

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the Pavilion, King George's Field, Sonning, on Tuesday 10 November 2009 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT.

Mr J S Chapman (Chairman), Mr P J Doyle (Vice Chairman), Mr A E Farnese, Mr M Green, 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 Mr A Barker. The Chairman welcomed everyone.

7556: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

The Minutes, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

7557: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

Mr Doyle said he would have an interest on Highways, Thames Street Pinch Point if discussed, but it was agreed that this was not prejudicial at this stage. 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.

7558: CORRESPONDENCE.

Beech Lodge. A letter had been received from Mr Pascall, who had taken over as secretary to Beech Lodge. Under the terms of the lease the Council's permission was required for lettings other than to the Guides and Scouts and Mr Pascall asked for permission for a Drama/Poetry/Communications group for children to be held once a week and an Interactive Storytelling group for preschoolers one morning a week. In addition Mr Pascall asked for the Council's agreement to allow the hall to be used for occasional lets to adult and other groups (children's parties, charity meetings, the odd dance class etc) and for confirmation that the ongoing use of Beech Lodge by Sonning School for the breakfast club was acceptable to the Council. Following discussion it was agreed to allow these uses but to point out that no alcohol should be served at any of these events.

Pearson Hall Management Committee. Mrs Byrne had been appointed as the Council's representative in May but had since resigned from the Council. Following discussion it was agreed that M/S Robinson be appointed as the Council's representative.

Pearson Hall Paving. It was noted that this was due to be repaved week commencing 16 November. It would be necessary for the Council to remove their large planter and two litterbins prior to the work commencing.

B T Red Telephone Kiosk. The Clerk had written to BT but there had been no reply. Following discussion Mr Doyle proposed that the Council should purchase the telephone kiosk for £1, Mr Peters seconded and this was unanimously approved.

Request to Place a Bench at Sonning Lock. It was agreed that this was the responsibility of the Environment Agency and the Clerk would provide contact details for Carole Morgan.

Invitation to Sports Award Ceremony. Mr Green agreed to attend, providing he was available on 27 November.

7558: CORRESPONDENCE (Cont'd)

Nominations from Town and Parish Councils for Representative on Borough Strategic Partnership. Mr McCulloch agreed to look through the papers to ascertain what level of commitment was required.

#### 7559: PLANNING.

- a) Planning List. Mr Doyle said that 45 (now 47) Old Bath Road had now been occupied. The Clerk would contact Angie Gibson with reference to the S106 money. The appeal at 6 Glebe Lane had been dismissed. The application at Weir House had been withdrawn. There had been problems with the trees and the Environment Agency had judged the Flood Assessment to be incorrect. No enforcement action had currently been taken. 41 Pound Lane had been approved. It was hoped that the School Cottage application would be withdrawn, as it was likely to be refused. Lilac Cottage had been approved. A letter, pointing out that the plans attached to the Enforcement Notice on Model Farm Barn, were incorrect had been sent to WBC. The Enforcement Officer had responded to the effect that this was irrelevant. A resident had spoken to Mr Doyle regarding a planning proposal and Mr Doyle had agreed that the plans could be shown to the Planning Committee at the meeting on 18 November. It was noted that the Planning Committee was not a forum for pre-application discussions and that, although the resident would be allowed to present his plans, the Committee would not, and could not, make a decision on any proposal.
- b) Reading Cricket and Hockey Club. This application had been withdrawn and replaced with a Section 5 Notification as it came under permitted development.

The following new applications had been received:

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): Weir House (F/2009/1099): The Great House At Sonning (F/2009/1419): 45 Old Bath Road (C/2009/1600): School Cottage Thames Street (F/2009/1693): 6 Holmemoor Drive (F/2009/1759): Lilac Cottage Pearson Road (LB/2009/1898): 1 Garde Road (F/2009/1937): Model Farm Barn (F/2009/1371).

The following applications had been Refused: There had been no refusals.

