

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the Pavilion, Pound Lane, Sonning, on Tuesday 12 November 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).

APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS.

Cllr M Haines (WBC) had a previous appointment at WBC.

8354: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

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

8355: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest.

8356: DEFIBRILLATOR.

The Chairman said that planning permission for change of use had been approved but the application for advertisements was still outstanding. Technically there was no reason not to apply for the defibrillator, if the advertisement permission were not granted the stickers would not be installed. However the Conservation Officer had indicated that this was just a formality. Following discussion the Clerk agreed to submit the form, which Ms Reeve had completed. Mr Farnese would ask the Hall electrician to provide a quote for the electrical installation.

8357: CORRESPONDENCE.

Public Footpath Leading to Lytch-gate. The Clerk had been asked if the potholes in the footpath leading from Pearson Road to the Churchyard could be filled in. The Clerk had approached WBC about this several times but nothing had been done. Following discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should ask Mr Collier for a quote to fill the potholes and supply new gravel.

Finance Training. BALC were running this on Wednesday 4 December, 6-9.30pm at a cost of £40. It was agreed that the Clerk should attend this and the Chairman would confirm his availability.

Homelessness Strategy. Consultation was underway. The deadline for comments was 4 December.

Request to Open Sonning Bridge. A request for access over the Bridge for a funeral had been received. The Chairman said that once the Bridge was closed at 9.30am it became a closed area. If it were opened the insurance would be affected and every sign in a 3 mile radius would have to be checked before it could be reopened so unfortunately it was not possible to allow this.

Letter regarding overgrown footpath High Street. The Chairman said that Mr Atkins had written again regarding the planting overgrowing the pavement in the High Street. Mr Farnese said had cut the hedge back himself but it had regrown. The Chairman had spoken to the resident who had recently been bereaved and was unwell himself. He had assured the Chairman that he would cut the planting back level with his step when he had recovered. The Clerk agreed to write to the resident confirming his agreement and to Mr Atkins explaining the situation.

The Clerk had also written to the Pound Lane resident about the overgrown hedge around the street light. Mr Fisher had trimmed around the light but more was needed. The Chairman said

it would be more costly if WBC got involved in trimming the hedge. Mr Fisher would speak to the resident again and if necessary the Clerk would write again.

8358: PLANNING.

The Chairman said that item (c) 1 Greendown Cottage had been approved as had the appeal on the original application. The work had been completed on (d) Pilgrims. Application (j) was to separate the former annex at Greendown from the main building. The Chairman had informed the new case officer that planning permission had already been approved in 2009 but she had been unaware of this. Mr Liddiard said this was one drawback of planning officers regularly moving on. New officers did not know the area or the background to applications.

The Chairman had attended the Borough/Parish Conference and had submitted a question about Stop Notices and why one had not been served on Model Farm Barn, which would have saved a great deal of money. The answer had been that Stop Notices could not be served on their own, there had to be an existing Enforcement Notice in place. The Chairman read from the GDO upon which all Local Plans were based which did not support the WBC advice.

The following applications were ongoing: 1 Sonning Gate (F/2012/1398); Land facing Duffield Road (F/2013/0634); 11 Hawthorn Way (F/2013/1549); Pilgrims Thames Street (F/2013/1742).

The following applications had been approved: 1 Greendown Cottage Thames Street (F/2013/1662); Pearson Hall (LB/2013/1763).

The following new applications had been received. Microsoft Campus Thames Valley Park (EXT/2013/1963) Extend implementation date of planning consent EXT/2010/1506 for a further 3 years. (Application to extend implementation date of planning consent VAR/2006/8527 linked to 98/68391/F for the proposed extension of time limit for commencement of development to August 2014 and proposed erection of building for B1 and ancillary use respectively: Pearson Hall (A/2013/2036) Advertisement consent to apply 3no self-adhesive vinyl stickers (185 x 370mm) to each side of K6 telephone kiosk Sonning Court Thames Street (F/2013/2074) Erection of a glass extension to existing reception and study following removal of existing external windows, doors and walls: 35 Little Glebe Sonning (F/2013/2150) Erection of a two side/rear extension with front dormer window and single storey rear extension to dwelling: Studio Cottage Pound Lane (F/2013/2152) Change of use from an annexe to a separate residential dwelling.

