

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the Pavilion, King George's Field, Sonning, on Tuesday 12 May 2009 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT.

Mr J S Chapman (Chairman), Mrs P Byrne (Vice 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). 1 Visitor.

APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS.

There were no apologies. The Chairman welcomed everyone.

7459: ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN.

Mrs Byrne took the Chair for this item. Mr Peters proposed Mr Chapman as Chairman and Mrs Glasspool seconded. There being no other nominations this was unanimously agreed.

7460: CHAIRMAN'S DECLARATION OF OFFICE.

The Chairman signed the Declaration of Office and to abide with the Code and this was witnessed by the Clerk.

7461: ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN.

The Chairman proposed Mrs Byrne as Vice Chairman and M/S Robinson seconded. There being no other nominations this was unanimously agreed.

7462: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

Min 7445, line nine was changed to read '*for both licences*'. Min 7446 third para line 11 was changed to read '*declared an interest in that application*'. The Minutes, having been amended and circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

7463: MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2008.

The 2008 Minutes were noted and the word *optomistic* was changed to optimistic, line 13 up from the bottom of page three.

7464: 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

7465: COUNCILLORS PORTFOLIOS.

The Chairman proposed the following as Chairmen for each responsibility and the following responsibilities were also approved. Mr Barker seconded and this was unanimously approved.

7465: COUNCILLORS PORTFOLIOS (Cont'd).

PLANNING	Mr Doyle (Chair), Mr Barker, Mrs Byrne, Mr Chapman, Mr Farnese, M/s Robinson, Mr Runnalls.
HIGHWAYS	Mr Peters (Chair), Mr Chapman, Mr Farnese, M/s Robinson, Mr Runnalls
FINANCE	
1. Regular Financial Control	Chairman, Clerk, Mr Williams (co-opted).
2. Budget & Precept.	Chairman of the Council, Clerk. Requests to be Submitted by Councillors with spending responsibilities.
RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER	Clerk.
TECHNICAL SERVICES W.G. (AMENITIES inc PUBLIC TRANSPORT & SPRING CLEAN)	Mr Farnese (Chair), Mr Doyle.
RECREATION & ENVIRONMENT INC. CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND	Mr Pascall (Co-opted Chair), Mr Chapman, Mr Farnese, M/s Robinson
POLICE & SECURITY	Mrs Byrne (Chair), Mr Peters
WEB SITE	M/S Robinson, Clerk, Dr Robinson (co-opted)

7466: REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES.

FIRE BRIGADE TRUST.	Chairman (ex officio)
ALMSHOUSE TRUST.	Mr P Parker (Feb. '09)
SONNING & DISTRICT WELFARE TRUST	Mrs J Baldwin (Ongoing)
SONNING EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION	Mrs J Baldwin (Ongoing)
PEARSON HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	Mrs Byrne
SONNING TWINNING ASSOCIATION	Chairman (ex officio)
SLTC	Mr A Barker (Ongoing)
TWYFORD AGE CONCERN	Mr Atkins (Ongoing)

7467: CORRESPONDENCE.

Meeting Days. The Chairman said that, in order to conserve energy, there would no longer be meetings at WBC on Mondays or Tuesdays and there would be no clash with the main SPC meetings on Tuesdays. Following discussion it was agreed to continue meeting on Tuesday evenings rather than changing to Monday evening.

SLTC BBQ. The Chairman said that SLTC wished to operate a BBQ at their annual Spring American Tournament on 17 May and there were no objections to this. The recent open day has been very successful and a new junior coaching scheme had begun with 29 under 12's attending each week.

SKY TV 13 May. They would be filming on King Georges Field as part of a losing weight and walking programme. The Chairman had asked for a donation.

7467: CORRESPONDENCE (Cont'd).

SE Plan. The Chairman had attended the Core Strategy enquiry and the Inspector had now concluded his examination and would make his report, which would be binding. The final version of the Strategy would then be published in October. There were no proposals to increase housing numbers.

Reading Rugby Club The Club would be holding a 'Relay for Life' on 20 and 21 June between 8.00am and 4pm. The police had been informed.

Rurality of Charvil. It was agreed to support Charvil and the Clerk would ask how Sonning had been identified as 'urban'.

