

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the Pavilion, Pound Lane, Sonning, on Tuesday 12 July 2022 at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT. Mr A E Farnese (Chairman), Mr T Fisher, Mr A Halliday, Mr P Morrison. Cllr M Firmager. 2 visitors. Mrs L A Bates (Clerk).

10932: APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS.

The Chairman welcomed all those present,

10933: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no Declaration of Interest.

10934: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

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

10935: CORRESPONDENCE.

Dog Waste on Recreation Ground. Cllr Firmager had seen complaints about dog waste on the field on Sonning Buzz and brought it to the Clerk's attention. SCC were playing on the field several times a week and they regularly inspected the field before all fixtures.

Request to Empty Wharf Bin Twice weekly. The overflowing bins on the Wharf had been brought to Cllr Firmager's attention and he had discussed with the Clerk and then put in a request for the bins to be emptied twice a week.

Grass Cutting by WBC. Due to a mixture of rain and sunshine the grass had grown very quickly, and WBC had to carry out a third cutting of verges and other areas under their control.

WBC Consultation on Remuneration for Councillors. WBC were carrying out a survey to ascertain Councillors views on payment for their time doing Council business. Copies had been distributed and the Clerk would put the item on the September agenda for comments.

WBC Warnings about Heat Wave. WBC had issued several warnings about precautions to be taken during the anticipated heatwave expected in the following week.

Reply from Mrs May (MP). Copies of the reply from Mrs May to the request to support WBC's request for a government review on the allocation of housing numbers for Wokingham.

Election Cycle. WBC had voted to keep the existing election system where different thirds of Councillors would be up for election over a four-year period (SPC were only up for election on the fourth year). Cllr Firmager said that his preference had been to change to an all-out every four years system. Under the existing system of thirds some smaller parishes might be amalgamated with another parish and each parish would have three Wokingham Councillors. There had been concerns that smaller parishes might lose their identity if amalgamated with a larger, more urban area. The decision of this would be made by the Electoral Commission not Wokingham.

10936: PLANNING.

- a) List. The Chairman said that application (214173) for a Care Home on land adjoining the Golf Club had been refused,
The Following applications had been approved: Reading Rugby Club Holme Park Sonning: (221321): Fairlea, 1 Guard Road (221446): 18 Pound Lane (221458): RRFC, Holme Park (221326).

10936: PLANNING (Cont'd)

The following applications were ongoing). Caversham Park, Peppard Road RG4 8TZ (221025): Land South of Old Bath Road 57 Flats (220663): 4 Pound Lane (221447): The Acre, Thames Street (221387): Sonning Lock, Weir House (221502): Pavilion KGV Field Sonning (221499).

The following new applications had been received. 2 Augustfield (221396). Householder application for the proposed single storey, detached gazebo and shed in rear garden (Retrospective) and installation of hard standing to form front driveway following removal of lawn: Golf Club (221883). Application for submission of details to comply with the following condition of planning consent 161529 dated 02/07/2018. Condition 14 Off site works comprising the construction of a footway: Sarum Cottage (221104). Householder application for the proposed erection of a single storey rear extension and associated fenestration: Red House (221457). Application for Listed Building consent for the proposed replacement of the main roof with associated insulation and repair works, plus repairs to lower conservatory roof: Uppfield Charvil Lane (221713). Householder application for the proposed erection of a single storey extension to an existing detached outbuilding, plus changes to fenestration.

Neighbourhood Plan Update. Mr Fisher said that he was pressing ahead with the Highways document and Mr Hart was doing a lot of work writing up the draft document.

- b) Planning application. Uppfield Charvil Lane (221713). The application was to extend an existing single storey, detached outbuilding. Following discussion, it was agreed that the plot was a good size with plenty of room to extend the outbuilding and to say that SPC could find no reason to object.

10937: BOROUGH COUNCILLORS QUESTION TIME.

Mr Halliday asked Mr Firmager to clarify the election situation. Cllr Firmager said that several parishes had grown in numbers due to development, while others remained relatively small, this needed to be evened up. The decision on how the parishes would be changed would be decided by the Electoral Commission in the new year. Mr Farnese said that he had visited the Parkinson's Centre in Wokingham, which was excellent. Mr Halliday asked if Cllr Firmager was pressing ahead for changes at the top of Sonning lane. Cllr Firmager said that he was but none of the Highways Officers could be contacted. Mr Fisher asked about the Borough Liaison Group and Cllr Firmager said that following the recent elections (not in Sonning) there had been a change in the political majority and there was no overall control and there could be changes to the Group.

10938: PARISHIONERS QUESTIONS.

Ms Jobbins thanked the Chairman for allowing her to speak and asked if the ownership of the steps to the right of the landing stage on the Wharf had been established. Mr Fisher said that he and the Chairman had met with the manager of the Great House, that morning and he had said that the Great House responsibility ended at the fence with the gate near the Thames Water Pumping Station. They owned a few moorings their side of the fence, there were no charges and no facilities provided. Ms Jobbins said that, if the Council agreed, she and Mr Ruffles would like to take on the Stewardship of the Wharf in order to prevent vandalism etc. They already had a presence on the Wharf each day. Russell Robson (EA) had been out again when swimmers were in difficulties, People were using the water more for various activities and young people tended to meet up in large groups, which were intimidating to other users and the two motor bikers had returned. Following discussion. the Chairman proposed that Ms Jobbins go ahead with plans for the moorings to the right of the landing stage, Mr Fisher seconded and this was unanimously agreed. The Stewardship would need a great deal of thought, in the meantime the Clerk would ask if the Wokingham Wardens would consider visiting the Wharf to check it over.

