

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the Pavilion, Pound Lane, Sonning, on Tuesday 12 April 2022 at 7.00 pm.

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

10874: APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS. Mr Farnese had sent his apologies (unwell). In his absence Mr Fisher took the chair and together with all those present, wished Mr Farnese a speedy recovery.

10875: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest.

10876: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

The Chairman said that, in Minute 19862, Cllr Firmager, not Mr Hart, had sent details about the accident to WBC. The revised Minutes were taken as read and approved.

10877: CORRESPONDENCE.

Ice Cream on Wharf. The ice cream bicycle had been run successfully from the Wharf for several years and Councillors were happy to approve this.

Donation to Ukraine. WBC were getting ready to welcome refugees and wanted to know if any parish could offer facilities where family learning courses and other activities could take place with tables and chairs. A kitchen would be advantageous. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk should offer the pavilion.

Meeting with Neil Whiteman (RBFRS) 11.00 am 27 April. Mr Whiteman had made contact with a view to conducting water safety exercise at the Wharf (a similar event had taken place in 2021), aimed at teenagers jumping off the Bridge and possibility of a throwline on the Wharf amongst other issues. The Chairman would be happy to attend.

Twyford Neighbourhood Plan. This was now out for consultation and comments were requested. Deadline 20 May 2022.

55 Flats Old Bath Road. The Chairman said that the applicant had added further information to the application (landscaping, separate access to one block), although the consultation period had ended. They already had outline permission and it appeared that they now wanted to avoid a contribution for off-site, starter homes as they said it made the development unviable. The planning officer had said that the applicant was providing a FVS in order to support their claim. The application had caused some concern and questions had been raised about the applicant's identity as they had no address or website. The Clerk would ask if the officer had any information.

10878: NEW CODE OF CONDUCT.

Wokingham had adopted a revised Code of Conduct for Councillors and were encouraging parishes to do the same. Working to the same Code (as with previous Codes) would make it easier to work together if any issues arose. The Clerk would put this item on the agenda for the May meeting to allow Councillors more time to consider.

10879: PLANNING.

- a) List. The Chairman said that 11 West Drive (220240) and Holme Park Sports Ground (220103), had been approved.

10879: PLANNING (Cont'd).

The following applications were ongoing). 9 Old Bath Road (212966): Sonning Golf Club Duffield Road (212418): Land Adjoining Sonning Golf Club (214173): Holme Park Sports Ground (220103): 49 West Drive (220116): 50 Little Glebe (220482): 1 The Mews High Street (220586).

Appeals: APP/X0360/D/21/3289239 – 18 Pound Lane against WBC’s refusal of application 213122. APP/X0360/D/22/3294166 – Fairlea against WBC’s refusal of application 220026.

The following new applications had been received: Caversham Park, Peppard Road RG4 8TZ (221025) WBC did not require comments as this was in an adjoining parish in Reading. Any comment to be made direct to Reading: Land South of Old Bath Road (220663). Outline planning application for the proposed erection of 57 dwellings suitable for older persons accommodation following demolition of the existing dwellings (Access, Layout, Scale and appearance to be considered).

It was noted that extra plans had been added to the plans for a Care Home at Sonning Golf Club after the consultation period had ended. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to object to the Plans for Caversham Park reusing comments made on the Reading Golf Club as the concerns were similar.

Local Plan Update. The Chairman said that a meeting was to take place on 25 April.

10880: BOROUGH COUNCILLORS QUESTION TIME.

Mr Halliday asked if Cllr Firmager had received a good response to his recent flyer. Cllr Firmager confirmed that he had but until the results of the Local Elections, to be held on 5 May were known no further progress could be made. Mr Halliday asked how the plans for the development south of the A4 were going. Cllr Firmager said that this was a preferred location and would depend on the outcome of the LPU consultation. The Chairman said that during the Litter Pick he had he had come across a very large deposit of litter on the Berkshire Sports Club, Cllr Firmager agreed to report to WBC. It was noted that such issues could be reported on the WBC My Council App.

10881: PARISHIONERS QUESTIONS.

There were no questions.

10882: FINANCE.

