

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

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

10856: APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS. Cllr M Firmager (WBC) had sent his apologies. The Chairman welcomed all those present, inclining Cllr Sam Akhtar (WBC) who attended as a resident.

10857: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest.

10858: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

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

10859: CORRESPONDENCE.

RRFC. Had asked to work with SPC as they were planning some changes Temporary Road Closure. Notification had been received about closing Warren Road on 12<sup>th</sup> March and 13<sup>th</sup> March 2022 between 22.30 and 08.00 and on 14<sup>th</sup> May to 15<sup>th</sup> May between 23.00 and 08.00. This was to enable Network Rail contractors to undertake bridge and track examination and associated work in safety. Similar works would also take place in the London Road, Earley railway bridge.

Community Hub Woodley. A new facility had opened at the Emmanuel Church in Southlake Crescent. Drop-in sessions would allow people to have refreshments and collect food. Children would be able to do art and crafts and table tennis.

Unauthorised Encampment. Travellers had occupied the Mere Oak Park and Ride and the police had to attend with the bailiffs to remove them. Mr Fisher said that he had checked that the car park gates were locked.

10860: PLANNING.

a) List. The Chairman said that Elm House (213985): Deanery Cottage (214147 LB & Little Cottage High Street (220202): had been approved. Applications Sarum Cottage (213556 & 214067). Fairlea Guard Road (220026): had been refused.

The following applications were ongoing). 9 Old Bath Road (212966): Sonning Golf Club Duffield Road (212418): Land Adjoining Sonning Golf Club (214173):

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

The following new applications had been received: Holme Park Sports Ground (220103).

Full application for the erection of 1 no. building comprising a medical consultation and treatment clinic (including sports and physiotherapy) and office space (Use Class E(d)(e)(g)(i)) with associated landscaping, parking and cycle and refuse store. 09/03/22: 49 West Drive (220116). Full application for the following external works to upgrade and add handrails and timber steps to the existing stepped access to the rear of the dwelling (Retrospective). 22/03/22: 50 Little Glebe (220482). Householder application for the proposed first-floor side/rear extension with a pitched roof and rear Juliet balcony to accommodate a bedroom and en-suite. Ground floor side extension with a flat roof to accommodate a playroom at the side of the house. 21/03/22.: 1 The Mews High Street (220586). Householder application for proposed erection of a single storey rear extension. 23/03/22

10860: PLANNING (Cont'd).

Local Plan Update. Mr Fisher said that the leaders of the subgroups were working on their Documents, which were coming together. Mr Fisher was working on Highways, which needed to be expanded. Mr Borshell had done a lot of work on Environment.

Meeting with Planning Officers. This had taken place on 25 February and brief notes had been circulated.

10861: PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR DECISION.

Holme Park Sports Ground (220103). Mr Fisher said that he had been involved with applications for this site since the appeal was allowed in 2010, when it had been claimed that there was a high demand for Sports and Physiotherapy Clinic with a Hyperbolic chamber. Since then, there had been applications for a Sports Clinic and for a bungalow (refused) and this latest one included office use. It was agreed that comments objecting to the previous applications were still valid and should be included along with objections to the current proposal. There were concerns that government now allowed conversion of offices into housing under permitted development. The Inspector had made it clear that he had allowed the appeal as it would serve the several sporting facilities in the area and continued the sporting use. Mr Halliday had thought, on first sight, that the current proposal was a good one but hadn't been aware of the history. The Chairman said that everyone knew that the proposal would increase traffic in the area and exit onto Pound Lane very close the RC&HC entrance. The change of use would also add to the light pollution in the area, more appropriate to an industrial location. Mr Halliday said that the application showed illustrations of the lighting shining downward, which would reduce the glow. Mr Fisher said that it had to be remembered that the site was in the countryside where such development would not normally be allowed. Cllr Akhtar said that, as a resident of Sonning, he objected to the application. Following discussion, it was agreed to recommend objecting strongly to the application for previous reasons and for those relating to the application itself.

10862: BOROUGH COUNCILLORS QUESTION TIME.

