

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the Pavilion, Pound Lane, Sonning, on Tuesday 8 January 2013 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT.

Mr M Green, (Chairman), Mr P J Doyle, Mr A E Farnese, Mrs T Hicks, Mr S D Liddiard, Mrs P Pownall, Mr I Runnalls, Ms V Reeve, Mrs L A Bates (Clerk).

APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS.

Apologies were received from Cllr. Haines who was attending a WBC Executive meeting where Transport Policy was to be discussed. Cllr Haines had sent his best wishes for a Happy New Year. The Chairman welcomed everyone and wished them a Happy New Year.

8167: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

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

8168: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

Declarations of Interest were received from all Councillors with the exception of the Chairman. These Councillors would have a disclosable pecuniary interest if the budget was being discussed as it had a bearing on the setting of the council tax and/or precept. They had requested dispensations on the grounds that failure to grant a dispensation would impede the transaction of the business due to the number of members having the same disclosable pecuniary interest. The Clerk had granted dispensations to all affected Councillors, which would cover all meeting where the matter was being discussed until May 2015.

8169: CORRESPONDENCE.

Sonning and Sonning Eye Society, request for Joint SPC/SSES Traffic W.G. The Clerk had written to the Society to say a response would be made in the New Year. Following discussion it was agreed that she would write again to say that the Highways W G was a SPC initiative, and although there had been a period of inactivity changes would be made but at the current time no date had been set.

Requests for Donations towards Bridge Lights. Uri Geller had indicated that he would make a contribution and a cheque for £500 had now been received. Lafarge had replied to say that all applications for grants had to go through their charity and a form could be found on-line.

WBC Sports Council AGM Council Offices 22 January. Mr Doyle would attend this.

NHS TV Primary Care Agency. A letter explaining that Twyford had been determined as Rural had been received.

8170: PLANNING.

Planning List. Mr Doyle said that the application at Blandings had been approved.

August Field. Mr Doyle said that the Appeal had been dismissed, which sent a clear message that WBC Officers had been wrong to support the proposal. The Inspector had taken the previous Inspectors view into account, which WBC Officers had not. The key was getting the application refused at the planning stage. There was some discussion about the listing process; if the member disagreed there was no other way to bring the application to the attention of the Planning Committee. Mr Liddiard said that Mr Doyle was to be commended for his submission; it was illogical that the person representing WBC at the Appeal was the person who recommended approval. Mr Liddiard would write to the Inspector to thank her.

There had been no reply to any of the letters, sent to Simon Weeks and copied to a number of

8170: PLANNING (Cont'd).

others, regarding the handling of the decision on the Fire Station. The Clerk would speak to Cllr Haines about this.

Fire Station. This had only been partially approved as the S106 contribution had not been paid within the required 30 day period. They could put in a new application when SPC would have another chance to comment.

Enforcement Complaints. A complaint had been submitted to Enforcement about two large marquees illegally in the Bull garden. Mr Doyle had inspected the site and found there were some chairs in the garden covered by a tarpaulin and two Gazebos' at the front of the premises, which were used for smoking. There was no case to answer but Enforcement was obliged to investigate costing several hundreds of pounds. Mr Doyle said that residents should speak to SPC first and would mention this at the APM and in the Newsletter.

The application for a field Shelter at Saxon House had been withdrawn and a new application for change of use from agricultural to equestrian had been received. This would be discussed at the next planning meeting.

The following applications were ongoing: 1 Sonning Gate (F/2012/1398) 32 West Drive (F/2012/1435) 19 West Drive (F/2012/1468).

The following applications had been approved: Sonning Bridge (F/2012/2049, LB/2012/2073, LB/2012/2070): Berks County Sports Club (F/2012/2071): Blandings 22 West Drive (F/2012/); 24 West Drive (VAR/2012/2120): 24 West Drive (F/2012/2173).

The following applications had been refused. There were none.

The following new applications had been received. Old Forge Cottage Pearson Road (F/2012/2384 & LB/2012/2385) Erection of single storey rear extension to dwelling, listed building consent for the erection of a single storey rear extension to dwelling: Greendown Pearson Road (C/2012/2390) Submission of details to comply with the following conditions of planning consent EXT/2010/0407:2. External Materials³. Boundary Treatments⁴. Ground Levels⁸. Planting Scheme and Arboricultural Method Statement¹⁰. Archaeological¹¹. Great Crested Newt Mitigation Plan.

8171: CONSERVATION AREA ASSESSMENT.