8359: CONSERVATION AREA ASSESSMENT.

The Chairman said that he had circulated the update on the CAA from the Society. A SPC were not currently committed to carrying out a Neighbourhood Plan the Society would need to bring a proposal to a Council meeting if they wanted the Parish Council's support.

Request from S & SE Society for £100. It had been agreed to ask the Chairman of the Society to provide more details. Mr Hine had explained the background to the request and that Mr John Shaw from ASHTAV had made a couple of valuable suggestions, which the Society had taken on board (appendix on gaps & misfits to show how the CAA had been degraded with a wish list, and another appendix to include a community asset list (which the local authority should publish on its website). However Mr Hine had said that most of the meeting had been spent discussing Neighbourhood Plans. Mr Farnese said that a lot of information about these Plans could be found on the internet free of charge. Councillors said that normally any request for a financial contribution should be made in advance. Following discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should reply to Mr Hine explaining why the Council were refusing the request. The main reasons being that most of the meeting had been about Neighbourhood Plans, which the Council had no immediate intention of pursuing, and that any request for funding should

be made in advance. The Clerk would also explain the correct procedure for any similar request.

8360: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR.

In the absence Cllr Haines there were no questions.

8361: PARISHIONERS QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

8362: PROPOSALS FOR QUEENS JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS.

The Chairman said that installation of the lighting was going well. Signs and barriers were in place but drivers were still attempting to cross the Bridge.

Theresa May (MP), had agreed to 'switch' the lights on at 1.30pm on Saturday 23 November, and was very keen to be involved. Mrs May could 'switch on' from the Wharf side or from the opposite side, depending on her preference. The Chairman had arranged for the security car to park in the Great House car park or outside the Wharf entrance and had agreed to supply a list of those likely to be in attendance. Mr Farnese suggested asking if the bar at the Mill Theatre or the Great House, could be made available for a small reception. The Chairman proposed spending up to £200 on the reception Mr Fisher seconded and this was unanimously approved.

The Chairman said that the lighting fund had risen to £8600. WBC had allocated the highways S106 money towards the lighting, which endorsed the project and reflected their support.

The Chairman had taken advice from Mary Severin regarding the proposal that SPC should fund the shortfall for the Bridge lights in order to take advantage of the Bridge closure. Ms Severin had said that Parish Councils were empowered to spend money as they saw fit. Mr Fisher said he would be happy to contact residents about financial support as the Chairman had been advised that corporate funding was unlikely. Mr Hargrave, Mr Fisher and the Chairman would draft a letter. Mr Hargrave said that it could be advantageous if an internet 'giving' site were opened. The Chairman had received the plan of all the closure notices required for the Bridge closure. Mr Liddiard said that the 'Dolphins' hadn't been installed. The Chairman said that some work had been carried out to protect the bridge structure from passing boats rubbing against the brickwork. The new traffic lights were linked to a control in Winnersh. Mr Liddiard said that there was a highways plan which showed that there would be an increase in traffic levels in Sonning once the SDL's were built.

8363: FINANCE.

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

October

Henley Contracting – Mow Pond Area	480.00
SSE Contracting – St. Light Repairs	22.57
SSE Contracting – St. Light M'tnce	838.86
Mazars – Annual Audit	240.00
SCS Mowing (Oct) – Main 192.52: Outfield 98.40: SLTC 84.00	374.92
Sonning Landscapes Mow Wharf 52.00: Mow Playground 26.00	78.00
SCS Mowing (Nov) – Main 192.52: SLTC 84.00	276.52

Mrs L A Bates - Refund Kiosk Plan application	55.00
Purco Print – Newsletter	110.00
Mr S Liddiard – Materials Bus Shelter/Car park posts	255.07
Environment Agency – Wharf License	48.68
Mr K Trimmings – Litter Sept	<u>145.83</u>
	<u>2925.45</u>

8363: FINANCE (Cont'd).

