

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the Pavilion, Pound Lane, Sonning, on Tuesday 13 June 2017 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT. Mr A E Farnese (Chairman), Mr T Fisher, Mrs S Jacobs, Mr P Morrison, Mrs P Pownall.
Mrs L A Bates (Clerk). 1 Visitor.

9059: APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS. There were no apologies. The Chairman welcomed all those present.

9060: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no Declarations.

9061: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

The Minutes of the last meeting were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

9062: CASUAL VACANCY.

There was no progress on this.

9063: CORRESPONDENCE

Sonning Bridge Repairs. The Clerk had chased Mr Hong and he had now replied to say that Giles Stephens had approved the materials to be used. Due to the difficulties associated with the need to close the Bridge during work no date had been agreed. Mr Hong had reiterated that the damage was not structural.

Hire of KGV Field. The Clerk had been asked if the field could be hired for a Family Fun Day 11.00am to 8.00pm. The date had clashed with a SCC fixture. Following discussion it was agreed that such a large event could not be held at the same time as a cricket fixture but applications from residents might be considered on their merits.

Berkshire Vision AGM 29 September 2.00pm. The Chairman had already received an invitation to attend.

S106. WBC had approved the S106 payment for the playground equipment.

Grove Cottage. The owner had contacted the Clerk to ask for the two street lights on her property to be reconnected. The Clerk and SEC knew nothing about a disconnection but SEC would inspect the lights and report back.

Repainting the Pavilion. SCC had repainted the pavilion, whilst it was a great improvement the Chairman asked that the Clerk should contact SCC and ask them to inform SPC of any planned work in future.

9064: PLANNING.

Report. The Chairman said that he had been unable to attend the Golf Club planning appeal due to the loss of his pet and Mr Fisher had been called upon to look after his grandson who was unwell. Cllr Haines was unhappy but had accepted the explanation having spoken to the Clerk.

The following applications were on going: Reading Blue Coat School Sonning Lane (152342-F/2014/2319) split decision: Holme Park Farm House, Holme Park Farm Lane (153218): Readingensians (170580). 33 West Drive (170661): Grove Cottage (170816): Grove Cottage (170817): 3 The High Street (170823): Pavilion Holme Park (170964): Inniscarra Holmemoor Drive (170892): August Field (170894):

The following applications had been approved: Willowmere Bath Road (170093): Estoril 9 Old Bath Road (171053).

The following applications had been refused. Charfield Cottage (170895).

9064: PLANNING (Cont'd).

The following applications had been withdrawn. 12a South Drive (170815).

WBC had replied to the following application: Land Adjacent (to West) of Orchard Lodge Sonning Eye (171201).

The following new applications had been received. 2 South Drive (170989). Erection of a first floor front/ side extension; two storey rear/ side extension and a two storey rear extension to the existing dwelling: Holme Park Farm House (171247). Certificate of existing lawful development for the use of manege, stables, barn and yard for commercial equestrian business: Pool Court (171117). Full application for the proposed demolition of existing dwelling and replacement with new dwelling with basement and garage annex: The Atrium (171293) Full application for the proposed demolition of existing dwelling and the erection of a replacement dwelling with basement, detached garage, garden store buildings and associated landscaping in a Conservation Area: 89 Pound Lane (171356). Householder application for proposed erection of single storey wooden summerhouse at rear of garden: The Lawns Old Bath Road (171424). Full planning application for the demolition of two dwellings and replacement of five dwellings, accessed of the existing drive including landscaping: 47 Old Bath Road (171631). Householder application for the proposed erection of a single storey rear extension with glazed lantern and erection of rear dormer extensions to converted loft space.

9065: CONSERVATION AREA ASSESSMENT.

Giles Stephens had provided additional prices for printing, which were all very high. A run of 250 would cost £8.73 per copy. The Society had already informed Mr Stephens that they would not be proceeding with an order from WBC. A copy of the document could be downloaded from the WBC web site and it was agreed this was currently the best option.

9066: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR.

In the absence of Cllr Haines there were no questions

9067: PARISHIONER QUESTIONS

Mr Doyle asked what progress had been made in securing the area at the entrance to Liguge Way, now that the damaged posts had been removed. The Chairman said that various options had been investigated and he had a new sample planter for consideration. The children from the school were keen to plant out the planters and maintain them. Mr Doyle said that it was important that parking in the area was prevented, it was a matter of safety. Mr Fisher said that recently the situation had improved and there was little parking in the area, SPC would be responsible if anything happened. The Chairman said that the planters were part of an improvement scheme for the area, which included moving the Twinning noticeboard, introducing a noticeboard for the Society and replacing and moving the SPC noticeboard. A 'Welcome to Sonning' sign would also be installed and other ideas were being considered.