The following applications had been approved: Evencott 4 High Street (F/2009/1686): 6 Holmemoor Drive (F/2009/1759): 41 Pound Lane (F/2009/1477):

The following application had been withdrawn. Reading Cricket & Hockey Club (F/2009/2206):

#### 7560: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

Mr Farnese asked about the provision of public toilets. The Chairman said that currently there were two facilities at Costa Coffee and one at the Oakwood Centre. WBC paid for these to be cleaned in order for them to be made available to the public. It was likely that a purpose built facility would be installed at a later date in the library.

Core Strategy. One or two items still needed to be resolved ready for the Strategy to be approved in January, when it would become Planning Guidance. More documents would flow from this, such as the residential design guide.

TiF. WBC was to make a decision but this had been delayed until after OCC made their decision, which had been to conditionally sign up as a category 2 partner. As the lead authority Reading, was obliged to introduce congestion charging, but category 2 and 3 partners were not. OCC's decision was on the understanding that they were opposed

#### 7560: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR (Cont'd)

to congestion charging and to any bridge unless it was for public transport only. Bracknell were likely to sign as a category 3 partner, allowing them to sit at the table but not to make any decisions or receive any money. The WBC Conservative Group would be making a decision in December. The Chairman firmly believed that it was critically important that WBC signed up for category 2.

Transformation. WBC was restructuring their departments in order to improve operations. The economic forecast supplied to the WBC Audit Committee was that the bank rate would rise by ½% in 2010 and 1½ % in 2011. WBC was likely to receive 80% of their investment from Iceland.

#### 7561: PUBLIC QUESTION TIME.

There were no questions from the public.

#### 7562: FINANCE.

- a) Report. A report was circulated and noted. The Clerk agreed to look into the benefits of opening an account with a different bank. The Chairman would ask Mr Embers advice.
- b) Payment of Accounts. Mr Green proposed making the following payments, Mr Peters seconded and this was unanimously approved.

#### OCTOBER

WBC Rates Admin: 6.60: SLTC: 6.60: Pavilion 19.80	33.00
Delta Electrics PAT Pavilion £20. PAT SCC £75	95.00
Inland Revenue NIC	267.87
SEC St. Light M'tnce	743.52
SEC St. Light Repairs	53.49
Mr K Trimmings – Litter Sept.	141.67
Environment Agency – Wharf Licence	41.90
BALC – Councillor Training	<u>70.00</u>
	1342.49

- c) Sue Ryder Request A decision would be made at the December meeting, although there was some feeling that this was a Nettlebed concern.
- d) Keep Mobile. It was agreed to refuse this request, as it was clear that few residents used the service.
- e) Draft Budget 20010/11. A draft budget had been circulated. The Chairman said there were potentially several additional sources of S106 funding from prospective developments in the Parish. The draft budget would result in a precept increase of 2.85%. There was some discussion about additional litter collections but no firm agreement could be made without an input from Mr Trimmings who was currently away. It was confirmed that the interest on the Abbey investment would be left to accrue.

#### 7563: HIGHWAYS.

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

7.5t Environmental Limit. OCC Trading Standards had confirmed that they would prosecute using evidence supplied by the HGV Lorry Watch group, providing the evidence was on the correct forms. There would be no fee for taking action on the OCC side but a fee would be applied to any on the Berkshire side. A Watch would take place on the Oxon side on 26 November between 10.00am and 2.00pm.

