

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the Pearson Hall, Pearson Road, Sonning, on Tuesday 12 January 2010 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT.

Mr J S Chapman (Chairman), Mr P J Doyle (Vice Chairman), Mr A E Farnese, Mr C McCulloch, Mr K Peters, M/S S Robinson, Mr I Runnalls. Mrs L A Bates (Clerk). 1 Visitor.

APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS.

Apologies were received from Mr M Green who was on duty. The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting during the bad weather and welcomed one visitor.

7589: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

Min. 7574, WBC Children's Services, line 5, was changed to read '*the Sustainable Community Strategy consultation document did not contain sufficient information to enable SPC to comment on those items*'. The Minutes, having been amended and circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

7590: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

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.

7591: CORRESPONDENCE.

Weather Conditions. The Chairman said although the weather conditions had improved more snow was likely. Sonning School had organised a snowplough to remove snow from the access road. A team of parents, governors, teachers and councillors had completed the clearance and the access road and car park were now clear. The school had opened along with all other schools in the WBC area. The Chairman would add a snow report to his article for the Parish Magazine and check if the plough could be used to clear Little Glebe. Mr Farnese said Sonning roads had not been cleared sufficiently well, with WBC only gritting the main road. The school had been promised a grit bin before Christmas but this had not materialised. It was agreed that the responsibility for care in the playground lay with the parents.

It was suggested that a grit bin be provide on the bridge approach, the Chairman agreed to approach WBC.

Strategic Development Locations Meeting 18 January. Mr Doyle and the Clerk would attend.

Transport Plan Consultation. Councilors would copy their responses to the Clerk to form the Council's response. Individual responses would be sent separately.

WDALC. Unfortunately the Chairman could not attend this meeting, which would include a presentation on the new S106 scheme, as it clashed with the main WBC meeting.

Pearson Hall Telephone Kiosk. The application to purchase the kiosk had been submitted.

NHS Application for a Pharmacy in Park View Drive South, Charvil. Following discussion it was agreed not to make any comment.

7592: POTENTIAL COUNCIL VACANCY.

The Chairman said that Mr Barker was finding it difficult to attend meetings due to work commitments and was inclined to resign. Vicky Reeve had indicated an interest in joining the Council, had submitted

a CV and was present to answer any questions. M/s Reeve provided more personal information and answered several questions before taking her leave. Following discussion the Chairman agreed to discuss the matter with Mr Barker and if he decided to resign the Clerk would advertise the Casual Vacancy. In the event of an election not being called the Chairman proposed asking M/s Reeve to join the Council, Mr Runnalls seconded and this was unanimously approved.

7593: PLANNING.

Planning List.

Weir House. Mr Doyle understood that the application had been withdrawn in order for the agent to discuss landscape issues with WBC and to address the flood risk assessment. The Chairman would ask officers what enforcement action could be taken.

Hill Cottage. The officer was recommending conditional approval and the application would be on the Planning Committee agenda on 3 February.

Model Farm. Nothing to report.

Sonning Place. WBC had written to confirm that the Enforcement Officer was checking if there had been a planning contravention.

The following new applications had been received: 47 Wimbourne West Drive (F/2009/2636) First floor extensions to rear and both sides of dwelling. Addition of balconies to front and rear. Alterations to roof: 28 Glebe Lane (F/2009/2645) Erection of single storey front extension to dwelling.

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), Hill Cottage Thames Street (F/2009/2422), 5 South Drive Sonning (F/2009/2463), Sonning Court Thames Street (F/2009/2471).

The following applications had been Refused: School Cottage Thames Street (F/2009/1693)

The following applications had been approved: The Great House At Sonning (F/2009/1419), Holme Park Sonning Lane (F/2009/2049), Reading Cricket & Hockey Club (A/2009/2055), 43 Shelton West Drive (F/2009/2246).

The following application had been withdrawn. Weir House.

7594: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

Cllr Chapman said that a special WBC meeting was to be held on 9 February, which clashed with Sonning. It was important that he attended the WBC meeting, as decisions would be made on the TiF bid and the Core Strategy. Mr Doyle would Chair the SPC meeting.

7595: PUBLIC QUESTION TIME.

