

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the Pavilion, Pound Lane, Sonning, on Tuesday 10 December 2013 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT.

Mr P J Doyle, (Chairman), Mr A Evans, Mr A E Farnese, Mr T Fisher, Mr J Hargrave, Mr S D Liddiard, Mrs P Pownall, Ms V Reeve, Mr I Runnalls, Mrs L A Bates (Clerk). Cllr M Haines (WBC). No visitors.

APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS.

There were no apologies. The Chairman welcomed all those present.

8372: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

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

8373: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest.

8374: DEFIBRILLATOR.

Ms Reeve said that the defibrillator was now on order and delivery was expected imminent. The Chairman had asked SSE to look at the connections in the phone kiosk, which were still in place. Having tested the connections SSE had found them to be in full working order and it would be a simple matter to make the connection.

8375: CORRESPONDENCE.

Susanne Nelson-Wehmeyer. The Clerk had been informed that Ms Nelson Wehmeyer was to be replaced by Andrew Molton following restructuring at WBC on 4 December. Mr Molton would become Head of Governance and Improvement Services. Mary Severin, who had been very helpful in the past would remain as the Council's solicitor.

WW1 Opportunity. Several Parishes within the Wokingham Borough were planning to mark the beginning of WW1 by arranging tours of the District War memorials. Sonning's War memorial was in the Church so the PCC would need to be involved but Councillors were supportive in principle.

Berkshire Sports. A rather strong e-mail had been sent to the Council regarding the lane leading from Sonning Lane up to South Hill. Complaints had been made to WBC regarding the lane's dangerous condition and Berkshire Sports believed that these had been from SPC. The Club appeared to be responsible for the maintenance but adjoining land owners were being asked to make a contribution, in SPC's case to contribute £100 annually. Following discussion the Chairman proposed making a £100 contribution, Mr Farnese seconded and this was unanimously approved but the Council would reserve the right to reconsider the contribution on an annual basis based on the condition of the lane and would make the first payment after the road had been repaired to their satisfaction. The Clerk would reply to this effect. The Clerk would copy the correspondence to SLTC as there was some reference to SLTC members causing obstruction in the lane by parking and to using the Berkshire Sports facilities.

The Chairman said that the approach road to the Church along-side the Bull Inn was in urgent need of repairs, he would take a photograph and send to WBC.

8376: PLANNING.

The Chairman said that 4 West Drive had been approved. The work to 1 Old bath Road was

8376: PLANNING (Cont'd)

ongoing, it was difficult to see if the replacement roof was larger than shown on the revised drawings. An amendment had been submitted for 7 Old Bath Road. The advertisement application for the stickers on the telephone kiosk was ongoing but the application for change of use had been approved. The Fire Station site had been sold for over £1M.

Letter to Claire Lawrence. It was over five weeks since request for information on how the S106 money for the Fire Station had been calculated had been sent (28 October) but no reply had been received. The Clerk would chase this up. Mr Farnese said that WBC had chosen to use the outside person to decide the S106 following the applicants appeal and had chosen to accept his decision so they were answerable. The site had cost the applicant £530,000 and been sold for over £1M but they were not required to make a contribution to affordable housing, while August Field had been required to pay £40,000.

Cllr Haines said that Sonning Golf Club had submitted an application for a new entrance onto Butts Hill Road but this was not in the parish of Sonning. It was surprising that SPC had not been consulted.

Details of the boundary treatment for Greendown had been submitted to WBC.

The following applications were ongoing: 1 Sonning Gate (F/2012/1398); Land facing Duffield Road (F/2013/0634); 11 Hawthorn Way (F/2013/1549); Pearson Hall (A/2013/2036); 35 Little Glebe Sonning (F/2013/2150):

The following applications had been approved: Pilgrims Thames Street (F/2013/1742); Sonning Court Thames Street (F/2013/2074); Microsoft Campus Thames Valley Park (EXT/2013/1963):

The following new applications had been received. 4 West Drive (F/2013/2296) Two-storey side/rear extension with integral garage two storey rear extension single storey rear extension conversion of garage into habitable accommodation single storey front extension to form porch to dwelling and new access.

The following applications had been withdrawn. Studio Cottage Pound Lane (F/2013/2152).

8377: CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT.

The Chairman said that Mr Hart had informed him that Ms Coulter and Mr O'Callaghan were working on the Assessment but felt a Neighbourhood Plan was important. The Chairman said that SPC would need to take a view on this.

8378: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR.

Mr Farnese asked if WBC had changed the heating contractors for the properties in Glebe Gardens. A number of unknown vehicles were visiting the area causing some concern amongst residents. Cllr Haines agreed to find out who the new contractor was.

8379: PARISHIONERS QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

8380: PROPOSALS FOR QUEENS JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS.

