

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the Pavilion, King George's Field, Sonning, on Tuesday 8 September 2009 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT.

Mr J S Chapman (Chairman), Mr A Barker, Mr A E Farnese, Mr M Green, Mr K Peters, M/S S Robinson, Mr I Runnalls. Mrs L A Bates (Clerk). 4 Visitors.

APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS.

Apologies were accepted from Mr P J Doyle (holiday). The Chairman welcomed everyone, particularly Mr Bob Hine (Chairman S&SES) Mr John Argent and Dr Gary Robinson (S&SES).

7518: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

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

7519: 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.

7520: SONNING AND SONNING EYE SOCIETY PRESENTATION

Mr Hine introduced Dr Robinson and Mr Argent. Dr Robinson had taken over as Chairman of the, new, joint Traffic and Planning Panels. Mr Hine said that planning often had a knock on effect on traffic, which also impacted on the built environment. The illustrated presentation would examine the current, physical, measures for managing traffic in Sonning (signs etc.), question their necessity and ask if they addressed the main concerns of traffic which were speed, parking, and safe pedestrian and cycle movement. Mr Argent said that attempts to manage the effect of speeding traffic in Sonning and Sonning Eye had resulted in urbanisation and the unnecessary blight of excessive signs and varying designs of road markings and other street furniture. Current traffic management proposals/ideas included managing the RBCS parking in Sonning Lane with additional road markings, which promoted the questions: *would this push parking further into the village and what would the visual impact be on the entrance to the village.* Other current ideas were to install traffic lights at the A4/Sonning Lane junction, remodelling the Pearson Road pinch point, redesigning the Thames Street footway for pedestrian safety, increasing the speed limit through Sonning Eye from 30mph to 40mph and controlled parking in High Street (due to more cars per household). All these methods would impact on the safety and character of Sonning and Sonning Eye and were of specific interest to the Joint Planning and Traffic Panel. Mr Argent questioned the need for so many signs and markings, and asked if the style of street furniture was unified and in keeping with the surroundings, did signs etc. detract or obstruct and were there any opportunities to install seating for pedestrians or to install public art/monuments. In spite of the proliferation of existing signs markings etc. speeding continued to occur on the three main roads, Thames Street, Pound Lane and Sonning Lane. Mr Argent then suggested that there was another way. The introduction of psychological measures to manage traffic had succeeded in a number of villages across the

7520: SONNING AND SONNING EYE SOCIETY PRESENTATION

United Kingdom, including Latton Village in Wiltshire, and in Europe. Based on an idea, of the traffic engineer Hans Monderman, measures included removal of all signs and road markings, thus putting the onus for safe driving onto drivers. The results had been a dramatic reduction in traffic speeds and accidents and a less urban environment. English Heritage were promoting a ‘Save Our Streets’ campaign and offering training seminars on appropriate street design. (note: Mr Cattermole, an ex Councillor, had brought this to the Council’s attention in 2005) A healthy exchange of views followed and it was then agreed that the Council would consider the proposals and arrange a joint meeting to take matters forward. The Chairman then thanked Mr Argent, Dr Robinson and Mr Hine for a very interesting presentation, a lot of work had gone into it, and all Councillors agreed.

7521: ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN.

The Chairman said that, due to the resignation of Mrs Byrne, the position of Vice Chairman was vacant. Following discussion it was agreed that Councillors would like more time to discuss this amongst themselves. The Chairman said it would be useful to have a proposal for the October meeting.

7522: COUNCILLORS CO-OPTION.

The Chairman said that there had been no call for an election following Mrs Byrne’s resignation and the Council were free to co-opt a new Councillor. Mr Colin McCulloch had provided his CV and an excellent presentation, the Chairman therefore had no hesitation in proposing that Mr McCulloch be co-opted, Mr Runnall’s seconded and this was unanimously approved. Mr McCulloch could attend all Council meetings but could not vote until his Declaration of Office and agreement to Abide by the Code of Conduct had been accepted at the October meeting.

7523: COUNCILLORS RESPONSIBILITIES.

Councillors responsibilities were reviewed and updated as following:

PLANNING	Mr Doyle (Chair) , Mr Barker, Mr Chapman, Mr Farnese, Mr McCulloch, M/s Robinson, Mr Runnalls
HIGHWAYS	Mr Peters (Chair) , Mr Chapman, Mr Farnese, Mr Green, Mr McCulloch, Mr Runnalls, M/s Robinson, Mr Bell (co-opted)
FINANCE	
1. Regular Financial Control	Mr Chapman, Clerk, Mr Williams (co-opted).
2. Budget & Precept.	Mr Chapman, Clerk. Requests to be submitted by Councillors with spending responsibilities.
RFO	Clerk.
TECHNICAL SERVICES W.G. (Amenities inc. Spring Clean)	Mr Farnese (Chair) , Mr Doyle.
RECREATION & ENVIRONMENT (Inc. Children’s Playground)	Mr Green (Chair) , Mr Chapman, Mr Farnese, M/s Robinson, Mr Pascall (co-opted)
POLICE & SECURITY	Mr Green (Chair) , Mr Peters
WEB SITE	M/S Robinson, Clerk, Dr Robinson (co-opted)

7523: COUNCILLORS RESPONSIBILITIES (Cont’d).

