

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the Pavilion, Pound Lane, Sonning, on Tuesday 13 February 2018 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT. Mr A E Farnese (Chairman), Mr T Fisher, Mr J Green, Mrs S Jacobs, Mrs P Pownall, Mr I Runnalls. Cllr M Haines (WBC) part time 2 Visitors. Mrs L A Bates (Clerk).

10076: APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS. Apologies accepted from Mrs J Fielder, (holiday), Mr P Morrison (holiday).

The Chairman welcomed all those present and said that with regret he had to report that Mrs Jacobs would resign at the end of the meeting. Mrs Jacobs felt unable to give the time she would wish to Parish Council affairs following the recent change in her circumstance. The Chairman and Councillors wished Mrs Jacobs well and she said that this was much appreciated.

10077: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no Declarations.

10078: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

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

10079: SCC REQUESTS.

Mr Gary Phillips (SCC Chairman) and Mr James Travers thanked the Chairman for allowing them time to bring one or two issues to the meeting. Mr Travers said that the fencing along the boundary with South Hill, from Beech Lodge and running up towards the tennis courts, was in poor condition. Originally it had prevented cricket balls from entering South Hill's garden but no longer did so and this meant delays in retrieving balls. SCC were proposing to replace the fencing in the same material (chicken wire with wooden posts), slightly higher (about .9 metres) at their own cost. Mr Woodhouse would undertake the work. There were no objections to this and Mr Travers agreed to inform Mr Barker (South Hill) about the work, which would probably take place in April. Mr Travers reported that two of the toilets were leaking and Mrs Pownall would ask Ryan Pownall to inspect them. Mr Travers said that the handover date between football and cricket was fast approaching and SCC wondered if SPC had any plans to carry out maintenance to the field at that time. A member of SCC had the facilities available to carry out maintenance and would not charge for his time. If a date could be agreed with CFC SCC would like to carry out maintenance work to improve the condition of the cricket end. The Chairman said that he would like to hold a meeting with the two clubs in order to finalise the agreement and a hand over date could be discussed at the same time. Councillors would agree a potential dates and invite two members from each club to attend.

Mr Phillips thanked Councillors for submitting the planning application for a new pavilion and said that SCC would be happy to fundraise. However it had been pointed out that SCC would need more than an annual Licence in order to qualify for some grants. Mr Fisher said that a letter from SPC saying that SCC's legal use was conferred by renewal of an annual licence but that SPC saw no reason why the cricket club wouldn't be able to continue playing at their historical home for at least five years and quite probably many years to come had been sufficient when ECB had provided a grant for the cricket nets.

The Chairman asked how the clubs would manage when the pavilion was demolished. Mr Phillips said that temporary facilities would suffice as many other clubs they played against had very basic conveniences.

The Chairman said that it had been suggested that the existing pavilion could be sold off.

10080: CORRESPONDENCE

Vicar's letter. Following discussion it was agreed to keep an eye on the situation, Mrs Jacobs said that cars parking by the Bull entrance were getting very close to some of the gravestones. Mr Runnalls asked about the Lych gate and the other pedestrian gate and the Chairman agreed to discuss this with the Vicar.

S106. Playground Path. The Clerk had been told that it would be difficult to carry forward some of the S106 funding into 2018/19, that had been allocated to the path in the playground. It had been agreed that this should take place in the spring and the Clerk should give the go ahead. If the work could not be undertaken before the end of March the Clerk would put other completed projects forward instead.

ROSPA Inspection. It was agreed to order the inspection, which would take place in April.

Pearson Road Closure 8 March. The road would be close between its junction with Pound Lane and the junction with the High Street between 7.00pm and 11.00pm so that Thames Water could undertake sewer cover replacements.

Suggestions for Position of Electronic Speed Indicator. In response to Mr Fishers request for suggested location where the Indicator could be located a resident had suggested in Thames Street at the junction with High Street. Apparently traffic sped up once it came around the corner and up Lee Hill making it dangerous for pedestrians to cross. This would be added to the list.

Tree removal Glebe Gardens. A tree had been felled on WBC land next to 1 Glebe Gardens. Investigations had revealed that Ann Ballard (WBC Trees and Landscape) had taken the action, although the tree was in good health, because it was so close to the adjoining bungalow that its branches overhung the roof of the adjoining bungalow with some even resting on the tiles causing damage. It had not been possible to alleviate the issue by just pruning the tree so it had to be removed

Cars Parked in Pound Lane. A resident had complained that the cones used by CFC to prevent parking on the rec, side of Pound Lane were not working and cars were now parking on the opposite side of the road, which was more dangerous. It was noted that the under 15's would be playing elsewhere in future and this should reduce the number of parked vehicles. Mr Green suggested leaving a gap between the cones either side of the steps would allow vehicles to pull in when necessary.