Mr Doyle said that the pavement outside his house would be reinstated by WBC on 15 June when they tarmacked the new entrance to his house. Mr Doyle left the meeting at this point.

9068: FINANCE.

- a) Report. The Clerk had prepared a report which was noted.
- b) Annual Return. Mr Morrison and the Clerk had prepared figures for the Annual Return. Mr Morrison proposed accepting the figures and the completed Governance Statement, Mr Fisher seconded and both were unanimously approved. The Chairman and the Clerk signed the Annual Return.

9068: FINANCE (Cont'd).

- c) Payment of Accounts. Mr Morrison proposed and Mr Fisher seconded making the following payments and these were unanimously approved.

PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS JUNE '17 (1 TO 31 MAY)

| Date | Chq | Name | Service item | Gross | VAT | Net | Committee | Sub-Comm. |
|-----------|-----|-----------------|-------------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|
| 9 May 17 | 379 | Westcotec | Speed Sign | 3570.00 | 595.00 | 2975.00 | HIGH & LIGHT | Lighting |
| 9 May '17 | 380 | Heartbeat Trust | Defibrillator Batteries | 93.60 | 15.60 | 78.00 | ADMIN | Misc. |
| 9 May '17 | 381 | ISS | Dog Bins | 156.00 | 26.00 | 130.00 | ENVIRON | Emptying |
| 9 May '17 | 392 | T. Fisher | Padlock & Cable | 43.86 | 0.00 | 43.86 | HIGHWAYS | Misc. |
| 9 May '17 | 393 | Henley Land | Outfield x 3 | 178.75 | 0.00 | 178.75 | RECREATION | Sports |
| 9 May '17 | 393 | Hensley Land | Main Mowing x 1 | 490.00 | 0.00 | 490.00 | RECREATION | Mowing |
| 9 May '17 | 395 | Henley Land | Repairs to Field | 1725.00 | 0.00 | 1725.00 | RECREATION | Weed/feed |
| 9 May '17 | 396 | Playsafety | ROSPA Inspection | 222.60 | 37.10 | 185.50 | RECREATION | Playground |
| 9 May '17 | 397 | Sonning CC | Part Skip Hire | 195.30 | 0.00 | 195.30 | PAVILION | Misc. |
| 9 May '17 | 398 | A E Farnese | AGM Refreshments | 67.30 | 0.00 | 67.30 | ADMIN | Misc. |
| 16 May 17 | DD | Brit Gas | SLTC Electric | 51.13 | 2.43 | 48.70 | SPORTS | SLTC |
| 25 May 17 | DD | Brit gas | Pavilion Electric | 93.33 | 4.44 | 88.89 | SPORTS | Pav. Electric |
| | | | Total | 6886.87 | 680.57 | 6206.30 | | |

- d) Appointment of Internal Auditor. Mr Morrison proposed appointing Mr Williams as the Internal Auditor, Mr Fisher seconded and this was unanimously approved.

9069: HIGHWAYS.

Withdrawal of School Crossing Patrol. WBC had replied to the objections, from the School and SPC, to the removal of the school crossing patroller to say they understood the disappointment expressed. They had also said, with regard to the request to convert the Zebra Crossing, that they were prioritising assessment of other sites with no controlled crossings facilities and when this was complete they would be undertaking a wider review when the Sonning site would be considered. The School had asked if SPC could get the Sonning crossing prioritised. The Chairman said he had made enquired but this seemed unlikely. The parents seemed keen to set up a parents patrol and Mr Fisher agreed to discuss possibilities with the Head Teacher. The Chairman said that he was annoyed about WBC penny pinching on the patrollers while spending excessively on other projects.

Speed Indicator. Mr Fisher said that Indicator seemed to be working well. Having looked at the data it appeared to show that the parked cars outside the school slowed traffic speeds and he had delayed discussing their removal with the Head Teacher until this became clearer. Cllr Tony Mansfield (Hurst PC) had contacted Mr Fisher for advice about a speed indicator and had suggested that a sign saying 'Speed' should be erected above the SID. Mr Fisher said that he had replaced the batteries several time and Westcotec suggested that the sign might be picking up traffic, travelling legally, in the 30mph zone as the two zones adjoined each other. Westcotec had suggested installing the SID on the opposite side of the road but no suitable post for installation existed. Mr Runnells suggested turning the sign around so it faced the Pearson Road direction.

