

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the Pavilion, King George's Field, Sonning, on Tuesday 13 October 2009 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT.

Mr J S Chapman (Chairman), Mr P J Doyle, 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, and Mr A E Farnese (holiday). The Chairman welcomed everyone.

7537: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

In Min. 7526, line 4 the word '*impossible*' was changed to difficult. Min. 7528 Runnells was changed to Runnalls. Min. 7529 was changed to read 'Between the hours of 9.30am and 15.30pm the road might be closed with an alternative route in operation. The Minutes, having been amended and circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

7538: 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.

7539: ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN.

The Chairman said that, due to the resignation of Mrs Byrne, the position of Vice Chairman was vacant. M/S Robinson had declared an interest and the Chairman asked for any other nominations. Mr Runnalls nominated Mr Doyle and Mr Doyle said that he was prepared to accept office. He had considered his position as Chairman of the Planning Committee and did not consider that his appointment would be detrimental. This was put to the vote and Mr Doyle was declared Vice Chairman with four votes to three.

7540: NEW COUNCILLOR – DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE AND TO COMPLY WITH THE CODE.

Mr McCulloch had signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and to abide by the Code and the Clerk witnessed this. Mr McCulloch had also completed his Register of Interests, which the Clerk would copy to WBC.

7541: CORRESPONDENCE.

Twinning Weekend. The Chairman had circulated a resume of the biennial Twinning weekend in the New Forrest, when the English and French Committees met to exchange ideas and plans for the future. Although he would have attended anyway he was under an obligation, as chair of the SPC, to attend since the Mayor of Ligege attended (the chair of SPC was an ex officio member of the Sonning Twinning Association committee during his

7541: CORRESPONDENCE (Cont'd)

term of office). Youth links, re bursaries and school exchanges, had been amongst the issues discussed. These would help foster the existing links between the two communities. Lesley Green already represented Sonning C of E Primary School and it had been agreed that RBCS should be invited to annually nominate a student as an ex officio committee member. Liguge were proposing to hold a 15th anniversary celebration in the autumn of 2110 in Liguge.

Borough/Parish Conference. Mr Doyle and Mr Green agreed to attend. The Clerk would inform WBC including their preferred workshops.

Rats on Allotments. The Chairman said that WBC Environmental Health Officers had visited a house in Pound Lane and inspected the wider area. They had informed the Clerk that there were signs of rat ‘runs’ along the southern and western boundaries of the Council’s allotments. The Chairman said that the farm was the most likely source of the infestation and, as there were no signs that the problem was emanating from Council property, it was therefore not considered the Council’s responsibility.

Filming in Sonning. The Clerk had been informed that filming would take place in Sonning on 14 October; the Council’s permission was not required.

Five-Year Integrated Risk Management Plan 2010/11 – 2015/16. The Chief Fire Officer had sent a copy to the Clerk for information and would be kept on file.

CAW Meeting 2 November. The 2010 Spring Clean was on the agenda and Mr Farnese would be asked to attend. Mr Green would attend if Mr Farnese were unavailable.

2009 Litter Pick Recognition 16 October. As Mr Farnese was on holiday Mr Doyle agreed to attend.

Sue Ryder Care Request for Donation. This would be discussed at the November meeting.

Reading Borough Council Site Allocation. The Planning Committee would discuss and respond to this if necessary.

Rurality of Charvil. The appeal against the designation of Charvil as a rural area had been dismissed.

Adopt a Telephone Kiosk. BT had a scheme for local authorities to purchase a telephone kiosk for £1. The telephony would be removed. The Clerk would raise several questions with BT and bring the proposal to the November meeting.

Request to Use the Pavilion – Sonning and Sonning Eye Society. The Society wished to use the pavilion for their Pond clean up day on 24 October. This was agreed and that no charge should be made.

Request to Use the Car Park. The Church wished to use the car park on Saturday 7 November between 2.30pm and 5.30pm. This was agreed.

Request to Use the Car Park. A resident wished to use the car park for visitors on the evening of 8 November. This was agreed.

SLTC Right of Way Training. The Clerk would check her availability.

7542: PLANNING.

- a) Planning List. Mr Doyle said that the Planning Inspector, dealing with the appeal at 6 Glebe Lane, had made a site visit and assured Mr Doyle that he had received the Council’s submissions. Weir House had still not been determined and it was now over a year since the buildings had been erected. Work had commenced at 24 West Drive. Keepers Cottage and been listed and the applicant had withdrawn the application to demolish and replace it. It was hoped that WBC would add the dwelling to their buildings of character. 33 West Drive had been refused; there had been several

7542: PLANNING (Cont’d).

previous applications, which had also been refused. Evencott had been approved. The Council had made strong objections to the proposed alterations at School Cottage and

also objected to revised plans. Mr Robinson asked if amended plans were circulated for comment and Mr Doyle said it was a matter of degree. An Enforcement Notice had been served on Model Farm Barn on 4 October. There had been a major flaw in the plans identifying the Barn and this may well have made the Notice invalid. The Clerk would write to point out the flaw.

