

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in various locations via Skype, on Tuesday 8 February 2022 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT. Mr A E Farnese (Chairman), Mr T Fisher, Mr A Halliday, Mr P Morrison. Cllr M Firmager (WBC). There were two visitors. Mrs L A Bates (Clerk).

10838: APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS. There were no apologies.

The Chairman welcomed all those present, including Susanne Drakeford-Lewis and Mike Hart (Society).

10839: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest.

10840: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

The minutes, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and approved.

10841: CORRESPONDENCE.

Car Parking Little Glebe. There had been complaints about the primary school parents parking in an inconsiderate way, preventing residents of Little Glebe etc for existing their homes via vehicles. It was understood that the Head Teacher at the school had visited the area and there were some improvements for two weeks, but this had not lasted.

Car Parked Holme Park Farm Lane. A resident from Sonning Meadows had complained about clamped vehicle being parked in this road, it was covered in bird droppings and other detritus. It was understood that little used roads across the country were being used as compounds by the clamping company with the full knowledge of the DoT.

Pound Lane Street Party. The proposal to use the SPC car park would take place on 5 June when the SCC held a Licence to use the pavilion, field and car park. Mr Fisher would advise the contact to speak to Mr Hart, who was organising the Pearson Road Street Party.

Revision of Election Cycle. WBC were looking into the possibility of changing the existing cycle so that all Borough Councillors stood for election at the same time.

Berkshire Fire & Rescue. They were consulting on their response to automatic Fire Alarm in lower risk occupied buildings.

WBC Anti Abuse Charter. This had been adopted.

Consultation on Cycle Path between Woodley & Earley. This was currently out for consultation.

Keep Emmer Green (KEG). This action group had updated progress on the Reading Golf Club Planning application. Reading BC had received 4,000 comments the majority objecting.

10842: PLANNING.

a) List. The Chairman said that 103a Pound Lane (213769) and RBCS (214048). APPLICATION FOR WORKS TO PROTECTED TREE(S) TPO 0002/1951 and RBCS (app 213870): Land South of Old Bath Road (213022): Elm House (213154): The Great House at Sonning. (213290): Berks County Sports Club (213625): The Gatehouse (220008). Sonning Place (220030): had been approved.

The following applications were ongoing). 9 Old Bath Road (212966): Sonning Golf Club Duffield Road (212418): Sarum Cottage (213556): 103a Pound Lane (213769): Sarum Cottage (214067): Elm House (213985): Deanery Cottage (214147): Land Adjoining Sonning Golf Club (214173):

Appeals: APP/X0360/D/21/3289239 – 18 Pound Lane against WBC's refusal of application 213122.

The following applications had been refused. 35 West Drive (213249).

10842: PLANNING (Cont'd).

The following applications had been withdrawn. No applications had been withdrawn.
The following new applications had been received).

- b) Local Plan Update. Mr Fisher said that comments had been submitted in line with other local representations.
- c) Neighbourhood Plan. The NP Group had submitted separate comments. The group had discussed the two current applications in Pound Lane for Care Homes. Members were currently working on their 'visions' and Mr Hart had reported on the meeting with other parishes.
- d) Meeting with WBC Officers. This was scheduled for 15 February.

10843: PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

- a) Land Adjoining Sonning Golf Club (214173). Mr Fisher said that concerns applied to both this and application 220133. Site 5 already had planning permission for 13 dwellings and 214173 was being applied for from a separate development for an 80 bed, part four, part 3 storey Specialist Dementia Residential Care Home. Application 220133 was seeking outline permission for a 70 bed 4 storey Care Home following demolition of two large, detached houses. Mr Fisher had consulted all the neighbours in the surrounding area and the majority were opposed to the proposal. Historically WBC had refused application 161529 for 13 dwellings but it had been allowed at appeal. The Inspector had allowed the appeal as, in his view, WBC did not have a sufficient 5-year supply of housing. This had now changed, meaning that WBC and SPC's original objections applied. Sonning was a Limited Development Area and the proposal was too large for the site and on the edge of the parish. The SPC SID results indicated that 14,000 vehicles travelled in both directions every day in this part of Pound Lane. Following discussion, it was agreed to recommend objecting on the following grounds: Encroaching on the countryside: result in harm to the character and appearance of the area: a commercial enterprise in an otherwise residential area: over development on the outskirts of the parish where a lower density of development might be expected and would result a hard edge to the settlement area: would have a significant, adverse, urbanising impact upon the visual amenity and character of the area: It would intensify the pressure on over stretched Doctors: additional traffic: inadequate onsite parking: walking was inconvenient: Sonning was a limited development area, having a limited range of facilities and did not have access to good quality public transport services.
- b) 101 & 101a Pound Lane (220133). Following discussion, it was agreed to recommend objecting on the same grounds as in 214173.
- c) RBCS (220151). The Parish Council had not been consulted on this application and it had been approved prior to the deadline.