There were no questions from the public.

7596: FINANCE.

a) Report. The bank statement had not been received and the Clerk would circulate the report once it was.

b) Annual Audit Copies of the external auditor's comments were circulated and noted.

7596: FINANCE (Cont'd).

- c) Precept Submission 2010/11. It was confirmed that the Precept had been fixed at £30855.
- d) Payment of Accounts. Mr Peters proposed making the following payments, Mr Runnalls seconded and this was approved with the Chairman abstaining. The Chairman said that minus the VAT and a donation towards the trees the total cost to the Council had been under £200.

DECEMBER

WBC Rates Admin: 6.60: SLTC: 6.60: Pavilion 19.80	33.00
Mr S Chapman – Pavilion Keys	35.00
Coblands – Tree for Planting	306.32
Thames Water Rec. 17.94, Pav. 27.90, Allot. 33.47	69.31
Inland Revenue LB Tax	160.80
Mrs R Hulley – Part Litter Nov.	106.28
Post Office Counters – SPC Contribution Tennis Fund	505.95
Post Office Counters – SLTC Contribution Tennis Fund	2661.47
Mrs L A Bates – Honorarium less tax	2403.95
Mrs L A Bates - Telephone	<u>40.00</u>
	6123.06

7597: HIGHWAYS.

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

7.5t Environmental Limit. Oxfordshire Trading Standards had submitted details of the three reported vehicles to the DVLA. One vehicle was registered at a maximum gross weight of 7,490 kg and would not be actioned. The registration number of the skip lorry had been incorrectly entered by the DVLA and was being processed again. The water truck (which had crossed the bridge twice) was registered at 18 tonnes and the owner and driver were being contacted. The BBC was keen to do a follow up and Mr Peters was endeavouring to speak to OTS to see if they would be happy with this. However the number of offending vehicles had reduced since the ‘watch’ had begun.

Sonning Lane Parking outside RBCS Mr Peters would follow this up once Sonning Lane was clear. Adverse weather conditions were likely to have delayed the programme.

Highways Working Group The 9 January meeting had been postponed to 23 January 09.00 to 12.00. The purpose of the meeting was to 1. Identify the issues that negatively impact on the environment of Sonning and Sonning Eye. 2. Identify measures to mitigate/eliminate the impact of those issues. 3. Agree an action plan including time scales for the measures to be taken

7598: PLAYBUILDER PROJECT.

The Chairman had passed all the information on the Nick Christo for WBC to approve. The total cost of equipment was £44257, which included the Spinner for the playground (but not safety surfacing for the Spinner). £5000 had been allocated for the provision of a gazebo.

7599: RECREATION & ENVIRONMENT W. G.

Update. In the absence of Mr Green the Chairman said that the tree planting record had not been broken, although it was likely that 500,000 trees had been planted in the UK. Northern Ireland had broken the Guinness World Record for the most trees planted in a single location in one hour.

7599: RECREATION & ENVIRONMENT W. G. (Cont'd)

Safety Checks. The Chairman had would check out the Playground once the snow had cleared.

7600: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

Mr Farnese was chasing up supplies of replacement tiles for the damaged bus shelter in Pearson Road. New noticeboards were likely to cost in the region of £500 depending on design and Mr Farnese would bring details to the February meeting. Mr Doyle had produced samples of a soft to use but virtually indestructible material, which could be used to face the existing noticeboards.

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

7601: POLICE AND SECURITY.

In the absence of Mr Green the Chairman said that the regular reports from the Police were very useful. It would be useful if the Neighbourhood Watch organisers could receive it.

7602: WEB SITE.

M/S Robinson said that photographs of new Councillors were still needed. The Clerk would send Dr Robinson an up to date list of Councillors responsibilities and ask him to remove 'accounts' from the site.

7603: ANNUAL PARISH MEETING.

This would be on the February agenda for discussion. The Chairman said that he would like contributions for the Council Newsletter by 9 February.

7604: ACTION LIST.

This was reviewed and updated. Mr Ebers could not offer advice on the facilities offered by High Street banks. The Clerk would check out the benefits of each bank.

7605: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The Next Meeting would be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 9 February. The Clerk would check the availability of the Hall for meetings November to March each year.

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