

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the Pavilion, King George's Field, Sonning, on Tuesday 14 April 2009 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT.

Mr J S Chapman (Chairman), Mr A Barker, Mr P J Doyle, Mr A E Farnese, Mrs P Glasspool, Mr K Peters, M/S S Robinson, Mr I Runnalls. Mrs L A Bates (Clerk). Mr T Pascall (SPC Recreation WG Chairman), Mr A Driver, Mr G Phillips and Mr N Methold (SCC) all by invitation. 4 Visitors.

APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS.

Apologies were accepted from Mrs P Byrne. The Chairman welcomed everyone.

7442: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

Mr Runnalls said that he was present. The Minutes, having been amended and circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

7443: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

Mr A Farnese declared an interest in item 5. SCC Licence, as an ongoing Vice President of SCC. The following was noted. On planning application discussions, since Cllr. Chapman was a member of the Borough Council's Planning Committee, his views were expressed on the limited information before him only. He would reserve judgement and the independence to make up his own mind on each separate proposal as and when it came before the Borough's Planning Committee and heard all the relevant information. He would not in any way commit himself as to how he or others might vote when the committee came to consider a proposal

7444: CORRESPONDENCE.

TV Licence Renewal. This was due at the end of April.

Determination of Rurality of Charvil. The Berkshire Pharmaceutical Committee had appealed against the decision to declare Charvil as Rural.

WBC Transformation Update. The first edition of the WBC Transformation Update had been received. This gave information on WBC's progress in achieving its aim to transform the way it organised itself in order to provide the best for the Borough.

Business Rates Deferral scheme 2009/10. An increase in business rates would be announced by the Government July 2009. A deferral scheme was available to spread 60% of the increase over 2 years thus reducing the burden on businesses. In the meantime businesses should continue to pay rates at the level already indicated.

Cycle Counters. To comply with requirements for the Local Transport Plan WBC had to assess the number of cyclists in the Borough. This had been done manually but it could be done more accurately by installing permanent cycle counters in the Borough. One would be installed on the A4 east of Pound Lane.

Twyford & District Volunteer Centre AGM 13 May 7.30pm. This would clash with the Council's Annual Parish Meeting.

Back Garden Development. A Government review to establish the extent and impact of housing development on garden land was underway. Stage one would consult local planning authorities and the Planning Inspectorate and stage two would analyse the data.

7444: CORRESPONDENCE (Cont'd).

WBC News. This included an article on the reduced night lighting trial and the Borough wide clean up on 26 April. The Audit Commission had declared WBC not negligent regarding its handling of its Icelandic investments.

WBC Conference. The main thrust was supporting local businesses during the current economic climate.

Core Strategy - Examination in Public. The Chairman had attended the transport review. £15,000,000 was required to improve junction 10 to support the proposed house building in the area. £10,000,000 was likely to be allocated to WBC and £5,000,000 to Bracknell Forrest for the work, amounting to £1,000 per house. £62,000,000 was being spent on improvements to junction 11. It had previously been established that £800,000,000 was needed to improve the Borough infrastructure to cope with the housing figures to 2026.

Group Health Care. Mrs Glasspool had provided comments, which would be passed on to the group.

7445: SCC LICENCE.

The Chairman said that although this had been discussed at the March meeting new information had become available, amounting to a material change, so further discussion could take place.

Mr Pascall (Chairman SPC Recreation W.G.) introduced himself and said that there now was clarity regarding the relationship between SCC and Charvil CC. They had been fully integrated. The Recreation WG were recommending a 25% increase on the 2008 Licence fee of £1200, to reflect the additional usage by the new youth team and the new midweek team, and an increase in days from 40 to 50. There had been no increase in the fee for both licences, for some time. The recommendation was for a fixed overall sum of £1500, to include all play and use of the bar, rather than a fee for the Licence and another for the bar.