The Chairman said that Mr Pascall had resigned as Chairman of the Recreation Group but would remain as a member. The Chairman proposed and Mr Barker seconded that Mr Green be appointed Chairman of the Group and this was unanimously approved. Mr Doyle had expressed concern at the low number of Councillors attending Planning Meetings, which was adding pressure on those members attending. The Chairman and Mr Barker said they were prepared to look at plans between meetings. It was agreed that Mr McCulloch should join the Planning Committee.

7524: CORRESPONDENCE.

Proud of a Project. WBC had asked all Parish Councils in the Borough to consider a project that they were proud of to

Veteran Tree Association. Mrs Glasspool had copied information on two WDVTA events to the Clerk. A visit to the Berkshire Record Office on 12 October and a visit to Heckfield House on 9 October. The Clerk had details if anyone was interested.

Tif Briefing. The Chairman said that there would be a briefing for Borough Councillors at WBC offices on 30 September. Places were limited to 40.

Updates to Supplementary Planning Documents. The Chairman had checked and there was no requirement for the Parish Council to update their Design Statement at the present time. WBC was required to update theirs on a regular basis. The Parish Council might wish to revisit theirs once the Core Strategy had been published.

7525: PLANNING.

a) Planning List.

The following new applications had been received. 24 Ridgeway Lodge West Drive (C/2009/1401) Submission of details to comply with the following conditions of planning consent F/2009/0825:3. Samples/details of materials.12. Scheme of landscaping.13. Schedule of tree works and protection.14. Scheme to deal with contamination: The Great House At Sonning (F/2009/1419) Conversion of existing offices to two dwellings: Falcon House and Falcon Cottage (F/2009/1427) Erection of a block of five garages. Demolition of existing block and single storey garage: 41 Pound Lane (F/2009/1477) Erection of two storey side extension to dwelling with first floor side dormer extension: Keepers House Duffield Road (F/2009/1560) Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling with detached garage: 45 Old Bath Road (C/2009/1600) Submission of details to comply with the following condition of planning consent F/2008/2044:6. Details of landscaping.7. Scheme to deal with site contamination: Sonning Church Of England Primary School (F/2009/1554) Erection of single storey extension to enlarge existing classroom create group room staff WC and additional cloak space: 33 Waldor House West Drive (F/2009/1552) Erection of part two storey and part first floor side/front extension to dwelling with rear dormer windows: 25 Old Bath Road (F/2009/1680) Erection of two storey front/side extension plus single storey rear extension replacement of balcony on first floor rear elevation with new front gable and rear hip roof: Evencott 4 High Street (F/2009/1686) Erection of two storey and single storey rear extension to dwelling plus rear roof alterations: School Cottage Thames Street (F/2009/1693) Erection of new outbuilding plus new entrance canopies and raising of existing outbuilding roof to create additional living accommodation: 6 Holmemoor Drive (F/2009/1759) Erection of first floor side and rear extension plus two single storey rear extensions to dwelling.

7525: PLANNING (Cont'd).

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 following applications had been Refused: Berks County Sports Club (VAR/2009/0875), 6 Holmemoor Drive (F/2009/1157), Holme Park (F/2009/1239), Kismet Charvil Lane (F/2009/1268), 45 West Drive (F/2009/0983), 50 Little Glebe (CLP/2009/1434.

The following applications had been approved: Berks County Sports Club (A/2009/0872), 103 Pound Lane (C/2009/1050), Monkey Puzzle Day Nursery (F/2009/1042), RBCS Boathouse (C/2009/1133), 6 Holmemoor Drive (F/2009/1100).

The Chairman said that a visit to one of the exhibitions displaying the Strategic Development Locations was well worth while.

7526: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

M/S Robinson said that the WBC disabled services had moved and was now located on the second floor of the new building. This was difficult to access and the lift was too small to take a wheelchair. The Chairman agreed to look into this.

Mr Peters said that it was difficult to remove tickets from the machines in WBC car parks.

Mr Farnese said that WBC's proposals to remove all toilet facilities in Woodley had caused concern. The Chairman said that there had been some confusion but facilities were now available at Costa Coffee in the Woodley precinct and at the Woodley Town Council Offices located in the Oakwood Centre. Building a facility at Woodley Library, with outside access, was proposed.

7527: PUBLIC QUESTION TIME.

There were no questions from the public.

7528: FINANCE.

- a) Report. A report was circulated and noted.
- b) Payment of Accounts. Mr Peters proposed making the following payments, Mr Runnalls seconded and this was unanimously approved.

JULY

WBC Rates Admin: 6.60: SLTC: 6.60: Pavilion 1980	33.00
Mr G Weir – Internal Audit	44.60
SEC – St. Light M'tnce	743.52
SEC – St. Light Repairs	55.07
SEC –New Light Pound Lane	1529.60
Mr K Trimmings – Litter June	141.67
SEC - St. Light Energy	434.66
Sonning Landscapes – Cut Rec. Hedge + 10 underpaid June	85.00
Sonning Landscapes – Mowing Wharf & Playground	51.00
RES – Annual Inspection	27.60
RES – Fire Blanket 18.11 + Bar extinguisher 29.33	47.44
Mr T Pascal – Key + Lylandi	14.50
British Gas – Pavilion Electric	<u>200.96</u>
	3408.62

7528: FINANCE (Cont'd).

