

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the Pavilion, Pound Lane, Sonning, on Tuesday 8 July 2014 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT.

Mr P J Doyle (Chairman), Mr A Evans, Mr J Hargrave, Mr T Fisher, Mr S D Liddiard, Mrs P Pownall, Ms V Reeve, Mr I Runnalls. Mrs L A Bates (Clerk). 1 Visitor.

APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS.

Apologies were received from Mr A E Farnese. The Chairman welcomed all those present.

8504: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

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

8505: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

Mr Liddiard said that he would have an interest if the Fire Station were discussed.

8506: CORRESPONDENCE.

SLTC. The secretary had written regarding concerns about the conifers leaning over. Mr Liddiard said that Henley Contractors had said that one tree needed to be straightened in the autumn but was not a hazard. SLTC also wanted permission to allow RBCS to use the courts on an occasional, non-fee paying basis and this was agreed. Mr Liddiard said that the David Penny hedge needed some attention.

Letter from Mazars to Mr *****. The Clerk had been copied in on the reply to Mr ***** letter to the Audit Commission who had correctly passed it on to the Auditor. Mazars had advised Mr ***** that objections to the accounts could not be made until on or after the Appointed Date for electors to exercise their rights which would be 21 July. Mazars had asked Mr ***** to inspect the accounts and confirm the specific grounds for his objection and the action he wished to take. Mazars had also encouraged Mr ***** to try to resolve the matters of concern through discussion with the Council.

Travellers Needs Assessment. Any replies to this were required by 18 July.

RH&CC. Notification that, under permitted development rights, Vodafone and Telefonica UK had agreed to jointly operate and manage a single network grid across the UK. Vodafone had identified the RH&CC site as suitable for an equipment upgrade. It was agreed that there were no objections to this proposal.

Letter re Flooding Issues from Rt. Hon T May (MP). Mrs May had written to thank the Council for responding to her request for information on any effect the flooding might have had in Sonning. Mrs May had enclosed a detailed report of the comments and the work she had undertaken to address these concerns.

Neighbourhood Plans. The Chairman said that Claire Lawrence's assistant had confirmed that, as Sonning had few potential development areas, a Neighbourhood Plan was not needed.

Mr *****. Mr ***** said that he had sent an e-mail denying responsibility for the Council's decision to seek legal advice. The Chairman said that this could be discussed during Parishioners Question Time.

8507: PLANNING.

The Chairman said that there were few new applications. Two development sites were not displaying safety notices and were not fenced off. The Fire Station on the other had was well secured. This was a matter for building control.

8507: PLANNING (Cont'd).

There were three new applications, Cherry Tree Cottage, Sonning Dene and the Fire Station. The Chairman said that Claire Lawrence had asked Rebecca Bird who was dealing with Neighbourhood Plans to contact the Chairman. The question was whether Sonning needed a Plan. The Farm was likely to be developed in the long term but this was some years away. Rachael Bird had responded and had agreed with Claire Lawrence that, as there was little opportunity for large scale development in a parish like Sonning, a Neighbourhood Plan might not seem the best use of its resources, particularly as there was an up to date local plan and a Design Statement. If there were any issues that regularly occurred in Sonning, even in small scale development such as householder extensions, a neighbourhood Plan could target these specific issues. However in general Ms Bird agreed that a neighbourhood Plan might be more trouble, and more costly, than it was worth for Sonning.

The Chairman had been asked why the Council had not objected to the Church plans. The Chairman said that the Council had expressed concerns about the only relevant planning issue, that of parking.

The following applications were ongoing: Elm Gables Parkway Drive (F/2014/0144): Little Court Farmhouse (LB/2014/0465 & F/2014/0465): Sonning Farm Charvil Lane (F/2014/0707): Sonning Farm Charvil Lane (F/2014/0815): South Meadow Cottage (CLP/2014/0973).

The following applications had been approved: Sunnyridge Parkway Drive (F/2014/0744: .35 Old Bath Road (NMT/2014/1210).