SCC Presentation. Mr Driver, Chairman SCC, introduced Mr Phillips and Mr Methold and said that the key to his case was the reduction in the proposed Licence Fee. He recognised there had been no increase in the fee for two years and that, with the juniors and midweek team (which included 14-19 year olds), there was an increased use. However the juniors would only use the loo, but not the changing room, showers or bar, when they played. In addition the midweek players would only play for two hours and any use of the bar would be relatively short. Wear and tear on the property would be negligible and the aim was to encourage young people. In addition SCC had agreed to pay 75% of the utilities. Mr Driver was happy to agree an increase but felt that an increase of £300 (25%) was too high particularly as some scheduled matches were abandoned each season due to bad weather etc. and a lot of juniors would be playing. The previous Licence allowed SCC to request 40 uses between 10.00am and 11.00pm and the juniors would be playing at the same time as adult members on eight out of eleven occasions. The extra days would only amount to five occasions, each lasting approximately 1½ hours. SCC only wanted 48 days (5 additional junior and 3 additional adult days) rather than 40 as allowed previously. SCC were already paying more than elsewhere, Denham were paying £800, Twyford £500 and Horely £1300, which included maintenance of the square. SCC maintained their square at their own cost.

SPC Decision.

The Chairman said that the cost to maintain King George's Field and the pavilion at the present level amounted to 1/3 of the Council's total budget. With a lower income, due to the interest rates falling, the Council had agreed to reduce the 2009/10 budget by £4,000. There were a variety of formulas that could be used to set the SCC rate but he preferred a

7445: SCC LICENCE (Cont'd).

flat rate. Following discussion on the various formulas the Chairman proposed setting a flat rate of £1400 for the 2009 season for 50 days to include the bar plus one day for the SCC

AGM, SCC to pay 75% of the outgoings and an additional charge for bar extensions. Mr Barker seconded and this was approved seven to one against. If more than 50 games were played during 2009 this would be a factor when setting the 2010 rate. Mr Driver agreed that the payments should be made April to September and the Clerk would inform the SCC Treasurer of the changes.

7446: PLANNING.

- a) Planning List. Mr Doyle said that the verge outside 45 Old Bath Road had been reinstated. The Clerk would check the status of the planning application and the S106 money as the new house was for sale. The new dwelling at 7 South Drive was almost complete and the S106 money had been lodged with WBC. The Dower House was now for sale. The officer report on the Old Dairy included mention of the need to preserve the frontage and the pressure on infrastructure. The application to extend Model Farm barn had been withdrawn. Ivy Cottage had been approved. Mr Doyle had checked the application to comply with conditions on Green Cottage and there had been no changes. 6 Glebe Lane had been refused.

The Chairman said that the Government were looking into building on back gardens to establish if there was a genuine problem. 25% of all brown-field development was on back gardens. The Inspector was looking at the WBC Core Strategy and would produce a list of corrections, once agreed there would be a better defence against speculative development with a tighter residential design guide being produced.

Mr Doyle referred to Minute 7428, Correspondence item 8, and made a statement (see attached). The Chairman said that he had responded to Mr Doyle's comments, that he (the Chairman) and Mrs Glasspool should not be discussing the Old Dairy application due to their involvement in a similar application at the old Fire Station, at two planning meetings. The Chairman quoted from Planning Minute 373, second para. (see attached) dated 2 March 2009. As a result, following the second occasion, the Chairman had contacted Mary Severin (WBC Senior Solicitor) who had replied that they had no prejudicial interest and had correctly declared their interest in the Fire Brigade Trust (see attached). Mrs Glasspool said that her only interest might be that she had known the Old Dairy applicant approximately 50 years previously. If there had been a planning application for the Fire Station she would have declared an interest in that application and that Mr Doyle had been speaking to residents about proposals for the Fire Station. Mr Farnese said that everyone was asking about the application, it was natural under the circumstances. Mr Doyle said that he had told anyone who had asked that he would make a decision once he had seen the plans. The Chairman said that Councillors should not prejudge applications and if they had publicly expressed a view prior to attending a planning meeting they could not take part in the discussion, having fettered themselves. Mr Farnese said that he had some views but would not make a decision until the plans were before the Council. M/S Robinson asked if Mr Doyle had confidence in the views of the WBC Legal Department. Mr Doyle said that his confidence in the Legal Department had been shaken following their decision on the Greendown planning application however they may have misunderstood the situation. The Chairman said that both Colin Lawley and Mary Severin sat in on planning meetings in order to provide legal advice on planning matters. M/S Robinson said she was concerned about Mr

7446: PLANNING (Cont'd).