Thank you Letters. The Clerk said that thank you letters had been received from Berkshire Blind, Age Concern, the Vicar (Churchyard & Parish Mag), Twyford Volunteers and Air Ambulance.

7468: PLANNING.

Planning List. Mr Doyle said that 24 Glebe Lane had finally been approved; The S106 money for 7 South Drive had been lodged with WBC. He would check to see the status of S106 money on 45 Old Bath Road. Kismet had been refused and he had visited the site. No building work was being undertaken. New plans for 24 West Drive would be discussed at the next planning meeting. WBC had agreed the conditions for RC&HC but Mr Doyle was not convinced that these offered sufficient protection and details would be discussed at the planning meeting. Mr Stansfield (Chairman Fire Brigade Trust) had asked for a meeting with Mr Doyle and had shown him plans for the old Fire Station. Mrs Byrne was concerned that Berkshire Sports were applying to extend the lighting deadline from 9.00pm to 9.30pm.

The following new applications had been received.

24 Ridgeway Lodge West Drive. Erection of detached dwelling with integral double garage.
Sherriffs Boathouse (CON/2009/0709) Consultation from Oxfordshire District Council for change of use of land for use as extension of existing car park for Olympic Rowing Centre.

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), 25 Old Bath Road (F/2009/0659), Manor Gate Charvil Lane (F/2009/0665 CA/2009/0667),

The following applications had been Refused: Kismet Charvil Lane (CLP/2009/0545),

The following applications had been approved: 24 Glebe Lane (F/2008/1259), 100 Thames Valley Park Drive (A/2009/0302), 11 Pound Lane (F/2009/0349), Bull Inn (C/2009/0126), 29 Sonning Meadows (F/2009/0564)

7469: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

The Borough Councillor agreed to find out why a large amount of razor wire had been installed around the edge of land adjoining Wyvale, which had been there for some time and appeared to be hazardous.

7470: PUBLIC QUESTION TIME.

There were no questions from the public.

7471: FINANCE.

- a) Report. A report was not available, as the system had not been switched over however the payment of accounts, which had been circulated, showed the activity for April.

7471: FINANCE (Cont'd).

- b) Payment of Accounts. Mrs Glasspool proposed making the following payments, M/S Robinson seconded and this was approved with one abstention (Mr Chapman).

APRIL

WBC Rates	6.74
WBC SLTC Rates	6.74
WBC Pavilion Rates	20.21
Pearson Hall – Office Rent	221.00
Sonning Landscapes – Mowing Wharf	52.00
Sonning Landscapes Cut KG Field Hedge	60.00
BALC Subscription	232.51
Mr S Chapman Sawn Timber SLTC Fence	<u>105.32</u>
	704.52

- c) 2008/09 End of Year Accounts. The Chairman said that the figure of £106,368 included £4000 VAT on the tennis courts, which may not be recoverable. If this were the case the figure would reduce to £102,368. This figure was still above the £85,000 set as the stringency figure. Ideally, in future, he would like to see the interest on investments accrue rather than being used to supplement the Council's income.
- d) Insurance Cover. The insurance renewal proposal from Alliance Cornhill had been received, premium £3201.69. Following discussion Mrs Glasspool proposed accepting the proposal, Mrs Byrne seconded and this was unanimously approved.

7472: HIGHWAYS.

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

7.5t Environmental Limit. Following the recent survey Mr Peters had a debrief meeting with the Police. 20 of the vehicles recorded were confirmed as overweight and the Police were checking two others. The Police found the data useful and encouraged the group to continue the surveys. This they would do at approximately monthly intervals varying the days but between 6.00am and 5.00pm. They were keeping a log of overweight vehicles to identify local and regular offenders and the Council website was being updated to receive input from residents. The Police would carry out ad hoc checks and encourage other local traffic patrols to visit Sonning on a routine basis specifically to check overweight vehicles.

Sonning Lane Parking Outside RBCS. Once the consultation documents were received this could be taken to the next stage.

Thames Street Pinch Point. No further developments, but this was on the Highway Priority List.

Police Patrol Vehicle Hardstanding Sonning Lane. This could be affected by the road markings related to the RBCS parking issue but the possibility of hand held laser speed guns was being discussed with the Police.