- a) Finance Report. This had been circulated and was noted.
- b) Payment of Accounts. Mr Morrison recommended paying the April (1 to 31 March) payments, Mr Halliday seconded, and this was unanimously approved.

PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS APRIL 2022 (01 MARCH to 31 MARCH '22)

| Date | Chq | Name | Service Item | Gross | VAT | Net | Committee | Sub-committee |
|----------|-----|----------------|-----------------------|---------|-------|---------|--------------|----------------|
| 15/03/22 | 857 | Avoncrop | Material Field Mtnc | 434.28 | 72.38 | 361.90 | REC | Play M'tnce |
| 15/03/22 | 858 | Wicksteed | Play equipment key | 16.20 | 2.70 | 13.50 | REC | Mtnc Equip |
| 24/03/22 | 859 | Sonning Litter | Litter collection x 3 | 688.32 | 0.00 | 688.32 | HIGH & LIGHT | Litter |
| 15/03/22 | 860 | Scribe | Accounts | 561.60 | 93.60 | 468.00 | ADMIN | Subs |
| 15/03/22 | 861 | TIVOLI | Dog Bins | 170.57 | 28.43 | 142.14 | ENVIRON | Dog Bin Empty |
| 15/03/22 | 861 | TIVOLI | Playground Inspect | 24.00 | 4.00 | 20.00 | REC | Play Inspect |
| 15/03/22 | 862 | NS&I | Investment | 4093.90 | 0.00 | 4093.90 | SPORT | Tennis7 Invest |
| 24/03/22 | 863 | Berks Vision | DONATION | 50.00 | 0.00 | 50.00 | DONATIONS | Berks Vision |

10882: FINANCE (Cont'd).

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------|-----|-------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------------|
| 24/03/22 | 864 | Age Concern | Donation | 205.00 | 0.00 | 205.00 | DONATIONS | Age Concern |
| 24/03/22 | 865 | Air Ambulance | Donation | 200.00 | 0.00 | 200.00 | DONATIONS | Air Ambulance |
| 24/03/22 | 867 | Sonning PCC | Donation | 205.00 | 0.00 | 205.00 | DONATIONS | Sonning PCC |
| 24/03/22 | 868 | ReadiBus | Donation | 150.00 | 0.00 | 150.00 | DONATIONS | ReadiBus |
| 24/03/22 | 869 | Sue Ryder | Donation | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | DONATIONS | Sue Ryder |
| 24/03/22 | 870 | CAB | Donation | 50.00 | 0.00 | 50.00 | DONATIONS | CAB |
| 24/03/22 | 871 | Twyford Volunteer | Donation | 50.00 | 0.00 | 50.00 | DONATIONS | Twyford Vol. |
| 24/03/22 | 872 | Keep Mobile | Donation | 50.00 | 0.00 | 50.00 | DONATIONS | Keep Mobile |
| 24/03/22 | 873 | Relate | Donation | 50.00 | 0.00 | 50.00 | DONATIONS | Relate |
| 24/03/22 | 874 | Link Visiting | Donation | 50.00 | 0.00 | 50.00 | DONATIONS | Link Visiting |
| 24/03/22 | 875 | Henley Land | Mow - overpaid 20/21 | 477.50 | 0.00 | 477.50 | REC. | Main Mow |
| 31/03/22 | 876 | L A Bates | Ist. Reynolds Skip | 258.00 | 43.00 | 215.00 | ENVIRON | Allot M'tnce |
| 31/03/22 | 877 | L A Bates | Dell laptop + service | 1130.78 | 188.46 | 942.32 | ADMIN | Admin Mis. |
| 31/03/22 | 878 | L A Bates | Honorarium less tax | 2679.55 | 0.00 | 2679.55 | CLERK | Clerk salary |
| 31/03/22 | 878 | L A Bates | Telephone | 40.00 | 0.00 | 40.00 | ADMIN | Print/post/tel. |
| 31/03/22 | 879 | TIVOLI | Dog Bins empty | 170.57 | 28.43 | 142.14 | ENVIRON | Dog Bin Empty |
| 31/03/22 | 879 | TIVOLI | Play Report | 24.00 | 4.00 | 20.00 | REC | Pay Inspection |
| 31/03/22 | 880 | ENERVEO | Repair 10 street lights | 1389.59 | 231.60 | 1157.99 | HIGH & LIGHT | St. Light Repairs |
| 31/03/22 | 881 | Inland Revenue | Tax | 368.00 | 0.00 | 368.00 | CLERK | Clerks Tax |
| 31/03/22 | 881 | Inland Revenue | NIC | 224.46 | 0.00 | 224.46 | CLERK | NIC |
| | | | TOTAL | 13911.32 | 696.60 | 13214.72 | | |