The following new applications had been received: 6 Holmemoor Drive (F/2009/1759) Erection of first floor side and rear extension plus two single storey rear extensions to dwelling: Lilac Cottage Pearson Road (LB/2009/1898) Listed building application for proposed internal alterations and alteration to the rear lower roof: 1 Garde Road (F/2009/1937) Single storey side and front extensions plus raising of roof to create two additional rooms at first floor level addition of two front and rear dormer windows: Model Farm Barn (F/2009/1371) Retrospective application for the proposed erection of an extension (part two storey part single storey) to Model Farm Barn for B1(a) (office) use.

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): 41 Pound Lane (F/2009/1477): 45 Old Bath Road (C/2009/1600): Evencott 4 High Street (F/2009/1686): School Cottage Thames Street (F/2009/1693): 6 Holmemoor Drive (F/2009/1759)

The following applications had been Refused: 33 Waldor House West Drive (F/2009/1552):

The following applications had been approved: 24 Ridgeway Lodge West Drive (C/2009/1401): Falcon House and Falcon Cottage (F/2009/1427): Sonning Church of England Primary School (F/2009/1554): 25 Old Bath Road (F/2009/1680):

The following application had been withdrawn. Keepers House Duffield Road (F/2009/1560).

7543: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

The Chairman said that the Duchess of Gloucester had opened the newly built Addington School and plans for the old building had been approved.

An extra care facility had been opened in South Lake Crescent.

Wokingham Direct. This had been voted one of the top fifty call centres in the UK.

Brunel Bridge (off Shepherd's Hill roundabout). The contract had been awarded and work was due to commence in November.

Loddon Bridge Park and Ride. Charges were to be increased in order to make the service viable. The facility would close in 2012, when the property would revert back to the owners, and would possibly move to Thames Valley Park.

The re3 Waste Management Centre had been listed for an award.

7544: PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from the public.

7545: FINANCE

a) Report. A report was circulated and noted.

b) Payment of Accounts. Mr Peters proposed making the following payments, M/S Robinson seconded and this was unanimously approved.

7545: FINANCE (Cont'd)

SEPTEMBER

WBC Rates Admin: 6.60: SLTC: 6.60: Pavilion 19.80
Mrs R Hulley – Litter August

33.00
141.67

Thames Water – Allot. £56.41. Pav. £34.91: Square £59.58	150.90
Sonning Landscapes – Mowing Wharf & Playground	51.00
L A Bates – Honorarium less tax	2364.95
L A Bates - Telephone	<u>40.00</u>
	2781.52

- c) Investment Status There had been several delays due to security checking etc. but the account was now open ready for the money to be transferred to the new Abbey account.
- d) Capital Items 20010/11. The Chairman said that the Chairs of committees should consider if they had any items for inclusion in the next budget and bring proposals to the November meeting for discussion and formal agreement in December. This would allow the precept notice to be completed in January.

7546: HIGHWAYS.

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

7.5t Environmental Limit Mr Peters had re-read the documents and it was quite clear that lorries were excluded from all roads north of the A4 and along Thames Street to a point 18 metres SE of the building furthest SE of the French Horn. Mr Peters had spoken to Oxfordshire Trading Standards. Their surveillance vehicles followed suspected overweight vehicles from the Henley Road roundabout over the bridge. They would not stop the vehicles but would collect all relevant information and take photographs. The information would be checked with DVLA and if overweight a letter would be sent to the owner. If there were no reason for the vehicle to be in the area the driver would be prosecuted. The Oxon Trading Standards would be willing to follow up on information supplied to them on one of their forms and Mr Peters would discuss the possibility of including Sonning Eye in the lorry watch with Mr Woodward, the Chairman of Eye and Dunsden Parish Council. The Chairman said it would be important to have a system in place prior to the new gravel extraction operations commencing.

Top Three Highway Priorities. Mr Peters said that the A4/Sonning Lane junction was still being investigated by WBC. As a number of utility services were involved, this was likely to cost £50 - £60,000. The Pearson Road pinch point had yet to be investigated. On the Thames Street pinch point, the Chairman was pressing for the S106 money from the 103 Pound Lane development for this scheme. Currently Balfour Beatty was in the process of providing an estimate for the work. The Sonning Eye Society presentation was discussed and it was agreed that several items were worth investigating. Some changes needed to be implemented whether the new Bridge was built or not. Considering the possibility of closing the High Street to through traffic had been previously suggested.