Doyle's comments regarding WBC's legal advice and asked if Mr Doyle was saying that he had no confidence in them and Mr Doyle confirmed that this was correct.

The following new applications had been received. A/2009/0302 100 Thames Valley Park Drive. Proposed installation of 5 internally illuminated box signs to replace existing car park information signs; F/2009/0349 11 Pound Lane. Construction of an oak-framed outbuilding with tiled roof (part retrospective); F/2009/0564 29 Sonning Meadows. Erection of single storey rear extension. CLP/2009/0545 Kismet Charvil Lane. Application for a certificate of lawful proposed use for the erection of 3 bay garage to front of dwelling; F/2009/0659 25 Old Bath Road erection of two storey front/side extension plus single storey rear extension replacement balcony on first floor rear elevation with new front gable and rear hip roof; F/2009/0665 CA/2009/0667 Manor Gate Charvil Lane. Erection of new front entrance canopy and demolition of freestanding wall and front and side porch.

The following applications were ongoing: 24 Glebe Lane (F/2008/1259), 45 Old Bath Road (F/2008/1303), Wimbourne 47 West Drive (F/2008/1544), Unit4 The Old Forge C/2008/1793, Land adj. 7 South Drive Sonning (C/2008/2365), Bishops Close Sonning Lane (C/2008/2617), Bull Inn (C/2009/0126), 100 Thames Valley Park Drive (A/2009/0302).

The following applications had been Refused: 101 Pound Lane (F/2009/0178), The Old Dairy Thames Street (F/2009/0204), 24 West Drive (F/2009/0082), Sonning House (F/2009/0095 & LB/2009/0098),

The following applications had been approved: 1 Old Bath Road (F/2008/0339), The Bull Inn (LB/2008/1236), Shelton West Drive (F/2009/0049), Berks County Sports Club (C/2008/1652), 101a Pound Lane (F/2009/0117), Uplands Sonning Lane (F/2009/0174), Ivy Cottage Pearson Road (F/2009/0243 & LB/2009/0244), Saxon House Pearson Road (F/2009/0247), 6 Glebe Lane (F/2009/0292).

7447: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

There were no questions for the Borough Councillor.

7448: PUBLIC QUESTION TIME.

Mr Bell, Sonning Meadows, said he understood that WBC plans for a part night lighting scheme might affect Sonning Meadows as the lighting was owned and maintained by WBC (with the exception of Glebe Gardens and the A4 all other street lights in Sonning were owned and maintained by SPC and would not be affected by the scheme). The Chairman said that Keith Baker had outlined the scheme in the Town and Parish News. The proposal was to carry out a trial of reduced night lighting (lighting off between 12 midnight and 5.30am in non essential areas). Consultation on the exemption criteria for the trial was currently under way, if the trial failed the scheme would not go ahead. Mr Bell said that the lack of lighting could result in additional crime in the area and residents would react by putting their own lights on. The Chairman said that he had been informed that the reverse was true; burglars liked lights to be on. Residents had the option of e-mailing Mr Baker with their comments. If 90% of Sonning Meadows residents were in favour a petition could be presented to WBC. The Clerk confirmed that the lighting in Holme Park Farm was owned and maintained by WBC and would ask Julia Treadwell if Sonning Meadows would be included in the trial. Mrs Peters asked about resurfacing Holme Park Farm Road. The poor condition was being made worse by the park and ride buses using it. The Clerk would e-mail Mr Potts and copy to Mr Christo.

7449: FINANCE.

