

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the Meeting Room, Pearson Hall, Pearson Road, Sonning, on Tuesday 8 June 2010 at 7.45pm.

PRESENT.

Mr M Green (Chairman), Mr J S Chapman, Mr P J Doyle, Mr A E Farnese (from 8.40pm), 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 accepted from M/S V Reeve (unwell). Mr Green thanked everyone for attending the meeting and welcomed one visitor.

7679: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

Min. 7664, Portfolios, was updated. The Minutes, having been amended and circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

7680: MINUTES OF THE 2010 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING.

These had been circulated and agreed to be a true record. It was noted that Mr Woodward had not been able to attend the meeting. These Minutes would need to be circulated, approved and signed at the Annual Parish Meeting to be held in May 2011.

7681: 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. Mr Doyle said that he would have an interest in item 11 if a decision were made. There were no other Declarations.

7682: CORRESPONDENCE.

Red BT Telephone Kiosk. BT had returned the signed contract and would arrange for the payphone equipment to be removed, issue a completion notice and a K6 information pack. Mr Doyle had the details for the retailer who could supply the special paint for the Kiosk.

Berkshire Sports Club. The Club Chairman had written to inform the Council of an event to be held at the Club on 25/27 June and complained that cars had parked in their car park during the Scarecrow weekend. The Clerk would write to point out that SPC were not involved in this.

WBC Winter Service Review. The Clerk would chase WBC regarding the promised salt bin.

Air Ambulance Funding Request. This was already on the Council's list.

Age Concern AGM 22 July. Mr McCulloch was attending in a separate role.

WBC Thames Street Resurfacing 8/9/10 June. WBC had written to residents giving details of the road closure and copied this to the Clerk.

Request from Mr and Mrs Evans. A request to read out a letter previously circulated to all Councillors had been received. It was agreed that this had been dealt with at an earlier meeting.

Cascade Event Licence. Mr Peters would discuss with WBC and provide comments.

7682: CORRESPONDENCE (Cont'd).

ReadiBus AGM Invitation 1 July 8.00pm. The Chairman would attend if available.

#### 7683: PLANNING.

Planning List. Mr Doyle said that robust objections had been made on the Old Dairy application. There were no objections to BT's application to install a high-speed broadband apparatus in the High Street opposite the Malt House. A new application for the Weir House had been received; much of the proposed works had already been built. An appeal against refusal of the two-storey extension at Model Farm Barn had been lodged. An appeal against enforcement action had already been dismissed. Mr Chapman said that the applicant was now claiming that the extension was a replacement for an earlier building (seen on the 1933 map) that had been demolished some years previously. Mr Doyle said that an appeal had been lodged against WBC decision to refuse the application at 6 Glebe Lane. WBC would be adopting the SDS on 24 June. Mark Cupit had said that the pressure to build on rear gardens in the WBC area would be reduced with the introduction of the four Strategic Development Sites. Mr Doyle said that the S106 money, which would pay for the infrastructure to support the developments, would not be received from the developers until after houses had been built. Mr Chapman said that the applications would go to the WBC Planning Committee and the applications would be refused if the S106 agreements did not conform with requirements. Arborfield would not be built before 2015, or later, and WBC did not want greenfield sites developed before the brown-field areas. Mr Doyle said there didn't appear to have been any consideration as to the effect the developments would have on adjacent infrastructure. There was a one-line mention of the Bridge and WBC highways had said that the developments '*would have no appreciable impact on traffic*'. Mr Chapman said that the Core Strategy was based on 623 houses per year, but only approximately 300 were originally considered sustainable by WBC. The historic 20 year WBC figure had been 750 to 1000 per year. Mr Doyle said that this need had been heightened by RBC's plans for additional offices.

The following new applications had been received: The Old Dairy Thames Street (F/2010/0910) Erection of two semi detached two bedroom dwellings plus demolition of existing outbuildings: Maytree Cottage Sonning Lane (F/2010/0851) Erection of two storey rear extension and single storey side extension: The Malt House High Street (TL/2010/0900). Installation of electronic communications apparatus (green DSLAM cabinet): Homelea Sonning Lane (F/2010/0893) Erection of replacement 5 bedroom dwelling plus demolition of existing dwelling: Weir House Thames Street (F/2010/0995) Erection of single storey rear/side extension to provide conservatory and training pool: 50 Little Glebe (F/2010/1052) Erection of single storey rear extension and first floor side extension to dwelling following removal of existing conservatory and gazebo.

