

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the Pavilion, Pound Lane, Sonning, on Tuesday 8 March 2011 at 8.00pm.

PRESENT.

Mr M Green (Chairman), Mr K Peters (Vice Chairman), Mr J S Chapman, Mr P J Doyle, Ms V Reeve, Ms S Robinson, Mr I Runnalls (from 8.00pm), Mrs L A Bates (Clerk). 1 Visitor. By invitation Peter Baveystock (WBC Waste and Recycling Manager WBC), Pat Taylor (WBC)

APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS.

Apologies were received from Mr McCulloch (away), Mr Runnalls would be delayed. The Chairman welcomed Peter Baveystock, who would explain the new system for waste collection being introduced by WBC.

7807: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

Min. 7800, Community Speed Watch, should read PC Terry *Neblett*. The Minutes, having been amended and circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

7808: 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. There were no other Declarations.

7809: NEW WASTE ARRANGEMENTS.

Mr Baveystock thanked Councillors for inviting him to the meeting. Waste Services were responsible for a number of issues, amongst them were: weekly amenity service, fly tipping, abandoned vehicles, graffiti, street cleaning (Dave Allen), the annual litter pick, community pay back, tree planting and adopt a street scheme (where an individual took on the responsibility for clearing litter from his area/street). WBC were also involved in the Rural Matters Conference and details about the next event would be circulated soon. In April 2012, to comply with the EU directive, WBC would launch an improved waste service to make it easier for people to recycle and therefore reduce its landfill waste. WBC would maintain a weekly collection service and would not introduce wheelie bins. To increase recycling a weekly recycling service would be introduced. The Green (garden) Waste Service would be expanded to include the whole District. WBC expected to increase recycling by 1000 tonnes on top of the existing 8000 tonnes. Currently there was no market for recycled plastic bottles so these went to energy from waste. Under the new WBC scheme 80 sacks, holding 80 litres, would be provided annually, free of charge, to each household. Extra bags could be purchased but this would have to be monitored, Additional bags would be provided to larger families (an extra 20 for 5 person families and 40 for 6 and above). Brown sacks would be provided for garden waste and home composting would be encouraged. Mr Baveystock was confident that WBC were ready and could meet the target increase in recycling. Tenders for the new seven year, contract, had to be with WBC by 15 April and following the selection process this

7809: NEW WASTE ARRANGEMENTS (Cont'd)

would go to the Executive in September. One of the key issues to be addressed by the contractor would be rubbish left on the street following collection. Leaflets would be distributed to all residents to inform them of the new process and there was information in the latest WBC News. The new scheme should save WBC £900,000 every year.

Mr Peters said that thanks were due to the dustmen. In spite of the bad weather, including snow, the service had been maintained through the winter and he hoped that a degree of flexibility under the existing scheme (the dustmen would take irons etc.), would remain under the new scheme. There was some confusion about where to put plastic. Mr Baveystock said that it was better to put it all in the large bin as it would be sorted at Smallmead and then sent to energy or waste. Mr Chapman said the Smallmead plant had a sophisticated system. Mr Doyle said that it was unnecessary for the road sweeper to visit Thames Street weekly. Mr Baveystock said that WBC was looking to improve street cleaning and still save money. Mr Peters said there were concerns about foxes getting into bags. Mr Baveystock said that people could put their bags into bins and the dustmen would take them out of the bins during collection. Mr Peters asked about paper and Mr Baveystock said that shredded paper should be put into a container and could also be put in to compost. Mr Chapman thanked Mr Baveystock for taking the tree waste from the tennis area, which would have cost the Council £400. Mr Chapman said that a two weekly system was used in some areas. Mr Baveystock said that there was a legal limit on the weight employees were permitted to lift. A weekly service would reduce the weight of rubbish to be collected each week. Ms Robinson asked about arrangements for organisations, such as the Pearson Hall. Mr Baveystock said that users should take their own rubbish away and the Hall might need to rethink its policy. However Churches would be included in the scheme and would receive 80 bags per year. Litterbins and the wheelie bin on the Wharf would still be emptied weekly. Mr Peters asked if fly tipping would increase. Mr Baveystock thought it might initially and the situation would need to be monitored. There being no other questions the Chairman offered a vote of thanks to Mr Baveystock and his team. The Chairman also thanked Mr Baveystock for maintaining the weekly collection and said that Sonning were lucky to have him.

7810: CORRESPONDENCE.

T V Police Community Policing Award. It was regrettable but, with no PCSO and residents not being familiar with Terry Neblett's replacement, it was not possible to nominate anyone. The Chairman said that Anne Chalmers had taken on another job when she left Sonning and had then been made redundant. However she had been offered and accepted a job as a Crime Prevention Officer.

ROSPA Inspection. ROSPA had written to say they would be carrying out their playground inspections in Berkshire in April as usual. Following discussion it was agreed to ask them to inspect the Council's playground and equipment on the recreation ground.

7811: PLANNING.