The following new applications had been received. Cherry Tree Cottage (F/2014/1234) Erection of single storey rear extension to dwelling: Sonning Dene (F/2014/1402) Erection of two storey rear extension and side porch. Also raise roof to rear: Sonning Fire Station (A/2014/1327) Erection of three Foamex signs and 3 Flags 5m high at the front of the developments.

8508: CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT.

The Chairman said that the Society would finish dealing with the document by the end of July. Ms Coulter had asked for a copy of the new SPC logo in either jpeg or tiff to include in the document. Ms Reeve agreed to e-mail a copy to the Clerk.

8509: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR.

In the absence of Cllr Haines there were no questions.

8510: PARISHIONERS QUESTIONS

Mr McCulloch said that the Minutes suggested that he had forced the Council to seek legal advice from the solicitors. He had acted as any citizen had the right to do and had not sought legal advice. Mr McCulloch asked that the Council acknowledge that he had not forced them to be so irresponsible. The Council had not stood to lose anything except their reputation. Mrs Pownall said the Council did need advice and the Chairman said that although WBC had provided advice they were unable to provide legal advice and advised the Council to consult their solicitors. Mr McCulloch had created the situation whereby the Council needed legal advice. Mr Evans said they Council were not questioning Mr McCulloch's rights and Mr McCulloch said the Minutes stated that he had 'forced' them to seek legal advice, this was not so and he asked for an apology. The Chairman said that the Council had to be sure of their position and the solicitors had clarified the situation.

Mr McCulloch said, given the needless carnage, that the forthcoming WW1 'Celebrations' were better described as Commemorations. The Chairman said the Council were celebrating the armistice.

8511: WEB SITE.

Ms Reeve said that a child at Willow bank junior school had died recently and the child's mother was campaigning to have defibrillators in schools. The Council had discussed having a defibrillator at Beech Lodge as it would always be accessible whereas the school was often closed. It was agreed that Ms Reeve could draft a letter to Sonning School, Beech Lodge, Charvil FC, Sonning FC explaining that SPC wished to do this and asking for their support. The cost would be £1900 and the Chairman suggested that the Scarecrow Committee should be approached with a request for funding. Ms Reeve said that, in future, the Breakfast Club would be held in the school rather than Beech Lodge. The defibrillator would work on children as well as adults. The Clerk would write to the Scarecrow Committee.

Ms Reeve said that there had been a very productive meeting with Mrs Hicks, Mr Liddiard and herself. Some policies and a personal statement from the Clerk were still needed. Ms Reeve agreed to do a report on the web site for the Newsletter and the Parish Magazine. Mr Gilmore had offered to operate the web site but it was felt that it would be better if he trained up one or two others to update it. Mr Gilmore would be in a position to pull the new website together during the last two weeks of August and the web site would be 70% complete prior to the launch date ready for proof reading. RBCS would be asked to allocate some students to proof read and Ms Reeve, Mrs Pownall and Mr Hargrave would liaise over this. Mrs Green and Cllr Haines would be asked to proof read as well. The Chairman asked if the changes could be accommodated and Ms Reeve confirmed that they could. Mr Evans said that neighbourhood Watch had asked to be given some space.

8512: FINANCE.

a) Report. The Clerk had prepared a report which was noted.

b) Payment of Accounts

Mr Hargrave proposed making the following payments. Mr Fisher seconded and this was unanimously approved

June

Quadron – Dog Bins April	84.24
Mr S Liddiard – Padlock & key pavilion shed	108.06
Mr K Trimmings Litter – May	145.83
Business Services CAS – Annual Insurance	820.00
Business Services CAS – Pavilion Insurance	650.00
Business Services CAS – Play Equipment Insurance	575.00
Business Services CAS – SLTC Insurance	178.40
Stuart Clark – Weed High Street	30.00
Thames Water – Allotment Water	20.73
Thames Water – Square Water	29.24
Sonning Landscapes Mow Wharf 26 + mow Playground 52	78.00
Sonning Landscapes - Cut Pound Lane Hedge	45.00
Henley Landscapes – Mow Outfield	<u>60.00</u>
	2816.50

8513: PROPOSALS FOR QUEENS JUBILEE.