In the absence of Cllr Firmager there was some discussion about the accident involving a RBCS student on the A4 and Mr Fisher said that Mr Hart had sent details to WBC. Cllr Akhtar said that he had been working with TV police regarding speeds on the A4 between Charvil and Sonning. Everyone wanted to see traffic speeds reduced in the area, he would report these discussions back to Cllr Firmager and they would work together on this.

10863: PARISHIONERS QUESTIONS.

There were no questions.

10864: FINANCE.

- a) Finance Report. This had been circulated and was noted.
- b) Payment of Accounts. Mr Morrison recommended paying the March (1 to 28 February) payments, Mr Fisher seconded, and this was unanimously approved.

PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS MARCH 2022 (01 FEB to 28 FEB '22)

Date	Chq	Name	Service Item	Gross	VAT	Net	Committee	Sub-committee
15/02/22	855	TIVOLI	Dog Bins	170.57	28.43	142.14	HIGH & LIGHT	Dog Bon Empty
15/02/22	855	TIVOLI	Play Inspection	24.00	4.00	20.00	REC	Playground Inspect
15/02/22	856	Fencing Products	New Gate Pond	823.20	137.20	686.00	POND	New Gate
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1017.77</b>	<b>169.63</b>	<b>848.14</b>		

## 10865: HIGHWAYS

- a) Speed Indicators (SID). Mr Fisher said that thanks were due to Mr Runnalls for his continued assistance especially during the recent weather conditions. The mobile SID in Charvil Lane had been facing the traffic as it entered the village from the Wee Waif direction, and they had moved it to show vehicles leaving the village at the dangerous crossing at the farm entrance. The last months data showed a vehicle travelling at 65 mph at 4.00 am on 18 February. The Pound Lane SID showed a vehicle travelling at 60 mph at 3.50 am coming from the village direction. Traffic volumes were about 80% to 95% of pre-covid levels. Mr Fisher said that he could use the data from all the areas covered by the SID's to produce the average, which could then be used for the Neighbourhood Plan.
- b) Community Speed Watch. Mr Fisher said that things hadn't moved as quickly as he had hoped. The choice of locations was somewhat restricted by the police and might be limited to Sonning Lane and the A4. Mr Halliday said that he would like to sign up for Speed Watch.
- c) Sonning Lane Gateway. Mr Fisher said that Mr Hulley had looked at the gateway to see if he could repair it, unfortunately it was badly damaged and without the support of the adjoining sign could easily fall over. As it was heavy and potentially dangerous, Mr Fisher and Mr Hulley had removed it to Mr Fishers drive. Mr Fisher agreed to contact Streetworks as WBC had undertaken the work to install the gate and other safety measures.  
Mr Brett asked if this was an opportune time to mention the Care Home proposals in Pound Lane. The entrance was on a dangerous bend in the road and was an accident waiting to happen. Also, he had observed some monitoring equipment in the area. Mr Fisher said that this had been mentioned in the planning comments from parishioners and SPC. There were a lot of objections to the proposal. The Golf Club had an existing permission for 13 dwellings and SPC had tried, unsuccessfully, to get the entrance moved to Duffield Road. With the entrances from two Care Homes alongside each other, residential drives and vehicles exiting from West Drive the dangers were numerous. Mr Brett mentioned that care home residents did wander, and Mr Fisher said that he had raised this point with the developers when they had their open day. Th Chairman said that these issues would be raised at the meeting with the WBC planning officer, who was dealing with both applications.

## 10866: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G

- a) Safety Checks. Tivoli were making regular inspections.
- b) Playground Quotes - Update. Mr Fisher said that he had instructed Mr Beckinsale to go ahead with the repairs and had also provided him with a copy of the Tivoli report. As the mowing should start at the end of March Mr Fisher would mention this and remind him about the repairs.
- c) Pavilion Plans. Mr Fisher said that Mr Anderson had yet to provide some sketches although he had been advised of the meeting date.
- d) Pavilion Drain Update. Mr Fisher said that the contractors had asked for the meal storage shed to be removed before they could continue with the work. Mr Murphy had arranged a crane and the container was now in the car park. The Chairman said that they had done an excellent job under difficult circumstances, the container was very heavy, the lorry had dug into the ground. Mr Fisher said that CET hadn't asked for the fence to be removed (however they had since done so) and he would check out ownership. CET had dug down to where the drain had collapsed which needed to be repaired including a liner from that point down to the road. They would also inspect the chamber. Mr Fisher was congratulated on his work on this. The Chairman asked Mr Fisher to speak to SCC about tidying up the compound.
- e) Tree Work. Mr Fisher said that the tree work for year one had been completed. The Chairman said that a resident had tripped on the roots under the wooden structure for the old swing near