- b) Report. There was no report as the Clerk had been preparing the draft budget figures.
- c) Draft 2014/15 Budget. The Clerk had prepared the draft figures based on expected increases. This could be addressed by increasing the Precept or taking the difference from reserves.

8364: HIGHWAYS.

Mr Evans said that there had eventually a mutually convenient date for both SPC and the Society and the meeting had been arranged for 20 November at 7.45pm. The Chairman had provided Mr Evans with the Societies Position Statement and he would prepare an agenda for the meeting. Everyone would be welcome to have an input. The Chairman had copied the Statement to Mrs Green, head teacher Sonning School, for her view. It was important to hear the Societies proposals and how these could be achieved, and a time scale for achieving them. The Chairman had e-mailed Claire Lawrence and she had sent specifications for new pavements. Although WBC would try to install a pavement where they could they would not install one under 1.5 metres wide. It was possible for a pavement to be 1.2 metres over a 6 ft. length if it then widened. There was no chance of achieving the minimum in Sonning. Mr Runnalls said that speeding was a problem. A resident waiting for the bus at 7.45am observed the same vehicles speeding up Pound Lane every morning outside Sonning School. Mr Fisher said that he had asked about statistics but had been unable to find them on the WBC web site.

8365: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G.

- a) Report. Mrs Pownall said that, having discussed the possibility of a third football club using the field on a regular basis it had been decided that this would result in overuse and impact of the condition of the field when SCC took over the following April.
- b) Safety Checks. Mr Fisher had carried these out while Mr Farnese was indisposed. A handle had come off one of the new pieces of outdoor equipment. Mrs Pownall would include this on her quarterly report.
- c) British Legion Request to Plant Poppy Seeds. This was part of a scheme for the commemoration of the First World War. Mr Farnese had no objections but said he was aware that poppies were poisonous to dogs. Following discussion it was agreed to support the scheme and suitable areas were considered, Sonning School would be asked if they would like to take part. Mr Farnese proposed spending £40 on packets of seeds, in the first instance, Mr Fisher seconded and this was unanimously approved.
- d) Gate Opening. Mr Farnese said that he and Mr Farnese normally did this and would continue to do so, he apologised for the oversight.

- e) Request from SCC for Contribution to Compound Resurfacing. Mr Pownall said that SCC wanted to improve the surface in the compound to provide a solid base, it would cost no more than £1,000 and were asking for SPC to pay £500. Mrs Pownall proposed spending £500 towards the work, Mr Farnese seconded and this was unanimously approved.

8366: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

Report. Mr Farnese thanked Mr Fisher for carrying out the safety checks while he was indisposed.

8366: TECHNICAL SERVICES (Cont'd).

Wharf Willow. The Chairman said that Canon Tree care would complete the work while the Bridge was closed. This would give the tree a chance to regrow. Mrs Pownall undertook to remove the fallen branch from the Recreation Ground.

8367: WEB SITE.

Ms Reeve said that Mrs Hicks had four options for the front page, which Mr Gilmore had produced. Ms Reeve would e-mail a shortcut for everyone to view and make comments to Mrs Hicks. Once the new web site was established Ms Reeve would take over from Mrs Hicks and would update the site as required.

8368: POLICE AND SECURITY

This would be removed from the Agenda as regular updates were supplied by the Police and circulated to all Councillors.

8369: NEWSLETTER.

This had been another success.

8370: ACTION LIST.

This was reviewed and updated.

8371: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next Meeting would be held on Tuesday 10 December 2013 7.00pm for 7.30pm. As this was the Christmas meeting Mr Farnese agreed to purchase refreshments.

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