Planning List. Mr Doyle said that there was a non-material application for the eco house at South Meadow Cottage. SPC considered it to be material (it was a new design) and had asked for it to be subject to a full planning application. Mr Doyle had spoken against the application at Weir House and the WBC Planning Committee had deferred the decision pending a site visit. The SPC Planning Committee had recommended approval at 32 Glebe Gardens. Having visited the site he was of the opinion that there could be a problem. Studio Cottage Pound Lane was on the WBC agenda for 30 March. Mr Doyle was to speak against the application.

7811: PLANNING (Cont'd).

The application at 57 Pound Lane was considered to be overdevelopment. Rosemary Cottage had, originally been, two cottages with separate identities. The Conservation Area Officer was to check the application out. The building work at Bishops Close had been completed. The equipment for electrically operated gates was in position but gates would require planning permission. It was noted that the unsightly plastic covering had been removed from the fence on the boundary of Bishops Close. The historic hedge on the old Fire Station site had been cut down by the new owners and set on fire. This was contrary to the Residential Design Guide, which required existing hedgerows to be maintained. A passing lorry had damaged one of the branches on the Willow on the Wharf. Trees along the towpath leading from Sonning Bridge to the Lock had been pollarded by the Environmental Agency. The Planning Inspector was to visit Birchley Old Bath Road, on 15 March at 12.45pm. Mr Doyle would attend. There were conditions to preserve the existing shape of the roof on the cart store at School Cottage.

Planning Liaison Meeting WBC 29 March. Mr Doyle and Mr McCulloch would attend this.

The following new applications had been received: 32 Glebe Gardens (F/2011/0221) Provision of patio area (retrospective) and proposed erection of summerhouse. Studio Cottage 6 Pound Lane (VAR/2011/0159) Removal of condition 3 of planning consent F/2003/9109 for the outbuilding to be used as a residential dwelling, 57 Pound Lane (F/2011/0265) Erection of a single storey front extension first floor side extension and part first floor/part two storey rear extension to dwelling, Rosemary Cottage Pearson Road (LB/2011/0262) Listed Building application for proposed replacement of two external doors and frames to front of dwelling, Sonning Place Pearson Road (F/2011/0304) Proposed raising of roof to create habitable accommodation in roof space with front and rear dormer extensions plus conversion of garage to habitable accommodation, South Meadow Cottage (NMT/2011/0409) Non-material amendment to planning consent F/2008/2415 to allow change of roof coverings, change of roof windows, reducing window and door sizes plus one additional window to Laundry Room, Holme Park Sonning Lane (C/2011/0314) Submission of details to comply with the following condition of conservation area consent CA/2010/1643:2. Details of contract for carrying out redevelopment works.

The following applications were ongoing: St. Andrews Church (C/2010/1343): Greendown (C/2010/1365): 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): 5 Old Bath Road (NMT/2010/1711): South Meadow Cottage (C/2010/1813): Weir House: Sonning Lock (F/2010/2231): 4 Glebe Lane (F/2010/2750): 30 Glebe Lane (F/2010/2841),

The following applications had been approved: Sonning Golf Club (F/2010/2583): 1 Garde Road (F/2011/0173).

The following applications had been refused: 6 South Drive (F/2010/2635):

The following application had been withdrawn: 4 Glebe Lane (F/2010/2750)

7812: SONNING CONSERVATION AREA ASSESSMENT.

Mr Doyle had met Mr O'Callaghan and Ms Coulter. A master plan/timetable had been agreed with the aim to complete the Assessment by May 2012. Mr O'Callaghan wanted a photographic record of every building in the Parish. Mr Doyle had looked at the guidelines produced by English Heritage. As part of the process a questionnaire would be circulated to every household. Mr Chapman said that the Sonning Parish Plan and Design Statement had taken eighteen months to produce.

7813: BOROUGH COUNCILLOR.

Cllr Chapman said that WBC had approved its budget and he had circulated the information to Councillors. WBC would save £4.5 million in the 2011/12 financial year and £17m in five

years. WBC was the worst funded authority, per head of population, in the country. WBC received £125 per person compared with some authorities, which received £616 (Blackpool) and £1043 (Hackney). The government would be reducing funding further, from £27m in 2010/11 to £21m in 2011/12. WBC would therefore be reducing its spending from £105m in 2010/11 to £99m in 2011/12. Greater efficiency would mean that services would be maintained. Sonning's Precepts at band D, at £38.75 was below the average of £52. 35.

Judicial Review. Cllr Chapman said that he hoped that common sense would prevail and the Southern Parishes Planning Group would abandon their proposal to go for a Judicial Review.

Toilet Facilities in Woodley. Ms Robinson said that one of the toilet facilities was no longer available due to abuse. Cllr Chapman said that Lidl were to build toilet facilities to replace the old ones in the Woodley car park but this had not materialised. There were facilities in Woodley Library and Costa Coffee. Ms Taylor agreed to check if one facility had closed.

7814: PARISHIONERS QUESTIONS

Dr Robinson said that a lot of heavy vehicles were using Charvil Lane, leaving a lot of mud on the road. The Chairman said that he and Mr Chapman were due to meet Mr Baker and would bring this up. The new red posts introduced as part of the improvements at the Sonning Lane/A4 junction had been damaged.