Cllr Haines arrived at 8.05pm.

Litter Sonning Lane. Mrs Richards had collected several bags of rubbish in Sonning Lane only to find a similar amount of rubbish a week or so later. Mrs Richards felt that much of this was from the Sports Clubs and asked that SPC write asking the Clubs to put rubbish bins at their entrances and asking their grounds staff to clear up after matches. Following discussion it was agreed to ask Mrs Fielder to discuss the matter with Mrs Richards but not to write to the sports clubs as it was felt that much of the litter was tossed out of cars queuing in Sonning Lane at peak times.

WBC men Working Signs. Ms Coulter had found that signs left by WBC contractors in the Sonning Lane bus shelter had been moved towards the bin area next to her entrance and asked that WBC be asked to remove them. Cllr Haines said that the contractors were always leaving signs on site and he would speak to Highways about this. Ms Coulter had also cleaned out the rubbish from the shelter and hoped people would now put their rubbish in the adjacent litter bin.

Path for Charvil Lane. A request asking if there was a footpath that could be used instead of Charvil Lane. Following discussion it was agreed that Charvil Lane was very dangerous but the only alternative would be Pound Lane. Cllr Hines said there had been discussions about a footpath alongside Charvil Lane but this had been abandoned due to safety concerns. The Clerk would reply to this effect.

10081: PLANNING.

Report. Cllr Haines said that a group representing the Northern Parishes Management Group had been set up as part of the Protect Rural Wokingham Campaign. They were campaigning following plans to build in Twyford, Ruscombe and Charvil. There were no plans to develop in Sonning but some of the proposals would affect Sonning. Cllr Haines was distancing himself from the campaign. Their plans were ambitious and included employing lawyers at a cost of £120,000 and were asking parishes to donate £10 per person on each parish electoral register. In the case of Sonning this would amount to £12,910.

Mr Runnalls said that the Pool Court appeal had been dismissed. The wording on application 172698, The Great House, had been revised to more accurately describe the proposal. The following applications had been approved: Pool Court (173369): North Lodge (173465): South Lodge (173442): The Rockery (173639): Butts Hill Bridge (173724), Cllr Haines said that Network Rail were proposing to leave the site in an unfinished state before proceeding with the next phase. This meant that the traffic lights restricting the road to single file would remain in place. Cllr Keith Baker had written pointing out the extreme difficulties these lights were causing and asking Network Rail to remove the lights and reinstall when the next phase commenced. The Atrium (173537). Mrs Jacobs said that she understood that there was a right of way across the rear of The Atrium and Mr Runnalls said there was also one from Acre Field all along the rear gardens in Charvil Lane/Thames Street. The Chairman said that any footpath had to be walked at least annually to remain open. The Clerk said that the definitive right of way map only showed the paths that crossed the Churchyard but would double check. Sports Pavilion (173578). The Chairman said that the Sports Pavilion was still being called the Cricket Pavilion. The Clerk would point out to Mr Anderson that SPC would not proceed with the project unless all paperwork was revised to say Sonning Sports Pavilion.

The following applications were on going: The Lawns Old Bath Road (171424): Hope Cottage 11 Pound Lane (171651): The Great House (172697): 7 Glebe Lane (173552): Lawn Cottage Mustard Lane (173689).

The following applications had been approved: See above.

The following applications had been refused. No applications had been refused.

The following applications had been withdrawn. None.

The following new applications had been received. The Bull Inn (180265). Application for the proposed Listed Building consent for the proposed erection of a replacement kitchen extract fan and associated equipment following removal of existing: Pilgrims, Thames Street (180263). Householder application for the proposed alterations to reduce the current entrance lobby and W.C. to enlarge the vehicular access by 300mm and front garden alterations: Pilgrims, Thames Street (180263). Listed Building application for the proposed alterations to reduce the current entrance lobby and W.C. to enlarge the vehicular access by 300mm and front garden alterations: The Bull Inn (180265). Application for the proposed Listed Building consent for the proposed erection of a replacement kitchen extract fan and associated equipment following removal of existing: Neaps End 15 Old Bath Road (18363). Full planning application for the proposed erection of 5 bedroom dwelling with double garage following the demolition of the existing dwelling

10082: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR.