Mr Doyle had circulated a draft flyer about the forthcoming exhibition in the Pearson Hall and an update on the August Field and Fire Station applications, which was approved. It was agreed that the full colour version was preferable. Mrs Pownall would get a quote from PurcoPrint for both colour and black and white printing and circulate for comments. Mr Doyle would ask the Society for a financial contribution towards the Assessment and the Chairman said that the Fire Brigade Trust had offered £1,000. Mr Doyle said that the draft report would be out soon and there would be a meeting to organise the exhibition which would take place over the week-end 9/10 February.

8172: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR.

In the absence of Cllr Haines there were no questions.

8173: PARISHIONERS QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

8174: PROPOSALS FOR QUEENS JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS.

Mr Doyle said that approximately 2/5ths of the costs had been raised. Ms Reeve had been advised to approach the Bull Landlord in the first instance. Mrs Hicks suggested an information stand at the Assessment Exhibition and this was agreed.

8175: FINANCE.

- a) Report. The finance report was circulated and noted.
- b) Payment of Accounts. Mrs Hicks proposed making the following payments, Mrs Pownall seconded and these were unanimously approved.

December

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| Son. Landscapes - Mow Wharf 26.00, Jeyes Fluid Tree Stump | 40.00 |
| Mrs L A Bates – Honorarium less tax | 2643.50 |
| Mrs L A Bates -Telephone | <u>40.00</u> |
| | 2724.50 |

- c) Santander. The Clerk had information from Santander. The higher rates were for investments of over £50,000 but they were offering 2% for one year investments over £5000. Following discussion the Chairman proposed transferring up to £44,500 into the one year bond at 2% plus the Tennis Court investment providing that this did not take the amount invested with Santander over the amount guaranteed by the government. Mr Doyle seconded and this was unanimously approved.
- d) Budget Precept. The Chairman had circulated the draft budget and following discussion proposed setting the precept at £31459, Mr Farnese seconded and this was unanimously approved. It was agreed to make one change to the draft donations and to the fees for the football clubs, the Chairman proposed adopting the budget with these agreed changes, Mrs Pownall seconded and this was unanimously approved.

8176: HIGHWAYS.

The Chairman said that there was no update. Mr Runnalls said he had stopped an overweight vehicle from crossing the Bridge.

8177: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G.

Mrs Pownall said that the drain by the pavilion had been repaired at no cost. The Chairman said that thanks were due to Mr Pownall. Mrs Pownall said that thanks were also due to Mr Liddiard for installing the bollards and for clearing the leaves.

Mrs Pownall had met James Travers (SCC) who had cleared an overgrown patch on the boundary of the field revealing a large unused area. It was agreed that SCC should clear the whole area. Mrs Pownall would provide training to SCC representatives in order for them to use the SPC mower to mow the edges.

Mrs Pownall had investigated the outdoor fitness equipment. Caloo, the company who could provide it would also organise a grant application. Awards for All were offering grants of up to £10,000 for exercise equipment as part of the government's initiative. An eight piece set would cost £9995 plus VAT. It was agreed that Mrs Pownall should go ahead with the grant application and ask Caloo for advice about locating the equipment.

Safety Checks. Ms Reeve had carried these out.

8178: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

- a) Report. Mr Farnese said that there was little to report. Mrs Pownall said she had sought advice about the water flowing from the field and down Liguge Way. The drain was blocked between the adjoining house and Liguge Way and the speed hump needed to be moved or channels cut out to allow the water to flow away. Mr Farnese thought that the

8178: TECHNICAL SERVICES (Cont'd).

ditch on Mr Barkers boundary needed to be cleared and reported that he would meet Thames Water on 29 January about the water meters. Mr Doyle asked about the posts for the area near the bus shelter and the Chairman said that he would chase Nick Rose at WBC again.

8179: POLICE AND SECURITY.

The Chairman said there was nothing to report.

8180: RENOVATIONS TO HIGH STREET WATER PUMP.

The Clerk said that there had been no feed-back so far. Mr Doyle would mention this to the Conservation Officer when he spoke to him about the Conservation Area Assessment.

8181: NEWSLETTER.

The closing date for articles was 18 March.

8182: WEB SITE.

The Chairman and Mrs Hicks would arrange a meeting to progress this.

8183: ACTION LIST.

This was reviewed and updated.

The Chairman said that, as he had already mentioned, he would be resigning from the Council but agreed to stay on in order to attend the next meeting to Chair the Election of the New Chairman.

8184: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next Meeting would be held on Tuesday 12 February 2013. The date of the Annual Parish Meeting was confirmed as Thursday 14 May 2013 in the Pearson Hall.

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