Mr Doyle said that a hole had appeared in the High Street next to the BT DSLAM box. Ms Taylor would follow this up.

7815: FINANCE.

- a) Report. A report had been circulated and this was noted.
- b) Payment of Accounts. The Chairman proposed and Mr Peters seconded approving the following payments and this was approved with Mr Chapman abstaining.

February

SEC Street Lighting Repairs	115.67
Henley Heating – SLTC leak	124.79
Mr S Chapman – Salt Pound Lane footpath	28.75
Mrs R Hulley – Litter Jan	144.67
Mr S Chapman – B & Q quote	50.00
Wickes – Pavilion Kitchen	4296.25
NALC – Councillor raining	<u>150.00</u>
	4910.13

- c) Upgrading Office Equipment. The Chairman had quotes for various options and would meet with the Clerk to discuss.

Mr Chapman said that the S106 due to Sonning was lower than expected as the contribution towards leisure from the Hobbs House development was not included. Mr Chapman was seeking quotes for safety fencing.

7816: HIGHWAYS.

HGV Survey. Mr Peters said the survey on 15 December had identified three, overweight

7816: HIGHWAYS (Cont'd).

vehicles. These would all go forward for prosecution. The survey on 22 February had identified eight potentially overweight vehicles and these had been reported to Oxon Trading Standards for further action. The meeting with the Police on 23 February, with West

Berks/Wokingham TS and Oxon TS in attendance, had taken place. TVP had agreed to give Oxon Trading Standards access to HGV data. WBC and West Berks did not want access.

Thames Valley Police Community Speed Watch. Mr Peters said that this was a Police initiative allowing residents to use the Police speed guns. Having followed this up he had now been told that TV Police were not progressing it due to difficulties over insurance. An apparently successful scheme in another part of the country had failed after the Police removed their support. The Clerk had spoken to the insurance company. Volunteers carrying out work for the Council were covered under public liability providing they were given proper instruction on suitable clothing and how to carry out the proposed work. Community Speed Watch could not be considered as part of this due to concerns about public reaction and the difficulty in protecting these volunteers. If the scheme went ahead the insurance company would be prepared to consider adding this to the policy at an additional premium.

Highways Working Group. Mr Hulley had carried out a full survey of all traffic signs in Sonning, together with photographs, which were now on the web site. Members of the group were responsible for different roads and would be reporting on the condition, siting, relevance etc. of each sign. Irrelevant signs could then be identified and recommended for removal.

20mph Zone Changed to Limit. WBC was to change the 20mph zones in the Borough to 20mph limits. The Police could enforce 20mph limits but not zones. A copy showing the proposed zones had been circulated and the Highways WG were recommending that the Council support the changes. The Chairman proposed support for the 20mph limit in Sonning, Ms Robinson seconded and this was unanimously approved.

Future Highways Strategy. In the light of WBC's lack of support the Chairman, Mr Chapman and Mr Peters would meet Mr Baker on 17 March to discuss the matter directly. Mr Chapman said that the Highways group were proactive and full of ideas but WBC was negative and constantly knocked them down. Mr Peters said local people should be given the initiative to decide what was required in their own area. Mr Doyle said that he had met the Mayor of Henley who seemed unaware of the effect that extending the gravel operation at Sonning Eye would have on the number of heavy vehicles travelling through Henley.

7817: RECREATION & ENVIRONMENT W. G.

Mr Chapman said that the kitchen had been paid for and the work would commence on 28 March when everything would be stripped out. Fitting would take place the following week and tiling the week after that.

The Chairman said that he had visited the suppliers, Hortons, and approved the new tennis hut, which was sturdy and fit for purpose. It was agreed that the old SLTC shed should be used to store the mower in the compound.

SCC had complained about the state of the field after football spectators had caused some damage. It had been agreed that spectators should not use this area and it would be rolled and seeded prior to the cricket season. The Clerk would arrange for Quadron to mow the field before the end of March.

Once the good weather arrived WBC would carry out on the repairs to the Wharf.

Safety Checks. Mr Chapman provided the Clerk with an up to date report.

7818: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

Update. Mr Doyle said that the new street signs had been installed.

Mr Chapman said that Mr Liddiard would assist with repairs to the Pearson Road bus shelter.

7819: POLICE AND SECURITY.

The Chairman said that Ann Chalmers now had a new position with TV Police. There were concerns about a number of incidences where lead had been stolen from properties. It was agreed that the main gates to the recreation ground should be locked a night.

7820: WEB SITE.

Dr Robinson said that he had updated the web site and the list of signs produced by Mr Hulley had also been added. It was possible to add comments to the photographs.

7821: ACTION LIST.

This was reviewed and updated.

7822: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next Meeting would be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 12 April in the Pavilion, Pound Lane. The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council would be held on 10 May following the election. The Annual Parish Meeting would be held on Wednesday 25 May in the Pearson Hall.

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