

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the Pearson Hall, Pearson Road, Sonning, on Tuesday 9 February 2010 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT.

Mr J S Chapman (Chairman), Mr P J Doyle (Vice Chairman), Mr A E Farnese, Mr M Green, Mr K Peters, M/S V Reeve, M/S S Robinson, Mr I Runnalls. Mrs L A Bates (Clerk).
13 Visitors.

APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS.

Apologies were accepted from Mr McCulloch, who was abroad. The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting and welcomed thirteen visitors. The Chairman reported the sudden death of the leader of Earley TC, Cllr Chris Edmunds, and the funeral of Mr Sanders (WBC Conservation Architect).

7606: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

Min. 7592, the word Clark, line 5, was changed to Clerk. The Minutes, having been amended and circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

7607: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

The Chairman said that he would have a personal and prejudicial interest in planning applications F/2009/2545 & CA/2009/2561 at the planning meeting to be held on 16 February and if they were discussed under Planning. If this happened the Chairman would withdraw from the meeting and not take part. 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.

7608: CORRESPONDENCE.

Police Liaison Meeting. This would be held on 20 April, 7-9pm at the Oakwood Centre.

Hydro Seminar. This would be held on 15 March and there would be an update on the Goring/Streatley project. Cost £10.

Local Transport Plan. This would be held at WBC Offices on 22 February. Mr Peters would attend.

Web Site Link to Regatta and Scarecrow information. The Regatta committee had asked if there could be a link from the Parish Council website to a Regatta 2010 site, hosted by SPC at no cost to SPC, so that information could be more widely available. The Scarecrow committee had asked if there could be a link from the Council website to the Scarecrow web site. M/S Robinson said that it would be possible to do this and following discussion it was agreed to permit this.

Electricity Supply to Red Telephone Kiosk. The Clerk had circulated details to Councillors. Following discussion Mr Farnese agreed to look into this and bring a recommendation to the next meeting.

WBC Consultation on the Strategic Development Locations etc. This consultation had commenced on 9 February and would end at 5pm on 23 March.

7608: CORRESPONDENCE (Cont'd).

Town and Parish Representative on WB Strategic Partnership. The Clerk would re-circulate details in order for Councillors to make a choice.

NSPCC Campaign. It was agreed to support the campaign by putting up their posters.

7609: NEW COUNCILLOR CO-OPTION.

The Chairman said that the casual vacancy created by Mr Barker's resignation had been advertised but there had been no call for an election. The Chairman therefore proposed co-opting M/S Reeve, as agreed at the January meeting, Mr Runnalls seconded and this was unanimously approved.

7610: NEW COUNCILLORS DECLARATION OF OFFICE AND TO ABIDE BY THE CODE OF CONDUCT.

M/S Reeve signed the Declaration of Office and to abide by the Code of Conduct, and this was witnessed by the Clerk. M/S Reeve had also completed the Register of Members Interests and the Clerk would send a copy to WBC.

7611: MEMBERSHIP OF PLANNING COMMITTEE.

The Chairman declared a potential personal and prejudicial interest and left the room at this point. Mr Doyle took the Chair. The Clerk had circulated a paper outlining the difficulties at the previous planning meeting, which had to be cancelled due to insufficient Councillors in attendance. Of the seven members of the planning committee one had resigned, two had an interest in an agenda item, one was on holiday, and one was ill reducing the number to two. In order to try to prevent a repercussion the Clerk suggested appointing named substitutes to the planning committee or appointing all Councillors to the Planning committee. Mr Peters did not wish to be on the planning committee but Mr Green said he would be happy to be a named substitute. M/S Reeve said that she would like to be on the Planning Committee. The Chairman was recalled at this juncture and, following discussion it was agreed to appoint M/S Reeve to the planning committee and Mr Green as the named substitute, which would take the numbers on the planning committee up to eight.