Mr Runnalls said that the potholes in Sonning had been reported but WBC had said that there were others with a higher priority. Cllr Haines would chase this. Cllr Haines also mentioned that he was aware of the request to upgrade the crossing in Pound Lane but it did depend upon other priorities.

10083: PARISHIONER QUESTIONS.

There were no questions.

10084: FINANCE.

- a) Payment of Accounts. The Chairman proposed making the following payments, Mr Fisher seconded and these were approved unanimously.

PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS JANUARY '18 (1 TO 31 JANUARY 2018)

Date	Chq	Name	Service item	Gross	VAT	Net	Committee	Sub-Comm.
20/01/18	455	A E Farnese	Key for SLTC	8.08	0.00	8.08	SPORTS	Pavilion
20/01/18	455	A E Farnese	Refreshments Dec meeting	55.87	0.00	55.87	ADMIN	Misc.
20/01/18	456	SSE	St. Light m'tnce	808.33	134.72	673.61	HIGHWAY & LIGHT	Lighting
20/01/18	456	SSE	St, Light Repairs	54.18	9.03	45.15	HIGHWAY & LIGHT	Lighting
20/01/18	457	SLCC	Annual subs	147.00	0.00	147.00	ADMIN	Subscriptions
20/01/18	458	SSE	Bridge light repairs +2 new	306.36	51.06	255.30	HIGHWAY & LIGHT	Repairs
20/01/18	459	Castle Water	Rec, Water	98.33	0.00	98.33	SPORTS	Rec. Water
20/01/18	460	ISS	Dog Bins	156.00	26.00	130.00	ENVIRONMENT	Dog Bins
			Total	1634.15	220.81	1413.34		

- b) Report and Budget. The Clerk had prepared a report which was noted. Cllr Haines said that WBC were to raise council tax by 6%. The government had allowed local authorities to up council tax from 2% to 3% and the remaining 3% was made of additional funding for adult care, the police, fire service and SPC.

10085: HIGHWAYS.

School Crossing Patrol. Mr Fisher said that there had been very little progress on resolving the school crossing patroller issue. He had spoken to two of the school governors and had written to WBC supporting the installation of a light controlled crossing. Mr Fisher understood that an independent person would be checking out the road conditions on each of the areas affected.

Speed Indicator. Mr Fisher said that the indicator had been repaired and returned, there would be another download soon and he would have the latest figures. A quote for an additional indicator would be £2900 plus £250 for one that collected data. It was agreed to circulate details and to put this on the March agenda for agreement.

Speed/Lorry Watch. This was ongoing.

Sonning Lane Parking. Mr Fisher said that there was no further update.

10086: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G.

- a) Safety Checks. Mr Farnese had inspected the play equipment and would deal with the moss. Mrs Pownall was to check the exercise machines.
- b) Improvements to Liguge Way. The Chairman said that these would be carried out on 14 February.
- c) SLTC Improvements. The contractor would check out the disabled access to the tennis courts when he was on site on the 14 February.
- d) Pitch Use. SCC and CFC would attend a meeting in the pavilion immediately following the planning meeting scheduled for 21 February.

10087: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

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

Lighting Upgrade. Mr Fisher said that the remaining lighting would be installed by the end of February, including the heritage lights and those in West Drive. Unfortunately WBC would not be transferring the lighting contract to the new contractor until 2019.

Wharf Gate. The contractor had checked the site and had asked if the gate should be in soft or hardwood. It was agreed that hardwood should be used.

Allotment hedge. This had been cut.

10088: NEWSLETTER.

Mrs Pownall said that she was still waiting for further input. It was agreed to aim to publish it in March.

10089: POLICE AND SECURITY.

Mr Fisher said that there was a NAG meeting on 8 March and he would ask Mrs Fielder if she would like to attend.

10090: WEB SITE.

This was going well.

10091: ACTION LIST.

This was reviewed and updated. The Chairman said that he had inspected the Pound and there were six major trees that needed pruning. The Chairman said that he now agreed with Mr Driver that a path through the Pound would be an attractive addition and he favoured wildflower planning. The bus shelter needed to be re-roofed and would cost about £3,000. The existing noticeboards and signs were all over the place and would look neater if they were in one place. The steps from Pound Lane needed to be improved and a new village sign installed. This would all need costings and quotes.

10092: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 13 March at 7.00pm.

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