

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the Pavilion, Pound Lane, Sonning, on Tuesday 14 September 2010 at 8.00pm.

PRESENT.

Mr M Green (Chairman), Mr J S Chapman, Mr C McCulloch, Mr K Peters, M/S S Robinson, Mr I Runnalls, M/S V Reeve, Mrs L A Bates (Clerk). 1 Visitor

APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS.

Apologies were accepted from Mr P J Doyle (abroad) and Mr A E Farnese, (recovering from a dislocated hip). The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting and welcomed Ms Reeve, who had now recovered from her recent indisposition.

7710: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

One small typo was changed on page one. The Minutes, having been amended and circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

7711: 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.

7712: CORRESPONDENCE.

Sonning Lane Drains. Mr van Went had written asking if WBC could empty the drains outside the RBC School to allow rainwater to flow into the culvert, which RBC School had recently cleared. This would help prevent flooding at the Sonning Lane/Pearson Road junction. Mr Chapman said that he had already made arrangements for WBC to carry this out.

Age Concern. A copy of their Newsletter had been received for information.

WBC Executive Meeting 25 November. WBC were to hold some meetings, which would normally be held at Shute End, at different locations across the Borough to allow easier access for residents. The first would be held at 8.00pm at the Maiden Place Community Centre.

Invitation to read at Church Service to Commemorate the Battle of Britain. The Chairman would read at the Service to be held on Sunday 19 September, as would Mr Chapman.

David Woodward. Mr Woodward had been seriously injured in a nasty accident when he was cycling home. A get well card would be sent on behalf of the Council.

7713: PLANNING.

Planning List. The application at 1 Garde Road had been withdrawn. The Inspector would visit 6 Glebe Lane on 23 September, Mr Doyle would be asked to attend. The Old Dairy application had now gone to appeal. The appeal at 30 Glebe Lane had been dismissed. The new fencing at Bishops Close would require planning permission if it were higher than 2 metres. A 30-metre mast security camera mast on the same site would be moved before the end of October. There was a new application for the BT cabinet in the High Street.

7713: PLANNING (Cont'd).

The following new applications had been received: Ranmore Parkway Drive (F/2010/1725) Erection of side and rear two storey extensions plus conversion of existing loft space to additional accomodation: 5 Old Bath Road (NMT/2010/1711) Application for a non-material amendment to planning consent F/2009/1680 to allow alterations to rear roofline and repositioning of rear dormer window and bathroom window: South Meadow Cottage (C/2010/1813) Application for submission of details to comply with the following conditions of planning consent F/2008/2415: 6. Details of earthworks. 8. Scheme to deal with contamination: 25 Old Bath Road (F/2010/1930) Proposed alterations to roofline (amendment to planning consent F/2009/1680).

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):

The following applications had been Refused: 1 The Mews High Street (TL/2010/1442) Birchley Old Bath Road (F/2010/1515).

The following applications had been approved: 36 Glebe Lane (F/2010/1451)

The following applications had been withdrawn: Weir House Thames Street (F/2010/0995)

7714: BOROUGH COUNCILLOR.

Mr Chapman said that Local Authorities would now decide housing numbers, which were likely to go up, rather than going down, in the WBC area. Mr Chapman had cautioned against reviewing the Core Strategy at this stage but some wished to review it in the hope that housing numbers would be reduced. This would take two years at a cost of £600000. Surveys had already indicated that higher housing numbers were needed (above 623). Mr McCulloch asked where the numbers came from and Mr Chapman said from national statistics, which indicated an increase to 800 plus offices. Housing development would be better if built in one of the four strategic locations, as laid out in the Core Strategy, as they would include infrastructure. If Arborfield Garrison did not become available for development a replacement site would have to be found and this would then require a partial review of the Core Strategy. Mr Chapman said that there was no update of the TIF replacement. WBC were planning a new refuse system, which would extend the green waste collection. Reading were currently re-cycling 70% of their waste.

7715: PARISHIONERS QUESTIONS

Mr Robinson asked about the mowing in Charvil Lane, some areas were being done but not the whole length. Mr Chapman would follow this up and the Clerk would e-mail Mr Potts.

7716: NEW STANDING ORDERS.

The Chairman and the Clerk would update the new version with dates specific to Sonning.

7717: FINANCE.

- a) Report. A report had been circulated and was noted. Mr Chapman said the Precept had to be approved by January. A first draft budget would need to be circulated at the November meeting. Councillors would provide Mr Chapman with spending bids by October.

7717: FINANCE (Cont'd).

Mr Chapman said there was a need to agree how to reinvest the £50,000, currently with Santander, as the Bond matured in October.

- b) Payment of Accounts. The Clerk would check the payment of accounts and re-circulate if necessary. Approval was therefore held over to the October meeting.

7718: HIGHWAYS.

Report. Mr Peters had circulated a Highways update and this was noted.

