepting the quote from Fencing Products.

10819: ACTION LIST.

This was reviewed and updated.

10820: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 8 February 2021 at 7.00 pm via Skype).

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