10844: BOROUGH COUNCILLORS QUESTION TIME.

Mr Fisher asked if Cllr Firmager had heard any more about the rumour to build 2,500 dwellings on the Golf Club, but Cllr Firmager said that this remained just a rumour. Mr Hart said that there were two different dates for the two Care Home applications in Pound Lane, would both applications go to the same WBC planning meeting. Cllr Firmager said that he would like to think that they would, but he could not guarantee this.

10845: PARISHIONERS QUESTIONS.

There were no questions.

10846: FINANCE.

- a) Finance Report. This had been circulated and was noted. Mr Fisher said that the WBC trees were for residents to apply for as well. The current round of applications would close at the end of March.
- b) Payment of Accounts. The Chairman recommended paying the January payments, Mr Fisher seconded, and this was unanimously approved.

10847: HIGHWAYS

- a) Speed Indicators (SID). Mr Fisher said that thanks were due to Mr Runnalls for his continued assistance. The mobile SID had been in Charvil Lane for a month, recording the speed of vehicles leaving the village and approaching the farm entrance danger spot. One vehicle, having passed over the Charvil Lane Road hump, accelerated to 70 mph before the SID location and was possibly travelling even faster as it passed the farm entrance at 2.05 pm on a Tuesday. The Pound Lane SID showed a vehicle travelling at 60 mph on 2 February. Overall Mr Fisher said that volume of traffic seemed to be back to 90% of the pre-covid levels.
- b) Community Speed Watch. Mr Fisher said that he had five volunteers on board, but the police had to approve the sites before a speed watch could take place. The first thing was to decide on the preferred locations. The A4 could be included. Following discussion, the Chairman proposed recommending up to £500 expenditure on the scheme, Mr Morrison seconded, and this was unanimously agreed.

10848: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G

- a) Safety Checks. There were still some outstanding issues to address. Mr Fisher said that Tivoli seemed to have made some repairs.
- b) Playground Quotes. Vita Play had quoted £8923, and Henley Landscapes would repair the equipment on an hourly basis. Mr Fisher said that he felt that Henley Landscapes could be trusted to carry out the work and the work could be reviewed as it progressed. Mr Morrison said that the cost should be reviewed regularly to ensure the prices were within acceptable limits. Following discussion, the Chairman proposed taking this route, Mr Morrison seconded, and this was unanimously agreed.
- c) Security Proposals. The gate had been installed as planned, having checked it out Mr Fisher was of the view that the hedge needed to be filled in with additional hedging. Mr Fisher would discuss this with Mr Driver and would purchase a chain and lock,
- d) Pavilion Drain. Mr Fisher had met the contractor who had dug out the drain, one section was very bad up to the boundary, beyond which Thames Water were responsible. The contractor had to send a report the CIT who were dealing with the repairs on behalf of the insurance company. Work to the cascade might also be necessary.
- e) Pavilion Plans. Mr Fisher said that Mr Anderson was still to provide some sketches.
- f) Tree Work. Mr Fisher said that the tree work for year one had been completed. Mr Fisher would check what should be undertaken in year one to three.
- g) Weed Feed Proposals. SCC had offered to carry out repairs to the worn areas of the field free of charge if SPC would pay for the materials amounting to £340. Following discussion, it was recommended that this should be accepted.

10849: TECHNICAL SERVICES

Safety Checks. These had been carried out.

Boat Proposal 2022. The Chairman said that the proposals were quite complex, and the EA should be consulted to ensure that they didn't present a hazard to other river traffic. Mr Fisher agreed that the design was not as rustic as it might be for such a rural location. The position of the boats might

10849: TECHNICAL SERVICES (Cont'd).

be preferable if they were moored alongside the bank rather than stretching out into the river. Following discussion, it was recommended that the Clerk reply to Mr Ruffle to this effect.

Wharf Trees. Mr Fisher said that Heritage were progressing this.

10850: CLIMATE CHANGE.

WBC Tree Scheme. This Chairman said that this seemed to be doing well and that a SPC Climate Change Policy should be drawn up.

10851: QUEEN ELIZABETH 11 JUBILEE 2022 SPC PLANS.

The Chairman said that SCC had thrown the brazier away and he would arrange for another one to be produced. Mr Fisher said that a plan was needed to cover the details for the bar and BBQ. Mr Hart asked if SPC would assist with the Pearson Road Street Party, this would include setting up tables etc. there would be no charge, but residents would be asked to bring food to the Hall for distribution. The Chairman would be happy to do this although SPC's manpower was depleted, and Mr Hart would keep in touch.

10852: POLICE & SECURITY.

Mr Fisher had received an update, which he had circulated. Overall Sonning continued to be relatively crime free.

10853: ALLOTMENTS.

Fence. No update.

10854: ACTION LIST.

This was reviewed and updated.

10855: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 8 March 2022 at 7.00 pm via Skype.

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