M/S Robinson said that there had been speculation regarding her illness at the planning meeting. She had been ill for some time and very ill on that day.

The Chairman returned to the Chair.

7612: PLANNING.

Planning List. In reply to a question as to why it had been impractical to hold the cancelled planning meeting on 8 February, as suggested at the cancelled meeting, Mr Doyle outlined the planning meeting schedules and said that the meeting scheduled for 17 February had been rescheduled for 16 February to allow time to formulate a response to the Fire Station application before the deadline of 17 February. There was insufficient time to brief everyone by 8 February. The Chairman said it was important that people did not get the matter out of proportion. The Parish Council could only make recommendations on planning applications, not decisions; the Borough Council made the planning decisions. The applications were automatically listed for the WBC planning committee due to the fact that he was a member of the Authority and also a Trustee of the Fire Brigade Trust who were joint applicants.

Hill Cottage. This had been withdrawn.

47 Wimbourne. This application had addressed the previous concerns regarding the proximity to the boundary.

7612: PLANNING (Cont'd)

Fire Station Pound Lane. This was on the agenda for the SPC planning meeting on 16 February. A member of the audience asked why this application could not have been considered by the SPC planning committee on 8 March. Mr Doyle said that this gave too little time for those Councillors who could legally attend the meeting to be fully briefed.

Model Farm Barn. The appeal had been dismissed and the owner had until 13 July to demolish the extension.

50 Little Glebe and Sonning Place. Mr Doyle said that these would be on the agenda for the meeting on 17 February.

The following new applications had been received: 50 Little Glebe (F/2010/0086) Erection of single storey rear extension to form a conservatory (part retrospective): Sonning Place Pearson Road (F/2010/0117) Erection of single storey rear extension to dwelling: 6 Glebe Lane (O/2010/0065) Outline application for the erection of one single storey dwelling (means of access scale and layout to be considered).

The following applications were ongoing: 45 Old Bath Road (F/2008/1303): Wimbourne 47 West Drive (F/2008/1544): Unit 4 The Old Forge C/2008/1793: Land adj. 7 South Drive Sonning (C/2008/2365): Bishops Close Sonning Lane (C/2008/2617): The Green Cottage (C/2009/1144): 45 Old Bath Road (C/2009/1600), 5 South Drive Sonning (F/2009/2463), 28 Glebe Lane (F/2009/2645), Fire Station Pound Lane (F/2009/2545 & CA/2009/2561).

The following applications had been Refused: No applications had been refused.

The following applications had been approved: Sonning Court Thames Street (F/2009/2471), 5 South Drive Sonning (F/2009/2463).

The following application had been withdrawn. Hill Cottage Thames Street (F/2009/2422).

The following appeal had been upheld: Berks County Sports Club (VAR/2009/0875)

7613: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

Transport Innovation Fund (TiF) bid. Cllr Chapman said that WBC's decision had been to become a category 1 partner in the Reading TiF bid. £62M was available under phase one. The third bridge proposal was part of phase three.

WBC had adopted the Core Strategy in January, which set out the long-term vision for the Borough's housing strategy until 2026. The original requirement for an additional 323 houses a year had been increased to 623 by the South East Assembly, which translated into an additional 12,500 houses under the 20-year plan. WBC had identified four sites to accommodate 10,000 of these houses. There would also be a regeneration of Wokingham town centre, including the Railway Station.

There would be an examination in public in the autumn to evaluate the Great Western line into Heathrow.

Mr Doyle referred to the Design and Access Statement accompanying the planning application for the Fire Station, which stated that the Mr Chapman had attended a meeting with planning officers. Mr Doyle asked the Cllr Chapman in what capacity did he attend this meeting. The Chairman said as a Trustee of the Fire Brigade Trust. There had been some mixed messages from the officers regarding the application and he offered to approach the officers to gain clarity. In order to make it clear that he was not seeking to influence the officers he had copied the results of the meeting in an e-mail to the other Trustees, Mark Cupit, Marcia Head and Laura Callan. As Chairman of the WBC Planning Committee he could not afford to jeopardise his professional relationship with the planning officers. Mr Doyle asked Cllr Chapman if he were in favour of the application and the Chairman said that was an inappropriate question.