7.5t Environmental Limit The last survey had been carried out on 30 June and 6 prosecutions were pending. However Jewsons had sent in proof of delivery and this one had to be dropped. A further survey would be carried out early in October. Mr Hulley had set up a computer programme to deal with the numerous witness statements required for prosecution. A huge lorry had to back up in Thames Street and, as the police were in attendance, had been issued with an on the spot fine. The SPC Newsletter was asking for more volunteers so the frequency of surveys could be increased. BBC would be updated shortly. Sonning Lane The original plans to start resurfacing on 26 August had been delayed until 16 September with the bulk of work being done over the weekend 18/19 September, subject to the weather. Holme Park Farm Lane would be resurfaced at the same time. Sonning Lane would be closed at non-peak times with diversions in place to allow access. Highways Working Group. Mr Peters and Mr Chapman had met with Sonning and Sonning Eye Society to provide an update and had explained that SPC intended to meet WBC regarding a temporary no left turn into the High Street from Pearson Road/Sonning Lane. This would be supported with, preferred route to the bridge, signs on the A4. Once data was available showing the impact this would have on all roads a presentation would be made to residents and a survey carried out. WBC plans for the proposed no right hand turn out of Sonning Lane onto the A4 were being finalised and SPC would be invited to view the completed plans. The no left turn into the High Street could also be discussed. A road sign audit could be carried out when Councillors delivered the newsletters, other issues, such as potholes, could also be identified. The next Highways Working Group Meeting would be held after the WBC meeting. Top Three Highway Priorities. WBC had requested Sonning's top 3 priorities. Following discussion these were confirmed as: 1. Junction Sonning Lane with A4. 2 Temporary no left turn into High Street. 3 Change in Priority at Pearson Road junction with Pound Lane. Following discussion it was agreed that the Highways WG would look into the possibilities of extending the 20mph zone. Mr Peters would inform WBC that Mr McCulloch had agreed to take on responsibility for reporting highway maintenance issues to WBC.

7719: RECREATION & ENVIRONMENT W. G.

Report. The Chairman had circulated a report, which was noted. The Chairman said that thanks were due to Mr Chapman for the huge amount of work he had put into ensuring that the Playbuilder project was a success. Thanks were also due to Mr Chapman and Mr Pascal for the major task of cutting back the hedge on the SLTC boundary and to WBC for supplying a lorry to remove all the cuttings. SCC would reseed the field where necessary and Mr Chapman would purchase the seed. SCC would also take on the maintenance of the area in front of the goal near the playground and the goal would be removed to allow this.

SLTC Hut. The Chairman said that following agreement at the July meeting SLTC had come back suggesting that they revert to the original design, plus an upmarket shed for the eco toilet, as they had only allocated £3000 to the project and could not find the additional sum. Following discussion it was agreed to approve the new proposal allowing up to £8717

7719: RECREATION & ENVIRONMENT W. G. (Cont'd)

(plus VAT) to be used from the maintenance fund (£1217 above the £7500 originally agreed). SLTC would be informed that, if using these funds resulted in a shortfall in the tennis court resurfacing fund, SLTC would have to make up the difference from their own funds or the resurfacing would have to be delayed until there was sufficient money in the fund.

Compound Containers. The Chairman said that there was now no need to move the containers. It might be possible to use the redundant SLTC shed for the SPC mower.

Beech Tree. A fungus was growing on the tree in the playground. Canon Tree Care had acted swiftly and reported that this indicated that the tree was in a dangerous condition. As it was located in the playground the recommendation was to remove it quickly and Canon had quoted £675. Reluctantly Councillors agreed there was no other option, but the consent of WBC had to be obtained before any work was carried out. The Clerk would inform Canon Tree Care.

Safety Checks. Mr Chapman had carried these out and provided the Clerk with a report.

7720: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

Update. In the absence of Mr Farnese there was no update. The Clerk reported that Mr Doyle was in the process of replacing the face of noticeboards, which was a great improvement. The position of the Pound Lane noticeboard was discussed and it was agreed that this should be moved to the other side of the bus shelter to allow better access.

7721: POLICE AND SECURITY.

The Chairman said that a temporary PCSO would be allocated to Sonning in the near future and Nicola Sheppard was continuing in the area. NAG had received 40 replies to their questionnaire from Charvil and the next survey would be carried out in Sonning. Mr Peters said that he had been disappointed that there had been no mention of NAG or Neighbourhood Watch on the police stand at the Sonning Show. Mr Peters now received speeding statistics by e-mail. Any complaints about speeding should be sent to WBC who were responsible for allocating SID to encourage the use of SID in Sonning. Mr Robinson said that speeding was a problem in Charvil Lane.

7722: WEB SITE.

M/S Robinson said that the minutes needed to be updated. It was reiterated that the payment of accounts would be removed from the site.

7723: ACTION LIST.

This was reviewed and updated.

7724: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next Meeting would be held on Tuesday 12 October at 7.30pm in the Pavilion.

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