10883: HIGHWAYS

- a) Speed Indicators (SID). The Chairman said that the last months data showed a vehicle travelling at 60 mph at 11.30 am on 20 March. The average speed was 25.2 and the number of vehicles was up to 92% of those in 2020. The Pound Lane SID showed a vehicle travelling at 60 mph at on 26 March at 12.15 am. The average speed was 21.9.
- b) Speed Watch. The proposed Speed Watch sites would be sent to TV Police for confirmation, these were, A4, Sonning Lane, Pound Lane near the school entrance, Duffield Road, and Charvil Lane near Little Court. Three people were needed for each watch, one to hold the camera, one to take notes and the controller who would send the data to Newbury.

10884: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G

- a) Safety Checks. Tivoli were making regular inspections.
- b) Playground Quotes - Update. The Chairman said that the contractor was purchasing materials.
- c) Pavilion Plans. The Chairman had circulated the plans provided by Mr Anderson and he had received several comments including, a shower in the third changing room, a pitched roof, and the outside finish to match the existing. Mr Morrison said that, to avoid delays due to the lack of funding, a price was needed. The Clerk felt that a budget should be set. The Chairman agreed to draft a reply to Mr Anderson and circulate it for agreement.

10884: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G (Cont'd).

- d) Pavilion Drain Update. The Chairman said that the work had been completed and the container had been lifted back into position. There were probably more problems beyond the SPC boundary. The work had included a 10-metre sleeve.
- e) Tree Work. The Chairman said that the work to be carried out in year one had been completed. There would be further work in year three.
- f) Quotes for Posts. Henley landscape Services had quotes £500 to replace the posts on the car park boundary and near the pavilion, plus a post by the new gate in Ali's Pond. Following discussion Mr Halliday proposed accepting the quote, Mr Morrison seconded, and this was unanimously approved.
- g) W.I. Request to Plant a Tree for Queen's Jubilee. The Chairman had met two representatives of the W.I. on KGV Field, to discuss the proposal. The area near the exercise bicycles was the agreed area as it was close to a water supply and not too far for older members to walk. Mr Beckinsale had indicated that the best time for planting would be in October, and he would charge between £200 and £300. This would be left to the W.I. to negotiate.

10885: TECHNICAL SERVICES

Safety Checks. These had been carried out.

Boat Proposal 2022. Mr Ruffle had applied for the Licence from the EA and was waiting for a reply.

Wharf Trees. The Chairman understood from the contractor that the work did not require planning permission. However, the contractor had been very busy following the recent storms.

Parish Litter Pick. The Chairman said that this had gone well. Mr Halliday said that he had seen a lot of litter within the RBCS grounds near the Lock and the RBCS boatyard. It was agreed that RBCS should be alerted to this.

10886: CLIMATE CHANGE.

The Chairman said that the WBC Tree Planting offer would restart in the autumn.

10887: QUEEN ELIZABETH 11 JUBILEE 2022 SPC PLANS.

The Clerk understood that the brazier was on order and would be delivered nearer the time. Plans included the BBQ and the bar at the pavilion being open but more ideas were needed.

10888: POLICE & SECURITY. The Chairman said that no update had been received.

10889: ALLOTMENTS.

Fence. The Clerk would chase the contractor for a date.

Rubbish Collection. Mr Halliday said that this had gone well, and the skip had been full. Other work was needed including gravel and a gate,

10890: ACTION LIST.

This was reviewed and updated.

10891: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

In the absence of Mr Farnese, and holiday arrangements, it was agreed to circulate convenient times and dates so that all Councillors could be present their annual reports. After consideration the next meeting would be held on Tues 24 May 2022 at 6.30 pm in the pavilion.

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