7614: PUBLIC QUESTION TIME.

In reply to a question from a member of the public Mr Doyle outlined the scheduled planning meetings, (the Monday of the week prior to the main Council meeting and the Wednesday of the week following the main meeting). In February the dates were the 1st and 17th. However, due to the fact that the deadline for comments on the Fire Station application was 17 February the meeting had been moved forward to the 16 February. In reply to a question about the discussion about a meeting on 8 February Mr Doyle said that he had already answered this. M/S Robinson said that she had asked for the application to be discussed on 9 February (main Council meeting) but Mr Doyle said this would not allow sufficient time for such an important application to be discussed as the main agenda usually took up to 2 ½ to 3 hours to work through. The Chairman said that, as Chairman of the Planning Committee, the date of meetings was for Mr Doyle to decide.

7615: FINANCE.

- a) Report. The report for January and February had been circulated and was noted.
- b) Payment of Accounts. Mr Green proposed making the following payments, Mr Peters seconded and this was approved. The Clerk would check the lighting budget against the increased charges.

JANUARY

WBC Rates Admin: 6.60: SLTC: 6.60: Pavilion 19.80	33.00
Mrs R Hulley – Litter	141.67
Southern Electric DD – St. Light Energy	306.32
SEC – St. Light M'tnce	743.52
Sonning Landscapes – Mowing Wharf	26.00
Sonning Landscapes – Mowing Playground	<u>25.00</u>
	1399.02

7616: HIGHWAYS.

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

7.5t Environmental Limit. A HGV Survey was carried out on the Oxfordshire side of the bridge on Tuesday 26 January between 10.00 and 14.00hrs. Four vehicles were identified as being in excess of 7.5t but two were legitimate due to delivering/collecting at the Mill Theatre. The remaining two had been reported to Oxfordshire Trading Standards with witness statements and photographs for appropriate action.

A further HGV survey was being considered for week commencing 8 March.

Sonning Lane Parking outside RBCS. WBC had advised that the work had been rescheduled for week commencing 15 March to be completed by 26 March. This might involve Sonning Lane being closed at times to provide safety for the maintenance team. The alternative route would be via A4 Bath Road, Pound Lane and Pearson Road, or by this route reversed. Access for residents and businesses would be maintained at all times. The closures would only be in effect while the signs were displayed. It was hoped that the surface would be repaired at the same time. Mr Peters said that the original number of cars, 15 – 20 had now increased to 33 and he would be meeting with the Head Teacher to express his concern. There was also an issue of litter outside the school entrance.

Highways Working Group The first, very successful, meeting was held on 23 January. Issues that negatively impacted on the environment of Sonning and Sonning Eye had been identified and prioritised. Ten members of the Highways Working Group including 2 representatives of

7616: HIGHWAYS (Cont'd).

the Sonning & Sonning Eye Society worked together in two teams. Nick Christo from WBC was to be congratulated for acting so effectively as facilitator.

At the meeting held on 4 February the group had worked on the following action points 1, Identifying measures to mitigate/eliminate the impact of the issues and 2, Agreeing an action plan including time scales of the measures to be taken. Mr Peters suggested that, if they had completed their proposals, the Highways WG might present them at the APM.

Condition of local roads. Some roads were beginning to require maintenance due to potholes and surface erosion following the recent bad weather. Mr Peters reminded everyone that they should be reported to WBC on 0118 9746335 or the website at: <http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/highwayfaults/>. Mr Doyle said the bollards outside Turpins, which had been damaged in December, had not been repaired and a wooden bollard in Thames Street was broken. Mr Peters said that both had been reported to WBC.