- c) Payment of Accounts. Mr Green proposed making the following payments, Mr Peters seconded and this was unanimously approved.

AUGUST

WBC Rates: Admin: 6.60 SLTC: 6.60: Pavilion 1960	33.00
S Clarke – Weed High Street	21.00
Mr K Trimmings – Part Litter July	35.42
Mrs R Hulley – Part Litter July	106.25
Inland Revenue LB Tax 189.60 + NIC 272.48	462.08
Son Landscapes – Mow Wharf 52.00: Mow Playground 50.00	102.00
Mr S Chapman – Petrol Mower + Vandal Proof Paint	19.93
Purco Print – Newsletter copies	103.00
Royal Mai – Response Service	<u>76.70</u>
	<u>959.38</u>

- d) Investment Status CCLA Presentation The Clerk said that the interest rate had fallen by .2% to 3%. Abbey had the Chairman's ID. Once they had the remaining three ID's the £50,000 could be transferred from the Yorkshire Bank into the Abby account. The £50,000 was covered by the Governments guarantee.

7529: HIGHWAYS.

Report. Mr Peters had circulated a report, which was noted. Mr Andy Bell would be happy to serve on the Highways WG and it was agreed to add his name to the list.

7.5t Environmental Limit The next HGV Survey was planned for Tuesday 29 September 10.00 to 14.00. The media would be contacted, including BBC South Today and the Police would be informed. Mr Runnalls said that not all vehicles were overweight and this could not be ascertained through the DVLA as they did not provide this information. Travis Perkins and 3663 had been contacted and a pattern was being built up. It was agreed that photographs would provide more information than could be gathered visually.

Sonning Lane Parking Outside RBCS. The work was scheduled to take place over half term (26 and 28 October). Between the hours of 9.30 and 15.30 the road might be closed and an alternative route would also be in operation.

Thames Street Pinch Point. [The Chairman updated members on the current position.](#)

WBC Offer of Speed Indicator Purchase. No further developments. Mr Peters would follow this up with Julia Tredwell.

A4 Shepherds House East Railway Bridge (Brunel). WBC would commence repairs to the Bridge in November with completion by summer 2010. The westbound traffic lane would be closed overnight on 9/10 September and remain closed until the work was completed. Pedestrians/cyclists would continue to use the East Bridge until work commenced. A contra-flow two-way system would be implemented on the West Bridge until the completion of works. All residents within 400 metres radius of the bridge were to be informed directly by WBC.

7530: S106 REQUEST – UPDATE.

The Chairman said that the money from the development at 103 Pound Lane had been received. No requests had been submitted yet but there would probably be £2500 for recreation and this would be discussed at the recreation WG meeting. The Highways Officer was aware that SPC wanted the Highways allocation to go to Sonning. The money for 45 Old Bath Road had not been paid as the property was unoccupied.

7531: RECREATION & ENVIRONMENT W. G.

Report. A report had been circulated and was noted.

Damage to Pavilion Window. The insurance company had given permission to go ahead with the repairs based on the Alpha quote. The Clerk would ask Alpha if they could replace the plastic water bar with a steel one at the same time.

Working Party. The working party would be held on 26 September 10.00am to 2.00pm. It was Mr Green's duty week-end so he was unsure if he would be available

Playground Safety Fence Extension. The contractor could not extend the exiting poles. SC believed the contractor had indicated that the posts could be extended but Mrs Glasspool, had been unable to recollect. The contractor had quoted £3000 and £3500 and it was agreed that the Clerk should obtain alternative quotes.

SLTC Pavilion. A meeting with SLTC had been arranged for Tuesday 15 September at 7.00pm. £10,000 was potentially available and SLTC also had some funds. A request to erect a gazebo and BBQ after the SLTC tournament on 13 September was approved.

Playground Safety Checks. These were being carried out by the Chairman. He said that he would fix a loose bolt on a piece of equipment, however this did not affect the safety..

Date of Next Recreation WG Meeting. This would be held on 8 October at 7.00pm.

7532: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

Mr Farnese said that there were no problems but the David Penny memorial tree had been affected by the weather. Mr Stansfield and Mrs Digby were aware of this.

Safety Checks. Mr Farnese said these were all up to date and gave copies to the Clerk for her records.

7533: POLICE AND SECURITY

Mr Green said that he was to have a meeting with PC Terry Niblett and PCSO Ann Chalmers. There had been a reported assault in Glebe Lane.

7534: WEB SITE.

M/S Robinson said that this was going well. It was agreed that Councillors details could be on-site providing it was done graphically to prevent abuse. Any questions on the website should be channelled through the Council's e-mail address via the Clerk.

7535: ACTION LIST.

The list was reviewed and updated.

7536: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The Next Main Meeting would be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 13 October.

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