The Chairman said that installation of the lighting had been completed, but there had been some delay due to technical problems caused by the foundations of a very old building preventing the new cable from being installed in the proposed position. This had resulted in the ground workers having to return at an additional cost of £650. Mr McNeil had agreed to pay this cost. The Chairman said that he had received congratulations on the success of the

project and Mr Woodward (Chairman Eye and Dunsden PC) had e-mailed to say how effective

8380: PROPOSALS FOR QUEENS JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS (Cont'd).

the lighting was. Mrs May (MP) had said that the lighting would be a huge benefit to the community. The next stage would be to install a commemorative plate. The Chairman had two quotes for a stainless steel plate and proposed accepting the quote from PME Engraving Ltd for £120, Mr Farnese seconded and this was unanimously approved. Following further discussion it was agreed to place the plate on the traffic light control cabinet and the Chairman would circulate a form of words for approval. Mr Runnalls asked about changing the colour of the cabinet and the Chairman said that there was special paint for the purpose and it was agreed to purchase this in green. The old County boundary marker had come to light and the Chairman proposed reinstalling it on the River side as it was too long to return to the old position. Mr Runnalls said care would be needed to prevent damage to the Bridge structure. Mrs Pownall asked about additional funding and the Chairman said that he was looking into this together with Mr Hargrave and Mr Fisher.

8381: FINANCE.

- a) Report. The Clerk had prepared a report which was noted.
- b) 2014/15 Draft Budget. Following discussion it was agreed that there should be no increase in the Precept with money being taken out of reserves if necessary to cover any shortfall. Councillors would look again at the draft budget to see if any savings could be made. The Chairman said that he had spoken to Barclays Bank in Woodley about opening an account now that the Yorkshire account had been moved to the Piccadilly Circus branch making it difficult to communicate. Following discussion it was agreed that the account should be moved to Woodley and Clerk should complete the application form.
- c) Payment of Accounts. The Chairman proposed making the following payments Mr Runnalls seconded and these were unanimously approved.

November

Mr K Trimmings Litter October + part November	213.88
Quadron – Dog Bins	83.58
Inland Revenue – Tax + NIC	266.56
Mr S Liddiard – Refund Pound Lane Tree	86.82
A C Plumbing – Repairs to cistern	112.00
Quadron – Dog Bins	83.58
BALC – Finance Training	48.68
Sonning Landscapes – Mow Wharf	<u>52.00</u>
	<u>946.42</u>

8382: HIGHWAYS.

Mr Evans said that it was important for people to understand that the Society's Highways vision had not been endorsed by SPC. The Chairman said that he had spoken to James Lambourne, the University Farm manager and he had said forget the footpath along Charvil Lane. Mr Farnese said that the Council should look at the Society's document to see if there were practical ways of achieving any of their aspirations. Mr Liddiard said that he wished to withdraw from the Highways Working Group as he felt the expectations were unrealistic.

8383: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G.

- a) Report. Mr Liddiard said that the tree that had lost its branch was not in good condition and the Clerk agreed to ask Canon tree Care for advice. The Clerk would also ask for advice about the roots from the Horse Chestnut tree damaging the tennis courts.
- b) Safety Checks. Mr Farnese was now carrying these out. He had noticed that the playground was being used by an exercise group but was not conflicting with children playing as it was taking place during school hours.
The Chairman said that thanks were due to Mr Liddiard who had repaired one of the metal bollards, which had been knocked down.
- c) Request from SCC. Mrs Pownall said that she had hope to have some drawings to show the SCC proposed store for the new scoreboard but they had not arrived. The proposal would be for it to be located close to the playground and for it to be a permanent fixture. It was agreed that the drawings were required in order to make a decision and Mrs Pownall agreed to bring them to the January meeting.

8384: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

Report. Mr Farnese said that the Wharf was looking good. Mr Farnese was concerned that the sign indicating the route of the electric cable where it crossed the River from the Wharf was being obscured by the bushes growing on the bank.

Mr Farnese and Mr Liddiard would continue to look for a suitable place for a new lamppost.

8385: WEB SITE.

Ms Reeve said that she had a lot to say and asked that the Web Site be higher on the agenda at the January meeting. The draft front page for the web site had been circulated and both A and C had received support. Mr Gilmore needed to access the old web site in order to continue and it was agreed to allow this. The proposal was for all Councillors to have their own web page and it was agreed that everyone should submit a brief piece about themselves. These pages would also include the individual's declaration of interests, which would be encrypted so no one else could change them. There would also be a contact page but no e-mail addresses would be visible. The PC logo would need to be digital and Mr Evans would ask his wife to prepare some examples. The lock keepers details would be online so that any alerts could be updated and a link to the various sites (such as the newsletter) would be included. It was hoped that his would be ready for approval at the end of January. The Chairman would write up details for the Planning page and the Chairman of other groups would do the same. Mr Evans said that neighbourhood Watch would like to be able to contact residents through the web site and Mr Liddiard suggested that residents should be referred to the Thames Valley Environment Group through the web site.

8386: NEWSLETTER

It was agreed that articles for the next edition should be ready by the end of February.

8387: ACTION LIST.

This was reviewed and updated.

8388: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next Meeting would be held on Tuesday 14 January 2014 7.30pm.

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