Reading TfF Bid. RBC was currently in detailed discussion with WBC, as they were the only authority likely to support option 2. If WBC didn't support option 2 the bid would fail. The stumbling block was congestion charging. Reading were likely to bring this in even if the bid failed and it was clear that S106 funding would not be sufficient to fund WBC's SDL infrastructure requirements. A decision was likely to be made in November.

7546: HIGHWAYS (Cont'd).

Recommendations. Mr Peters proposed the following, the Chairman seconded and they were formally agreed: Mr Hulley to be co-opted onto the Highways WG; a letter to Sergeant Mark Smith, referring to the overweight vehicles offences that had been identified, and asking for the police to attend with a view to fixed penalty notices being

issued; extend the overweight vehicles survey into Oxfordshire; two members of the Sonning and Sonning Eye Society to be co-opted onto Highways WG.

7547: RECREATION & ENVIRONMENT W. G.

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

Damage to Pavilion Window. Alpha would include a metal water bar for an extra £100, which was acceptable. Work was likely to be undertaken on 4 November.

Pavilion Changes. SCC had asked to make some changes, including a changing room for the umpires, a requirement for the 2010 season, as they would be in a higher league. Mr Green was clarifying some proposals with SCC. The disused outside ladies toilet could be made available for SPC for a store for our equipment.

Outside Secure Area. Another requirement of the higher League was for SCC to have covers for the square. These were expensive items and SCC wanted a secure area to store them. The area behind the Beech hedge was ideal if it could be secured. Once this was done it should be kept tidy and be available for the use of all three sports clubs. SCC was including this in their funding bid.

Veteran Tree Measuring. M/S Robinson said that this had almost been completed with 17 new trees being measured and included on the list.

Safety Fence Extension. The contractor had quoted £3,900 to extend the existing 6 metre high fencing all the way around the playground on the recreation side. Mr Green had spoken to parents and agreed that some protection was necessary but recommended that the fencing beyond the small gate be reduced to 3 metres. Alternative quotes would be obtained.

Cricket Run. The area was bare and some reinforcement was necessary. Possibilities, such as a mesh base, which the grass could grow through, would be discussed with SCC.

SLTC Hedge. Mr Pascall would cut this back with the assistance of Mr Green or the Chairman.

Licenses. The football licenses had been updated, Mr Green would copy to the Clerk to send on to the Clubs to sign. M/S Robinson recommended that a sum be included in the 2010/11 budget for solicitors fees. M/S would complete the SCC Licence and once it had been approved would send to the Clerk to copy to SCC for signing.

SLTC. The Club were considering an 'eco loo' as part of their new "pavilion" plans.

Wharf Path. Options were being investigated.

Wharf Shrubs. It was agreed the shrubs should be cut back on a regular basis.

The following recommendations were approved. Quotes for Willow Tree: Working Party on 5 December: the principle of improvements to Pavilion.

7548: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

Mr Farnese had sent a report. There was some damage to the Pearson Road bus shelter. The Chairman had saved some tiles and Mr Siney was looking for matching examples to replace the broken ones.

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

7549: SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY 2010/2020.

Mr McCulloch had gone through the papers. He agreed to co-ordinate the response and would copy his initial ideas to Councillors. Any comments should be sent back to Mr McCulloch by 28 October and he would then put a draft together ready to be circulated on 4 November ready to be agreed on 10 November.

7550: POLICE AND SECURITY.

Mr Green said that there would be a NAG meeting on 14 October and they would be discussing the new survey. They were hoping to recruit volunteers to assist and already had four from Thames Street. Mr Peters said the Group had been strengthened with Mr Green as Chair and Mr Hulley as secretary. PCSO Ann Chalmers was organising a meeting to discuss drugs. The possibility of excessive Christmas lights in West Drive was causing concern and residents had met representatives from WBC. Mr Robinson asked about the smartwater initiative, which the Police in Somerset were providing free of charge. Mr Green said that once it was applied it could not be removed and it was up to individuals to decide if they wished to use it. Local Police were encouraging owners to mark their items.

7551: WEB SITE.

M/S Robinson said that this was going well. The Clerk would provide up to date Minutes and new Councillors agreed to provide photographs. In future the Clerk agreed to circulate Minutes and agendas electronically.

7552: COUNCILLOR TRAINING.

There was a course for new and existing Councillors on 5 November at Shute End. Mr Doyle and Mr McCulloch would attend. Following discussion the Chairman proposed that the Council should pay the fees (£35 each), Mr Peters seconded and this was unanimously approved.

7553: ACTION LIST.

The list was reviewed and updated.

7554: PARISH ACTION PLAN.

The Chairman had circulated a list of items identified in the 2004 Parish Plan. Many had net positive scores, some with net negative scores had significant support and some additional items had been added. Councillors would consider if there were any items that they would like to add or delete. The Chairman would then draw up a complete list for the November meeting.

7555: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The Next Main Meeting would be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 10 November.

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