- a) Report. A report had been circulated and was noted.
- b) Payment of Accounts. Mrs Glasspool proposed making the following payments, Mr Barker seconded and this was unanimously approved.

MARCH

Mr K Trimmings – Litter Collection (part) Feb.	66.50
Mr K Davidson – Pavilion Frost Heaters & Immersion Repairs	288.32
Mr S Chapman- Megaflo & New Element Pavilion	130.57
SEC – Supply to new St. Light	334.02
Trevor May – Tennis Court resurfacing (part)	8880.65
Mrs P Glasspool – Purchase Trees	84.83
Quadron – Part Mowing & Verti- draining	1300.00
Trevor May - Tennis Court resurfacing (part)	6790.41
Thames Water – Allot £39.66, Rec. £30.22, Pavilion £ 35.64	105.52
SEC – Supply to Pound Lane Light	334.02
Quadron – Part Mowing, Mowing Pond Area, Mark Football Pitch, Erect Football Goal	1300.00
Mr S Chapman – Copies Newsletter £65.00, Cement Noticeboard	81.92
SEC – St Light M'tnce	654.18
SEC – St. Light Repairs	111.69
J D Signs – New Rec. Noticeboards	960.54
Glasdon – Exchange Litter Bin	84.05
SLTC – Subs 2009	117.00
Mr K Trimmings- Litter Collection March	133.00
ReadiBus – Donation	250.00
Berkshire Blind	50.00
Twyford Age Concern	200.00
SPCC – Churchyard Maintenance	650.00
SPCC – Donation Parish Mag.	60.00
T V Air Ambulance – Donation	400.00
Twyford & District Centre – Donation	50.00
Mrs L A Bates – Honorarium less tax	2364.95
Mrs L A Bates – Telephone	40.00
Trefor May – Resurface Tennis Courts	<u>6290.50</u>
	31907.33

- c) Investments. The Chairman had obtained information from CCLA at the Community Conference, which he would analyse and bring to the May meeting.
- d) Appointment of Internal Auditor. Mr Weir would carry out the Internal Audit on the same fee basis, £35 plus travel allowance, as 2008. Following discussion it was agreed to appoint Mr Weir for 2009

7450: HIGHWAYS.

Report. Mr Peters had circulated a report, which was noted.

Mr Peters and his team had carried out a survey, at the junction between Charvil Lane, Thames Street and Pearson Road, recording HGV's in Sonning between 6am and 5pm on 1 April. 22 overweight vehicles were recorded and 21 had been photographed clearly showing the number plate. It had been assumed that if a vehicle entered or exited Thames Street that they had crossed the bridge. 4 had made a return journey and might claim access. The team were confident that all

7450: HIGHWAYS (Cont'd).

vehicles logged had been over the limit but more clarification on this and 'access' was required from the Police. Some companies had been contacted to point out the infringement and the original warning letter to those infringing the limit would be updated once the debriefing had taken place. Approximately 12 drivers had been observed using their mobile phones while negotiating the mini-roundabout. This had been a trial run to

establish positioning and data collection before carrying out further surveys and advising the media. The Police had been advised of the survey and the data had been sent to Sgt. Mark Smith. Once debriefing had taken place the next steps could be agreed. The Police had said they would carry out surveillance and on the spot fines either jointly or independently. The Clerk would write to Mr Bell and Mr Hulley thanking them for their involvement in the HGV Survey.

RBCS On Street Parking. Mr Peters had met Nick Rose and Chris Baguley (WBC Highways) to discuss options to resolve the on street parking outside the RBCS. Safety was the main issue. A proposal to address the issues would be prepared for Councillors and interested parties to consider, which was likely to include a combination of road markings, including the two school entrances (Inglewood and RBCS). Once agreed the scheme could be included in the TRO's but the process would take 6 to 9 months. Marking at the school entrances and bus stops did not need to go through the TRO process and could be applied relatively soon. Once in place the measures could be reassessed if necessary.