## 10866: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G (Cont'd).

the Pagoda. The Chairman and Mr Fisher would put plastic wrap around the structure to prevent another incident and the Clerk would produce notices..

## 10867: TECHNICAL SERVICES

Safety Checks. These had been carried out.

Boat Proposal 2022. Mr Ruffle had drawn up some revised proposals showing a wooden landing stage as opposed to a metal one and boats moored along side rather than out into the river, which had been circulated to everyone. Mr Ruffle had also spoken to the EA who would inspect the proposal if a Flood Risk Activity Permit was requested, the Clerk understood that there was no charge for this. Following discussion, it was agreed that the new proposal was better suited to the location and to ask Mr Ruffle to proceed with the application for the permit.

Wharf Trees. Mr Fisher said that he hadn't seen a planning application to carry out the tree work and would chase Heritage up.

Security Gate. Mr Fisher said that the installation of the gate had been completed along with two 6 ft by 6 ft posts. If another post was installed by the hedge to the right of the gate, when viewed from the Pound Lane direction, it would allow pedestrians to walk through but be more of a deterrent. The hedge could be thickened up for additional security. It was agreed that Mr Fisher would obtain quotes for the additional work and the missing posts in the car park ready to bring prices to the April meeting.

## 10868: ANNUAL LITTER PICK.

WBC had announced that this would take place over the weekend 2/3 April. It was agreed that the Sonning litter pick should take place on Sunday 3 April (since rearranged for 10 April) starting at 10.00 am. Mr Fisher had ordered the litter pickers, bags, posters etc and the Chairman would provide refreshments (tea/coffee/juice and biscuits) and asked for assistance. Volunteers should avoid the A4 but could include the towpath. Cllr Akhtar said that Charvil were holding their litter pick on the same day. Mr Morrison said that he had seen litter pickers along the A4. The Chairman said that he was aware of this and explained that they had been advised not to do so but this was their choice.

## 10869: CLIMATE CHANGE.

WBC Tree Scheme. This Chairman said that this seemed to be going well. Mr Fisher said that the offer had now closed and would reopen again in the autumn in time for planting. It would be worth taking advantage of any offers.

## 10870: QUEEN ELIZABETH 11 JUBILEE 2022 SPC PLANS.

The Chairman said that a larger, sturdier brazier, was required and he had been in discussion with the manufacturer. The Chairman proposed a budget of up to £200 for the brazier, Mr Fisher seconded, and this was unanimously agreed. It was agreed that SPC should sign up to the Jubilee Beacons which would be lit across the country at 9.45 pm. Details could be found online, and the Clerk would forward the link to everyone. Mr Fisher said the Scouts were happy to run the BBQ, they would provide the food, keeping any proceeds. They would light the BBQ at 6.30 pm ready to sell food from 7.00 pm and SCC would be asked to run the bar on a similar basis similar times. Mr Akhtar said that he would liaise with Cllr Firmager.

10871: ALLOTMENTS.

Fence. There was no update. The Chairman would try to speak to the gardener working on the adjoining property to explain the proposed work.

Rubbish Collection. The allotment holders were clearing up the area, including items left behind by previous tenants. Mr Halliday would liaise with the Clerk who would organise a 6-yard skip with a view to ordering a second if necessary.

10872: ACTION LIST.

This was reviewed and updated. Mr Halliday said that he would like to arrange an informal meeting to discuss a strategy for attracting new councillors.

10873: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 12 April 2022 at 7.00 pm in the pavilion.

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