Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the Pavilion, Pound Lane on Tuesday 17 October 2023 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT. Mr T Fisher (Chairman), Mr A Halliday, Mr C John, Mr P Morrison. Cllr. M Firmager 3 Visitor (1 part time). Mrs L A Bates (Clerk).

11114: APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS. Mr A E Farnese (unwell), The Chairman welcomed everyone, and said that Mr Thomas would be providing an update on the D-Day celebrations. The Chairman also wished the Clerk a speedy recovery from the injury from her fall.

11115: DECLARATION OF INTEREST. more

There were no declarations of interest.

11116: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

The minutes of the last meeting, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, approved and singed by the Chairman.

11117: CORRESPONDENCE.

Finchampstead Neighbourhood Plan. This had now been adopted by WBC.
Travellers. WBC had issued warning about travellers in the District. A group in Woodley had been abusive to abusive to staff who tried to prevent access to their recreation ground.
Sonning Neighbourhood Plan Group. It had been agreed to a consultant would be employed to assist with finalising the Plan.
New District Centre at Arborfield Green. Plans had been approved and would provide much needed shops and green space along with a pub, community centre, playground, allotments and other amenities on the former Arborfield Garrison site.
RBL Parade. The Chairman had arranged for Pearson Road and Sonning Lane to be closed for short periods on Sunday 12 November to allow the annual parade to march to the Church in safety.
RBCS Coaches. Following complaints from a resident in Sonning Lane about the speed of the RBCS coaches and their cavalier use of the pavement the Chairman and Cllr Firmager had met the head teacher and bursar, along with the resident. It had been a very useful meeting and the Bursar had agreed to discuss the problems with WBC.

11118: PLANNING.

a) List. The Chairman said that WBC had approved. J F Showjumping (232025).
b) The following applications had been approved: 15 South Drive (231726): Glebe Lodge, Thames Street (230748): Corndon, Holme Park Farm Road (231200): 25 Old Bath Road (231392): 7 West Drive (7 231903).
The following applications had been refused. 7 West Drive (7 231903).
The following were ongoing: Green House Pearson Road (231734). Green House Pearson Road (23). 48 Pound Lane (231847): 7 West Drive (231903). Bank Cottage Holme Park Farm Road, (232027):
c) The following New Applications had been received. The Old Cottage, Pearson Road (232278 & 232299). Application for Listed Building consent for proposed external alterations; conservation works including sensitive historic timber and masonry cleaning, cement and modern facing timber removal, structural repairs, installation of vapour-permeable wall insulation, lime rendering and breathable decoration to all elevations. (26/10/23),

11119: PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

a) The Old Cottage (232278 & 232299), This application was to fully repair and restore this very old dwelling to a very high standard. It was agreed that this was an excellent proposal and to support it.

11120: BOROUGH COUNCILLORS QUESTION TIME.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Firmager for his help on the road closure for Remembrance Sunday. The Chairman also thanked Cllr Firmager with his help at the meeting to discuss the problems with the RBCS coaches. The head teacher had agreed to ask the coaches to drive at 20 mph. Cllr Firmager said that it would be better to attend the area when the congestion was a problem. The Chairman said that Cllr Firmager said he was still considering the junction of Sonning Lane and the A4, a left hand slip road would be ideal but all the services were under the only position for this. Cllr Firmager also mentioned the damage to the brick wall on the corner of Pound Lane south and the A4. It was difficult to imagine how this had happened but probably due to speeding. Mr Runnalls mentioned the flooding in Charvil Lane caused by the main sewer cover being forced off following heavy rain Cllr Firmager said that he would look into this.

11121: PARISHIONERS QUESTIONS.

There was one questions.

11122: FINANCE.

a) Finance Report. This had been circulated and was noted.

b) Payment of Accounts October. Mr Morrison proposed paying the October (September) payments, Mr Haliday seconded, and this was unanimously approved.

PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS OCTOBER 2023 (01APRIL 23 to 31 MARCH '24)

04/09/23	997	Sonning Land	Mow Play x 2	64.00	0.00	64.00	REC	Play Mowing
04/09/23	997	Sonning Land	Wharf Mow x 3	90.00	0.00	90.00	ENVIRON	Wharf Mow
04/09/ 23	997	Sonning Land	Wharf Hedge	60.00	0.00	60.00	ENVIRON	Wharf hedge
04/09/23	998	Castle Water	Square	62.23	0.00	62.23	SPORT	Square Water
15/09/23	999	Pest UK	Allot. Rat Care	220.70	36.78	183.92	REC	Hedge cut
15.09.23	1000	Sonning Land	Mow play x 2	68.00	0.00	68.00	REC	Play Mowing
15/09/23	1000	Sonning Land	Mow Wharf x2	60.00	0.00	60.00	ENVIRON	Wharf Mow
15/09/23	1000	Sonning Land	Pound Lane hedge	80.00	0.00	80.00	REC	Rec Hedge
15/09/23	1000	Sonning Land	Field Hedge	70.00	0.00	70.00	REC	Rec Hedges
15/09/23	1001	P K Littlejohn	Annual Audit	252.00	42.00	210.00	ADMIN	Audit
20/09/23	1002	Henley Land	Main Mowing	560.00	0.00	560.00	REC.	Main Mowing
20/09/23	1003	Castle Water	Allotment Water	178.21	0.00	178.21	ENVIRON	Allot Water
20/09/23	1004	Castle Water	Pav. Water	229.92	0.00	229.92	SPORT	Pav. Water
		TOTAL		**1995.06**	**78.78**	**1916.28**		