The following applications were ongoing: 45 Old Bath Road (F/2008/1303): 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): Lilac Cottage (C/2010/0500): 43 Shelton West Drive (C/2010/0705):

The following applications had been Refused: 30 Glebe Lane (F/2010/0604):

The following applications had been approved: Little Oaks Sonning Lane (F/2010/0632).

The following applications had been withdrawn: Microsoft Ltd (EXT/2010/0668):

#### 7684: PARISHIONERS QUESTIONS.

Dr Robinson asked about the litter in Charvil Lane, Mr Chapman agreed to ask Steve Potts to deal with this.

#### 7685: BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

Cllr Chapman said that WBC Housing Services were dealing with the query raised by Mr Farnese.

Cllr Chapman said that with reference to the potholes in Thames Street, that the road was being resurfaced. The question of curbstones was a difficult one. The existing curbstones on the corner, if replaced, would soon come out again as they were shallow. It might be possible to turn them over to make them more secure. Using Conservation Area (recycled) sets might be considered although there were local objections to these being used. Mr Peters said that WBC would be repairing the pavement 8-10 July but not the sets as none were in stock.

#### 7686: FINANCE.

- a) Report. A report had been circulated and was noted. The water invoice was high due to the necessity to water the new planting.
- b) Payment of Accounts. Mr Peters proposed making the following payments, Mr Chapman seconded and this was approved.

#### MAY

WDC Rates	5.60
WBC SLTC Rates	5.60
WBC Rates – Pavilion	16.80
SLCC – Annual Subs	118.00
M K Trimmings – Litter April	144.67
Purco Print – Newsletter	103.00
Playsafety – ROSPA Inspection	219.73
Sonning Landscapes – Mowing Wharf	52.00
Sonning Landscapes – Mowing Playground	25.00
Playdale – Play equipment 95% of invoice	32307.63
Mrs L A Bates – APM Refreshments	78.93
Fencing Products Ltd	<u>2843.50</u>
	35920.46

- c) 2009/10 Annual Return. The annual return had been circulated. Mr Chapman proposed approving this, Mr Runnalls seconded and this was unanimously agreed.
- d) Insurance to confirm. The Chairman confirmed that the cover offered by Suffolk ACRE, at £2637.23 offered equivalent cover to that offered by Allianz at £3739.79. The cover offered by AVIVA was similar but the premium was £3174.57. Based on this it had been agreed that the Clerk should take up the Suffolk cover, initially for one year.

#### 7687: HIGHWAYS.

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

7.5t Environmental Limit. The next Highway survey would be carried out on Wednesday 9 June, 8.00am to 2.00pm.

#### 7687: HIGHWAYS (Cont'd).

Sonning Lane Parking outside RBCS. WBC Highways had indicated that the planned resurfacing in June/July had been re-scheduled for 20 September to 15 October. Clarification

had been sought as to whether the double yellow lines were enforceable without the appropriate restriction signs being displayed. This was now in place.

Conservation Sets. Mr Peters would press for progress.

Thames Street. Re-surfacing would be undertaken 8/9/10 June overnight between 8.00pm and 06.00am when the Street would be closed.

Wargrave High Street. The road was closed to traffic between 2 and 7 June. Work would continue until 13 June requiring the use of traffic lights. This was likely to cause additional vehicles to use Sonning Bridge rather than the official diversion route via the A404.

Highways Working Group. The WG, at their meeting on 3 June, discussed feedback from Bob Hulley's presentation, on the Highways Strategy document, at the AGM in Pearson Hall. It was agreed that it was still the preferred solution and that residents should be consulted in the next newsletter in order to obtain feedback etc. A questionnaire could also be included on the website. In the meantime, it was agreed to undertake the following action points:

1. KP, MG and SC should meet Andrew Luck the TVP Liaison Traffic Officer with Wokingham BC to discuss the Police view on SPC's strategic document.
2. Discussion to take place with WBC to investigate further the suggestion from Matt Gould on implementing a no left turn into the High Street from the Pearson Road/Sonning Lane direction. This to be supported with signs on the A4 showing no access to the bridge via Sonning Lane. Ideally this would be for a temporary period to enable measurements to take place on the effect of traffic on Pearson Road etc.

WBC's proposal to apply a no right turn out of Sonning Lane was discussed. No plans had been received but it was felt that, if this were done in isolation, it would have a negative effect on traffic (using Pearson Road as well as Pound Lane, south) approaching the A4 roundabout at peak times. Although this was a fundamental part of the SPC strategy it would be opposed if applied in isolation, without the other recommended measures.