#### 7563: HIGHWAYS (Cont'd).

Top Three Highway Priorities. Mr Peters said that the scheme outside the RBCS in Sonning Lane had been delayed. Work was likely to go ahead in the New Year. WBC was still considering the A4/Sonning Lane junction, possibly influenced by the conditions on the RC&HC planning conditions. A feasibility study would be carried out on the Pearson Road pinch point. The Chairman had mentioned the possibility of access only in the High Street to the Highways Officer who had said this was a non-starter. It would be up to the WG to consider other possibilities such as a no left turn at this junction. On the Thames Street pinch point, the Chairman said that WBC believed this would cost in the region of £20,000. Planning permission would be required to alter the wall and Mr Sanders wanted the existing bricks to be reused. Mr Matthews had advised that re-siting the wall would kill the tree adjacent to the proposal. Mr Doyle said that he had checked the measurements and believed that a footway of 38 inches could be achieved over a shorter length (7.5 metres) which would be less expensive and would not affect the tree. The Chairman said that there could be some local donations to the project.

It was agreed that the next Highways WG meeting would be on Wednesday 25 November at 7.00pm in the pavilion.

#### 7564: RECREATION & ENVIRONMENT W. G.

Notes. Notes of the last meeting had been circulated and were noted.

New Play Equipment. Mr Green said that under the Playbuilder Scheme the government had provided £1.1m to WBC for play equipment that would 'stretch and challenge' children between 8 and 13 years, the emphasis being on 'natural play'. Sonning had been allocated £45,000 from the scheme. The WG were recommending that the equipment should be spread around King George's Field, rather than grouped in one area, to provide a trail. Four companies would provide schemes/quotes for the equipment by 23 November in order for the Recreation WG to put a proposal forward for approval at the December meeting ready to submit to the WBC Project Board for their approval.

National Tree Week - Tree Purchase. There were plans to break the Guinness record for the number of trees planted in one hour (11.00am and 12 noon) across the country on Saturday 5 December. The WG were proposing the purchase 5 trees up to £150 as the Council's contribution, the Chairman seconded and this was unanimously approved.

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

#### 7565: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

Mr Farnese was indisposed and had withdrawn from the meeting but had provided the Clerk with the following information:

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

WBC Litter Pick. This had been scheduled for 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> March 2010.

2009 Litter Pick – Mayor's Award. A certificate, signed by the Mayor, had been received. The Clerk would arrange for it to be mounted.

#### 7566: POLICE AND SECURITY.

Mr Green said that there had been two burglaries in Pearson Road. NAG would be carrying out a new survey to discover residents main concerns. There was concern in West Drive over the Christmas lights.

#### 7567: WEB SITE.

M/S Robinson said that it had been agreed not to put Councillor's e-mail addresses on the site. The Sonning/Liguge Twinning Association had asked if there could be a link to their

site and this was agreed. Photographs of new Councillors and their details were required. Mr McCulloch asked if the web site was the place for the Council to be more accessible. Dr Robinson would supply details on the number of hits. It was agreed to put the communications on the January agenda.

7568: SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY 2010-2020.

Mr McCulloch had produced a draft response based on comments from all Councillors. This was approved and Mr McCulloch would finalise the draft ready for the Clerk to e-mail to WBC before the deadline of 18 November.

7569: BOROUGH/PARISH CONFERENCE - Stronger Partnership-the Submission Core.

Mr Doyle said that Chris Lancaster had given a planning briefing. It had become obvious that the infrastructure, which was already inadequate, would not support the traffic that would be generated by the planned housing and office developments. There was little in the Core Strategy to address this although it did mention that cross Borough travel might include a new bridge. This was a ticking time bomb especially as any S106 money was not available until after the developments had been completed. In addition there would be increased lorry activity in the area due to the Lafarge extraction of 7 million tonnes of gravel. Each lorry weighed 15t, un-laden, and would carry 30 loads each day. These heavy vehicles were banned from travelling through Sonning and Henley so would have to go via Caversham. It was obvious that there was a need for a proper road to carry these vehicles.

7570: APM 2010.

Following discussion it was agreed to set the date for the APM for Wednesday 12 May.. It was also agreed that the Chairman would investigate the likely cost of having Ben Hamilton-Bailey as the guest speaker.

7571: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The Next Main Meeting would be held at 7.30pm on Monday 14 December.

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