Reading TiF bid. The Chairman said that Wokingham, as a full partner, would have the same influence on decisions as Reading BC.

7617: RECREATION & ENVIRONMENT W. G.

Update. Notes of the WG meeting had been circulated (see attached). Mr Green said the SCC proposed changes to the pavilion had been clarified. There was no problems regarding the new referees changing room but the proposed repositioning of the door to the ladies toilets would require unnecessary changes to the plumbing etc. SCC had asked if the Council would make a financial contribution towards these changes but as £15,000 had been spent over the past few years, the WG were not recommending this. SCC had also raised an invoice to the Council for rolling the field at the end of the previous football season. However the issue had been discussed with Quadron at the time and they felt that this would be overcome following the mowing/rolling at the beginning of the cricket season. It was agreed that there should be a meeting between SPC, CC and Quadron at the end of the 2010 football season to review. SCC had asked for a secure store at the side/rear of the pavilion and had suggested a metal fence. The WG felt this fencing was inappropriate in a rural setting but, as a secure area had been previously agreed, were recommending securing the area in some way.

RBCS had used the field for football due to a misunderstanding during the bad weather and had caused some damage. However this could be made good. The new trees were thriving but the Chairman had put in rabbit guards following some damage to the bark on one or two. Mr Green proposed the following, Mr Peters seconded and this was unanimously approved.

- Changes to umpires changing room but no financial contribution.
- Refuse permission for changes to ladies toilet.
- SPC should refuse to pay the £200 SCC invoice for rolling the field.
- Secure outside tap to be installed depending on cost.
- Purchase of wheelbarrow water bag.

Playbuilder. WBC had approved the scheme for the new play equipment. There were three items from Playdale, Jungle Climber, Aerial Runway (30metres) and the Junior Swing (Birds Nest Seat). The York stone Tower Stack would be supplied by Record RSS. Also included were a spinner for the main playground and a provisional sum for the gazebo. Playdale had supplied quotes for two alternative safety surfaces but it had been agreed to use black 'wet pour' to match the existing surfaces. In answer to a question from the public, the Chairman said that all the users had been consulted. A visitor said that there had been cause for concern

7617: RECREATION & ENVIRONMENT W. G. (Cont'd)

regarding an aerial wire installed in a Henley playground and the Chairman said this would need to be monitored.

Safety Checks. The Chairman had completed these.

7618: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

Mr Farnese said that the Litter Pick would take place on 20 and 21 March, 10.00am to 2.00pm. It was agreed to put details in the Newsletter and the Parish Magazine. Mr Farnese would provide refreshments. Mr Farnese said that a purpose-built Noticeboard with doors would cost in the region of £1200. Mr Siney had located replacement tiles for the damaged roof to the Pearson Road bus shelter.

Mr Doyle said that a new demountable bollard had been inserted on the footpath to the Lock to prevent unauthorised vehicular access. However it lay open most of the time and was a hazard to pedestrians, particularly at night. Mr Green would discuss this with the Environment Agency.

Safety Checks. These were all up to date and Mr Farnese had provided copies to the Clerk for her records.

7619: POLICE AND SECURITY.

Mr Green said thefts from cars in Sonning Lane continued to occur and there had been a burglary on Pearson Road. The next NAG meeting would be held in March when plans for a new priority survey would be discussed. Ann Chalmers was now holding a regular surgery in the Sonning Club.

7620: WEB SITE.

M/S Robinson said that photographs of new Councillors had been added.

7621: NEWSLETTER.

The Chairman said that he still needed one or two contributions.

7622: ANNUAL PARISH MEETING.

The Chairman said there was the question of a speaker; Mr Peters had suggested a presentation of the Highways WG results. Following discussion Mr Peters agreed to arrange this.

7623: ACTION LIST.

This was reviewed and updated.

7605: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The Next Meeting would be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 9 March.

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