WBC Offer of Speed Indicator. WBC had offered Parishes the opportunity to purchase their own speed device for £5250, which would be managed by WBC. The advantages seemed to be limited (the device only indicated the number of speeding vehicles, was expensive to install, move and assess), further details had been requested. Alternatives, which could operate over a 24 hour period 7 days a week, showing time, date, precise speed and type of vehicle at a cost of £180 per time, were worth considering.

7472: HIGHWAYS (Cont'd).

Top 3 Highway Priority – Wish List. WBC had requested the Council's top three Highway priorities, which had to comply with clear guidelines. The proposal was to include:

A4/Sonning Lane Junction.

Thames Street Pavement Pinch Point.

Pearson Road/High Street Pinch Point.

The missing Pound Lane/Glebe Lane Footpath was not included. Following discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should contact Mr Gibbs to see if residents were interested in allowing a footpath to be build outside their properties. Until this was clear only the first two priorities would be put to WBC but it would be indicated that the third priority would be forwarded once SPC had assessed two other priorities.

7473: S106 REQUEST – UPDATE.

The Chairman said that Mr Christo had agreed to support the request for the S106 allocation to pitches. Unfortunately the allocation to sports halls could not be allowed for pavilion maintenance. It might be possible to use this for the sports hall at Sonning School and the Chairman would contact them about suitable projects. Money allocated to children's playgrounds could fund maintenance as well as capital expenditure. The Chairman and the Clerk would revise the requests based on the feedback from Mr Christo.

7474: RECREATION & ENVIRONMENT W. G.

Report. Mrs Glasspool said that the tennis club open day had been very successful. All the clubs playing on King George's Field now had junior members. Installation of the new signs was nearing completion and Sonning could now legally take action against offenders.

The David Penny Fund. A request had been received from Mrs Penny to install a circular seat around the new tree planted in memory of Mr Penny on the Wharf. The Thames Street money had not been used as the BCA had paid for it and there was about £3,000 in the fund. Following discussion it was agreed to allow the request.

A new seat had been donated as a memorial and installed on the Wharf at no cost to the Council. The undergrowth had also been cleared.

The Chairman agreed to ask Mr Pascall to contact Mr Collier about improving the Wharf footpath, which had become soggy due to a blocked drain at the Great House entrance.

Sportsmatch Funding. There was no update.

SLTC Pavilion Funding. The grant application had been submitted and it was hoped that this would be successful.

7475: SPRING CLEAN.

Mr Farnese said this had been successful and he had been impressed by the WBC organiser, Beverlie Warman, and the co-operation of the driver collecting the bags. The most unusual item collected was a tandem baby buggy. The Chairman said that a vote of thanks were due to Mr Farnese for co-ordinating the event.

7476: POLICE AND SECURITY

Mrs Byrne said that she was no longer able to obtain the individual crime figures for Sonning. Figures for the whole area were available on the TV Police web site. In crime terms Sonning was designated as 'average'. Charvil had a lot more problems than Sonning and its crime rate was 7.6% as opposed to Sonning's, which was 4.9%. Sonning was below

7476: POLICE AND SECURITY (Cont'd)

average for crime against another person but above average for non-dwelling crime (sheds etc.) Generally burglary in the Wokingham area had gone down. Drug related crime had gone up.

Mrs Glasspool referred to the youths who had climbed onto the pavilion roof (via the store) to shine lasers into the windows of houses in Pound Lane. The Chairman agreed to obtain anti-theft paint to deter further instances..

7477: ANNUAL PARISH MEETING ARRANGEMENTS.

The Chairman said that councillor reports should take approximately 3 minutes each in order to allow time for public questions before Pat Baxter made her presentation. Mr Peters would mount a highways display at the back of the Hall. Help to set up from 6.00pm would be appreciated. A screen and projector had been borrowed from Sonning School and Mr Green would help set it up. The Clerk would purchase refreshments and Mr Farnese and Mrs Glasspool would run the bar. A parking space would be reserved for Bat Baxter outside the Hall.

7478: WEB SITE.

M/S Robinson said that Mr Robinson had made a few small changes and residents could now report overweight vehicles directly to Mr Peters via the web site. Mr Robinson circulated a copy of a report form for this purpose. Mrs Glasspool said that she had some ideas for a web site welcome pack.

7479: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The Annual Parish Meeting would be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 13 May.
The Next Meeting would be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 9 June at 7.30pm.

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