#### 7688: NARROW PAVEMENT OUTSIDE FAIRLAWN.

Mr Doyle said that he had a simple solution. Rather than concentrating on widening the footway he proposed moving the wall. WBC's involvement would only be on planning permission to resite the wall further back as shown on the plans, which Mr Doyle had circulated. The gap could be filled with bricks similar to those outside Manor Garden. Mr Chapman said that any planning application would be sent to Highways for consultation and Highways would require a 1.5metre wide footway. Mr Doyle said Highways would only be interested if access were involved. M/S Robinson was concerned that SPC might be seen to have been involved in the proposal and if so they could be liable. Mr Chapman said he had hoped that Sonning would receive S106 money for this purpose, but WBC would not release the money if it were seen to be going to an individual. Mr Doyle said that he might put a planning application in to test the situation.

#### 7689: RECREATION & ENVIRONMENT W. G.

Update. Notes of the WG meeting had been circulated.

Playbuilder. Following receipt of the cheque for the relocation of the aerial runway the work had commenced and was due to be completed by 9 June. Mr Chapman had met with the representative from Record RSS and work was expected to commence to erect the York

#### 7689: RECREATION & ENVIRONMENT W. G (Cont'd).

Stone Tower week commencing 21 June, weather permitting. The equipment already installed continued to be well used and enjoyed.

King George's Field and Pavilion

Ride on mower. Quadron were currently charging £120, twice a year, to cut the edges of KGF and Sonning Landscapes had been paid £500 per year to cut the area surrounding the tennis courts. This was no longer being done due to some difficulties. A ride on mower could be purchased for £1300, plus VAT, which would enable SPC to cut these areas themselves. There would be an annual cost of £96 for servicing plus petrol but the estimated savings per year would be in excess of £400 and SPC could also cut the KGF outfield every two weeks. Following discussion the Chairman proposed purchasing a mower at up to £1300, plus servicing at £96 per annum, Mr Runnalls seconded and this was unanimously approved. Mr Doyle asked about storage and Mr Chapman said that this was being looked into. Mr Chapman said that used dog bags had been dumped in the new gazebo.

Football Training. – A request to carry out football training for juniors, on 2/3/4 August had been received. They could use the top end of the field and training would be between 10.00am and 3.00pm each day. The Chairman said it would be an asset and an opportunity for young people. Following discussion Mr McCulloch proposed allowing the training to take place at no charge Mr Peters seconded and this was unanimously approved.

Licenses. SCC Licence had been sent to Mr Driver for approval. SLTC would be sent theirs once it had been updated for 2010. The Beech Lodge Licence was waiting for comments from the Trustees.

SCC Update. The Chairman said a complaint had been received claiming the field was unfit and even unsafe, for playing cricket. Due to the seriousness of the complaint the Chairman had immediately closed the field for play until a risk assessment could be carried out. Mr Driver had reassured the Chairman that, the field could be improved, but it was fit for use and he had already carried out a risk assessment for the ECB. Normal play had resumed.

SLTC The Chairman had met with the SLTC Chairman with regard to the funding of a new tennis clubhouse. Although a toilet had been the Clubs original priority it was not now seen as essential. The cost of the preferred option was £6023.19, plus £1500 for installation for a building similar in size to the existing one. The Chairman would ask SLTC for full costings including toilets for discussion at the July meeting.

David Penny Plaque – Catherine Penny had been approached with regard to the Plaque and was delighted with the idea. The Chairman proposed spending up to £60 on the plaque, Ms Robinson seconded and this was unanimously approved.

Safety Checks. Mr Chapman had carried these out and provided the Clerk with a report.

#### 7690: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

Update. Mr Farnese said that sincere thanks were due to Mr Liddiard for carrying out repairs to the Pound Lane bus shelter. The wheelie bin at the Wharf was well used and the Clerk would ask if a second one could be provided.

Shelter Repairs. The Clerk would write to Mr Gubba informing him that repairs would be carried out in the near future.

Diving at Sonning Bridge. The Clerk would write to the Environment Agency pointing out the dangerous practice of jumping off the Bridge into the Thames had increased and could they take action to improve the situation.

Safety Checks. These had been completed.

#### 7691: POLICE AND SECURITY.

The Chairman said that there had been no NAG meeting so there was no update on the Community Notices.

#### 7692: WEB SITE.

M/S Robinson said that the recreation information would need to be updated..

7693: ACTION LIST.

This was reviewed and updated. Mr Chapman said that it would now be possible to justify a request for the £2,000 S106 money.

7694: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next Meeting would be held on Tuesday 13 July at 8.00pm in the Pearson Hall. The following meeting would be held in the Pavilion on Tuesday 14 September at 7.30pm.

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