11123: HIGHWAYS

a) Report. Mr Halliday thanked the Chairman and Mr Runnalls for changing the battery on SID and the Chairman for collecting the stats and producing the reports. A resident at the top of the High Street had reported that there was a problem with parking in this area.

b) Speed Indicators (SID). The Chairman also thanked Mr Runnalls for his assistance. The maximum recorded speed in Pound Lane was 60 mph. The Busar at RBCS had sent a report showing a vehicle travelling at 80 mph. The mobile SID in Thames Street was having a calming effect on vehicle speeds.

11123: HIGHWAYS (Cont'd)

c) Speed Watch. The Chairman said that Mr Robinson was now a volunteer. About 1000 vehicles were offending per annum on owner had offended 6 times.
d) Sonning Lane Gateway. The Chairman reported that this had now been installed, it was smaller that the original and less visible.

11124: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G

a) Safety Checks. These were being carried out regularly by Tivoli.
b) Tree Quote. A quote of £75 plus VAT had been received, for work to the damaged Horse Chestnut tree, from Heritage Tree Services who was working on the 3 year maintenance plan for the trees on KGV field. The Chairman proposed accepting the quote, Mr John seconded, and this was unanimously approved.
c) Pavilion Plans and Tender Documents. Mr John said that there had been a lot of interest in stage 1, Selection Questionnaire (SQ), of the 2 part Tender process. Once the completed SQ's were in by 23 October, a shortlist of contractors who would be invited to stage 2, Tender would be drawn up. All those on the selection list would be informed by the deadline of 5.00pm on Monday 6 November. The Clerk would send out a reminder of the deadline to all those contractors who had shown an interest.
d) Rubbish Bins. The Chairman would take a photo of the large bin on the Wharf, which had lost its lid fo the Clerk to send to WBC. The Chairman would also ask Mr Pownall to move the 2 bins by the tennis courts.
e) Scouts Storage. There was no update on this.
f) Children's Playground Repairs The Chairman had received a quote for £5574 to repair the surfaces, which included a price for a grab loader and skip plus another skip. The Chairman would question this.
g) SLTC Turning Circle etc. The Chairman said that he had met a contractor at the tennis courts who would provide flood lights for one of the courts. The contractor had quoted £6,000 for 6 lights. The Clerk would let Tim Barnes that SPC would like to see a proposal before they could make any decision.
h) Noticeboard. The Chairman said that unfortunately the school had thrown the old noticeboard away with other rubbish. It had been stored in the school grounds by the contractor who had taken in down. The Chairman would check prices for the Pound Lane sign.
i) Tree Survey. It was 3 years since the last survey had taken place and a new one was required. The Chairman had a quote from the surveyor who had carried out the previous survey, of £875, this was lss than the previous survey. The Chairman proposed accepting the quote. Mr Morrison seconded and this was unanimously approved.

11125: TECHNICAL SERVICES

a) Safety Checks. The Chairman had taken on responsibility for carrying out the checks and would ask Mr Pownall for a quote to repair the jetty.
b) Green Projects. A resident had suggested that SPC might take over responsibility for the old sewage works, owned by DEFRA, with a view to turning it into an eco-site. The Chairman would follow this up.

11126. D-Day 6 JUNE 2024.

The Chairman said that SPC would be making arrangements to light the Beacon at 9.15pm to coordinate with the rest of the country. A sub-committee would be needed to assist with other

11126. D-Day 6 JUNE 2024. (Cont'd)

arrangements such as a BBQ, possibly Fish and Chips (at the request of the King) and a band to entertain everyone. Mr Thomas had agreed to be involved. Mr Thomas said that the Sid Lawrence Orchestra was very popular, playing big band music such as Glen Miller, which would be particularly appropriate given the occasion. They would charge £15000 for a small group to play up to £3,000 for the full orchestra. Mr Thomas suggested inviting the Sonning British Legion to take part. Funding was discussed including the Fire Brigade Trust and possibly grants but the band needed to be booked as soon as possible. A member of the public would check to see if this was something her company would support, and the Chairman would check with the Fire Brigade Trust. The Chairman would als get in touch with the WBC Safety Advisory Group for guidance.

11127: ALLOTMENT.

Mr Halliday said that badgers had not returned and there were no problems with rats. Work to the fencing on the east side had now been completed.

11128: WEBSITE..

Mr John would work on this with Mr Gilmore once the Tender process had been completed.

11129: ACTION LIST.

This was reviewed and updated. Mr Halliday would walk around to check the street lights now that the nights were darker.

11130: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 14 November at 7.00 pm in the Pavilion.

Signed……. Dated……...