Thames Street Pinch Point. Mr Rose had indicated that, due to budget constraints, likely high costs and no reported accidents this scheme it was unlikely go ahead in the current financial year. However the top three-priority scheme was likely to continue and this was probably the best route for pursuing this scheme.

Police Patrol Vehicle Hard Standing Point in Sonning Lane. This could cost £2,000 and the position might affect the proposals for limiting the on street parking outside RBCS. The vehicles were funded by the Safer Road Partnership; WBC were currently reviewing the SRP cost to the Borough.

7451: S106 REQUEST – UPDATE.

The Chairman said that he and the Clerk had met Nick Christo and discussed available S106 money. Mr Christo would provide an update but nothing had been received to date.

7452: RECREATION & ENVIRONMENT W. G.

Report. Mr Pascall said the SCC Licence had been agreed. The resurfaced tennis courts looked good but a minor problem was causing the surface to be slippery under certain conditions. The Clerk would e-mail the contractor to explain this was the reason for withholding the final payment. Mrs Glasspool said that red plastic covering had not been removed and it was unclear if this was because the area had been seeded. The Clerk would ask SLTC. Mrs Glasspool said that the summer mowing had commenced. A number of young holly trees had been donated and planted along the South Hill boundary filling the gaps. Two fires had been lit in the Nature Reserve. Signs might prevent this but Mrs Glasspool asked anyone seeing fires being lit to advise that there was an area on the Wharf for this purpose. Fires in the area were a concern particularly as the woodpile was tinder dry. There had been campers on the recreation ground over two nights. Mr Pascall asked for copies of the written reports, Mrs Auld had agreed to drop hers into the Clerk to copy.

Dog Bin Contract. Mrs Glasspool said that the dog bins had been overflowing due to WBC discontinuing the contract. The service had been resumed once SPC became aware of the situation and the Chairman had intervened.

7452: RECREATION & ENVIRONMENT W. G. (Cont'd).

A group of teenagers had set light to plastic cones in the skatepark area. A local resident had taken action to stop them. A close watch would be kept on the situation

Dog Measures King Georges Field. It was agreed that distributing leaflets would have some effect and Mr Pascall would organise a day and a rota when this could be carried out. The Clerk would ask Mandy Dorman if she could provide leaflets and small signs. There had been no volunteers to train as a Warden.

Sportsmatch Funding. There had been no response.

SLTC Pavilion – Fundraising. The Chairman said that a grant application for £10,000 had been made and approximately £3,000 was in the resurfacing fund. It was hoped that £6,000 S106 money allocated for playgrounds would be available. This left £6,000 to be raised.

SCC Licence Extension 16 May. SCC had requested an extension to 12.00 midnight. Following discussion the Chairman proposed approval with the proviso that the Pavilion and car park were cleared and locked by 12.30pm and the charge should be £10. Mr Peters seconded and this was approved with six in favour, one against and one abstention.

7453: COUNCILLORS RESPONSIBILITIES 2009/10.

The list of current responsibilities was circulated and the Chairman asked Councillors to consider their preferences for agreement at the May meeting. This was particularly important if the Chair of any group wished to stand down.

7454: SPRING CLEAN.

Mr Farnese said that WBC were sending him a pack with posters etc. SPC had 14 litter picker sticks and WBC would be supplying extra sticks and tabards. The Chairman said that he would collect litter on the riverbank from his boat.

7455: POLICE AND SECURITY

In the absence of Mrs Byrne there was no report.

7456: ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 13 MAY.

The Chairman said that the doors to the Pearson Hall would be open at 7.00pm. Councillors would make their reports at 7.30pm and Pat Baxter would begin her presentation at approximately 8.00pm. Items of interest, such as information on the 7.5 tonne limit and the new tennis courts would be on display.

7457: WEB SITE.

M/S Robinson said that Mr Robinson had a new computer and would be able to update the site. The Chairman had been unable to track the webmaster of the previous web site down.

7458: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The Annual Meeting would be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 12 May at 7.30pm.
The Annual Parish Meeting would be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 13 May.

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