Mr Fisher said that the initial data from SID showed that eight vehicles were travelling between 45 – 50 mph, 45 travelling at 40-45mph and 452 were travelling at 35-40 mph, all at varying times of the day and night. The average compared to the 85%ile figure shown on the WBC survey carried out in January was 3mph slower but the number of vehicles was higher. This might be due to differing circumstances and subsequent data would need to be examined in order to get an overall picture. Mr Runnalls agreed to be on hand when the batteries were next changed so he could change them if necessary.

Speed/Lorry Watch. Mr Fisher said that he had mentioned this at the Police training session but no one had contacted him. Mr Fisher and Mrs Jacobs were yet to carry out the Lorry Watch.

9069: HIGHWAYS (Cont'd).

Sonning Lane Parking. Mr Fisher said that there had been a successful meeting, to discuss the parking, with the RBCS Headmaster, Jesse Elzinger, and representatives from RBCS Trustees, WBC, SPC and the Sonning and Sonning Eye Society. Mr Horton (WBC) had agreed to prepare some initial options for parking restrictions including, passing places and protections at junctions/corners etc. and also Some, time limited, spaces nearer the village. Unfortunately these could not be introduced until WBC took over responsibility from the Police as part of the Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) project (possibly by the end of the year) and the School had been hoping to have something in place by September 2017._

Removal of Road Humps. Mr Horton had asked Mr Fisher if SPC would mind if the road hump in Pound Lane was removed. Mr Fisher said, as it was outside his house, he would not. Mrs Plant had complained that it was affecting her health.

9070: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G.

- a) Safety Checks. These had been carried out. The Chairman said that the playground sign had been updated and he and Mr Fisher would carry out the annual power wash of the equipment.
- b) New Pavilion. Mrs Pownall said that revised plans had been prepared, storage would be essential. There were no cost to SPC so far but a surveyor would be required at an approximate cost of £140. Mrs Pownall would show Mr Pascal the drawings as the immediate neighbour and most likely to be affected by the proposals. Mrs Pownall would also ask Mr Anderson how much higher the new pavilion would be compared to the existing.
- c) SCC Practice nets. These had now been installed, the Chairman said that he would meet Mr Ray to sign off the work.
- d) S&SE Society Noticeboard in the Copse. The Chairman said that SPC's noticeboard was in poor condition and it might be better to move it to another more accessible position, together with the noticeboards belonging to the Twining Committee and S&SE Society. The whole area needed a rethink to include the 'Welcome to Sonning' sign, the planters and the noticeboards. It was also agreed that a 'Welcome to Sonning' sign should be placed in Charvil Lane. The Chairman agreed to cost the prices for the planters and the signs.

9071: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

Safety Checks. The Chairman had carried out the safety checks on the Wharf.

Lighting Upgrade. Mr Fisher said that he had received an updated price for the heritage lights of £626.10 per column, which would include embellishments and a shield could be included for an additional £21. Columns P30 and P21 had not been installed yet but were on the list to be done. The Chairman proposed that nine columns in the CA should be replaced with heritage style at a cost of £5635, plus four new style columns, outside the CA, at a cost of £760. Mr Fisher seconded and this was unanimously approved. The West Drive heritage columns would be added to the list provided West Drive were happy with the price.

Bus Shelters. It had been reported that the cover on the bus shelter on the A4 was loose and busses had damaged the roof to the bus shelter in Pearson Road. The Chairman would check this out.

Pound Lane Hedge. The Chairman said that Mr Collier would tidy the hedge outside Parkway Drive when he could but was unable to cut back Mr Wynn Jones' hedge.

Allotments. Mrs Jacobs said that she had seen Mr Tinson who was happy with the condition of the fence. One of the allotments needed the grass cutting, the Chairman would speak to the tenant. Mr Collier had made a good job of trimming the hedge.

9072: NEWSLETTER.

Mr Morrison had spoken to Mr Gilmore about his suggestions to improve visits to the SPC website. The S&SE Society were encouraging people to log into part of their website. If SPC would like to do the same it could be progressed with a piece in the Newsletter and a form for residents to return. It was agreed to support this idea and Mrs Pownall would include the information in the newsletter. All copy to be with Mrs Pownall by 23 June.

9073: WEB SITE.

This had been covered above.

9074: ACTION LIST.

The Action List was reviewed and updated.

9075: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 11 July at 7.00pm.

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