Mr Fisher said that he and Mr Hargrave would continue to seek further contributions for the lighting where they could.

8514: HIGHWAYS.

Mr Evans said that there had been a good turn-out for the Neighbourhood Watch event in the Pearson Hall. The aim was to provide security advice for residents of a small village. The Sonning branch of Neighbourhood Watch were keen for Sonning to become a Neighbourhood Watch Village, which would require signs on the A4. Mr Evans would bring proposals to the September Council meeting. Neighbourhood Watch also wanted to provide an information pack for distribution with the Council Newsletter.

The Chairman said there was a gas problem in Pearson Road, near Turpins, and excavation had exposed the gas main, which was very old and dated back to the 1880's.

The Chairman said that the Playhatch Road needed to be repaired urgently before the winter.

8515: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G.

- a) Report. Mrs Pownall said that the compound had been broken into, the lock and shed key had been removed. It was agreed that Mrs Pownall would discuss purchasing/renting a steel shed with Mr Farnese.

The Chairman said that WBC had now completed the work to the Wharf including extra earth and reseeded, he would keep a check on the area. Mr Collier was continuing to mow as much of the area as he could.

The Clerk said that Thames Water had asked for a key to the Wharf gate as they needed access out of hours. There were only two keys and new ones could not be cut. Thames Water had suggested putting their own key on the Council's heavy duty chain. Following discussion it was agreed to try this.

- b) Safety Checks. In the absence of Mr Farnese there was no report.
- c) SCC Scoreboard. Mrs Pownall said there was no update.
- d) Thames Water. The work to install a new water supply to Beech Lodge had been completed with little disturbance to the playground surface.
- e) Request from Great House. There was no update.

8516: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

- a) Condition of Allotment. Mr Liddiard said that he, the Chairman and Mr Farnese had looked at the Allotment hedge. There were some gaps but he had some whips, which he offered to plant and this was agreed. The hedge on the southern boundary might need some attention. Mr Liddiard also had twenty Cherry trees and 20 Birch trees and it might be possible to sell these at the Sonning Show.

Mr Evans asked about the poppies that had been planted. Mr Liddiard said those on the Wharf had been the most successful, those on the recreation ground had mostly died but there were some on the Pound Lane embankment, a few by the Great House and some large ones on the Pearson Road/Charvil Lane corner. None of those on the A4 roundabout had grown.

8517: WW1 CELEBRATIONS 4 OCTOBER.

The Chairman said that the Hall had been booked for 4 October and Mrs Gascoine would arrange the music and entertainment and provide the song sheets. There would be two half hour performances. Mr Sheppard would speak about the infantry. Dr McIlroy on the medical

situation and Mr Runnalls on the Royal Flying Corps. Mr Runnalls also had a propeller, which

8517: WW1 CELEBRATIONS 4 OCTOBER.

could be displayed, and he said that it was a little known fact that 4,800 people had been injured in air raids. Mr Baldwin was suggested as another source of information. There would be a display of photographs, flags etc. The Clerk would put something for the Parish Magazine and there would be information in the newsletter. The Chairman. Mr Fisher, Mrs Pownall and the Clerk agreed to be part of a sub-committee to move the arrangements forwards and the Chairman would arrange a meeting as soon as possible after Mr Fisher returned on 25 July.

8518: ACTION LIST.

This was reviewed and updated.

The Chairman said that Mr Beckinsale had suggested cutting a dip at the car park end of the field and using the excavated soil to fill in each end. The dip would be grassed over and a pipe would be installed to take excess water from the field into the pound.

The Clerk would provide Mr Evans with the contact details of those remaining members of the Traffic Working Group with a view to establishing the Speed Watch.

8519: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next Meeting would be held on Tuesday 9 September 2014 at 7.30pm.

The next planning meeting would be held on Wednesday 16 July in the Pearson Hall at 6.30pm.

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