10939: FINANCE.

- a) Finance Report. This had been circulated and was noted.
- b) Payment of Accounts. Mr Morrison proposed paying the July payments, the Chairman seconded, and this was unanimously approved.

PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS JULY 2022 JULY (1 Jan to 30 June '22)

Date	Chq	Name	Service Item	Gross	VAT	Net	Committee	Sub-committee
01/06/22	901	Shadow Supplies	Jubilee Beacon	120.00	20.00	100.00	ADMIN	Admin Misc.
02/06/22	902	Henley Bouncy Castle	Generator B Castle	40.00	0.00	40.00	ADMIN	Admin Misc.
15/06/22	903	CAS	Insurance Prem	1670.05	0.00	1670.0	ADMIN	Ann. Insura
15/06/22	904	Play Mowing	Sonning Land	34.00	0.00	34.00	REC	Play Mow
15/06/22	904	Pond Hedge	Sonning Land	80.00	0.00	80.00	REC	Pond
15/06/22	904	Sonning Land	Wharf Mow	60.00	0.00	60.00	ENVIRON	Wharf Mow
15/06/22	905	Henley Land	Main Mowing	270.00	0.00	270.00	REC	Main Mow
30/06/22	908	Henley Land	Main Mowing	200.00	0.00	200.00	REC	Main Mow
10/06/22	908	Henley Land	Seat & Repair Zip Wire	265.00	0.00	265.00	REC	Zip Wire
30/06/22	909	A Halliday	Prints + Prizes	71.00	0.00	71.00	ADMIN	Admin Misc.
			TOTAL	2810.05	20.00	2790.05		

10940: HIGHWAYS

- a) Speed Indicators (SID). Mr Fisher said that, as always, thanks were due to Mr Runnalls for his assistance. The SID was located outside the RBCS in Sonning Lane and recorded a maximum vehicle speed of 75mph (in the 30mph limit) at 8.35pm on 24 June. This SID been been moved further South on Sonning Lane, between Holme Park Farm Lane and the A4. Reports of vehicles speeding into Sonning Lane off the A4 had been received over a long period. The SID in Pound Lane, by the school, had recorded a vehicle travelling at 55mph, in the 20mph limit, at 7.55pm on 23 June. Mr Fisher had seen a white Range Rover speeding outside the school on Friday 1 July at school leaving time. Although Mr Fisher estimated the speed to be 60mph as it approached the parked cars and zebra crossing. The highest speed recorded at that time was 50mph – 2.5 times the speed limit at a time when schoolchildren were around.
- b) Speed Watch. Mr Fisher said that he had the equipment and five trained volunteers, three were required for each session. Mr Fisher had been sent photos showing two lorries crossing the Bridge and would send then to his contact. Mr Fisher said that he and the Chairman had witnessed a Tarmac vehicle going over the Bridge following their meeting at the Great House earlier in the day and had taken photos.

10941: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G

- a) Safety Checks. Tivoli were making monthly inspections and sending reports.
- b) Playground Repairs - Update. This was ongoing but taking time. The adult exercise machines had been rubbed back to the metal and painted; the result was very good. The seat to the zip wire had been replaced.

10942: TECHNICAL SERVICES

Safety Checks. These had been carried out.

Boat Proposal 2022. This had been discussed under 10938.

10942: TECHNICAL SERVICES (Cont'd)

Recommendations from EA for Safety on the Wharf. The Environment Agency rep had recommended a throwline in a locked cabinet. Instructions on the sign gave a contact number to ring for the code to access the throwline and instructions on how to use the throwline. By ringing the phone number an alert would go out to all services in the area. Following discussion, the Chairman proposed, and Mr Halliday seconded, that the throwline, cabinet and board should be purchased at a cost of £650, plus VAT and delivery.

Recommendations from Environment Agency - Signs. The Clerk had asked the EA about purchasing the signs EA had recommended for the Wharf, but they had suggested that we get our own made up. Mr Fisher had the name of a local printer who might be able to help.

10943: CLIMATE CHANGE.

This was ongoing.

10944: WEB SITE.

Mr Fisher said that it had been suggested that the web site needed to be revitalised. There were a number of email addresses for those who had signed up to receive regular updates. Following discussion, it was agreed that each Councillor should write up one update per year and, starting with the Chairman's, one would go out every three months. The Chairman would prepare the first one ready for approval at the September meeting

10945: ALLOTMENTS.

Fence. The Clerk had replied to the solicitor, but there had been no response.

10946: ACTION LIST.

This was reviewed and updated.

10947: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting would be held on Tues 13 September 2022 at 7.00 pm in the pavilion.

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