

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

PRESENT.

Mr P J Doyle, (Chairman), Mr A Evans, Mr A E Farnese, Mr J Hargrave, Mr S D Liddiard, Mrs P Pownall, Mr I Runnalls. Mrs L A Bates (Clerk).

APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS.

Apologies were received from Mr T Fisher, Ms V Reeve, who were both on holiday. Cllr M Haines (WBC) had sent his apologies. The Chairman welcomed all those present.

8446: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

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

8447: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest.

8448: CORRESPONDENCE.

Allotment Request. Several allotment holders had reacted to the request to tidy their allotment by saying that a lot of old items dated back pre their occupation and asked if the Council would move these items or arrange a skip. Mr Farnese would inspect the allotments to ascertain their condition.

Poppy Picnic – British Legion. This had been arranged for 12.30pm on the 6 September, everyone was welcome to this fundraising event.

Parking on Pavements. The Clerk read out an e-mail concerning inconsiderate parking on pavements, which caused great difficulties, particularly for those with pushchairs or disabilities. The Chairman agreed to look into this and would mention it at the APM.

Rubbish Dumped on South Hill land. The Clerk had received an e-mail pointing out that rubbish had been dumped on the South Hill side of the boundary with King George V Field and that volunteers working for the Council might know more about this. The Council had not instructed anyone to carry out any work to the field and this was a mystery. The Clerk would inform the owner of this.

Palmer Pump. The Scarecrow Committee had sent a cheque to pay for the work to the Palmer Pump, which had been restored. The Clerk would write to thank the Committee and say how much the Council appreciated their interest.

Donations. Several thank you letters had been received for the recent donations.

E-mails. The Chairman said that two e-mails referring to the discussion about Mr ***** letters to the Council had been received and the Chairman read them out. The Chairman referred to the letter dated 9 March which had, amongst other suggestion, proposed that the Council meet Mr ***** in his house. Mr ***** had also asked not to be identified in the Council minutes. The Chairman had spoken to Democratic Services at WBC about this and they had confirmed that WBC did identify members of the public. Letters from residents were also read out at WBC Council meetings as this correspondence was in the public domain. This was best practice and avoided confusion about the origin of the letters and it formed part of a paper trail. It was agreed however not to reply to these comments and to move on. The Chairman said that he had been referred to WBC Shared Legal Solutions but they had not been very helpful.

8449: PLANNING.

The Chairman said that he and the Clerk now had hard copies of the MDD, which included policies on Heritage, Parking and Highways. The on-line version was helpful as it had links to additional information.

The application for a new building for the Church had been approved in spite of the concerns over parking provision. The Highways report had accepted that there was double parking provision at the Vicarage which ignored rules for parking in the MDD.

There was no news about the application at Elm Gables, 7 Old Bath Road, Falcon House or Little Court. WBC had granted themselves permission to install the Dolphins on Sonning Bridge and Mr Hom had contacted the Chairman about access to the Wharf on 6 May. In order to access the Wharf the gate post would need to be removed and duck boards would need to be laid out to protect the grass. Apparently the recent floods had created a small sand bank on the Oxfordshire side of the River. The Chairman said that it would be necessary to obtain an undertaking from WBC to protect the Wharf and remedy any resulting damage.

The Clerk would contact Mr Mann, the Enforcement Officer regarding the flags on the hoarding outside the Fire Station development.

The following applications were ongoing: 1 Sonning Gate (F/2012/1398); Land facing Duffield Road (F/2013/0634); 11 Hawthorn Way (F/2013/1549); 32 West Drive Sonning (F/2013/2523); 19 Old Bath Road (F/2014/3060); Elm Gables Parkway Drive (F/2014/0144); 7 Old Bath Road (VAR/2014/0192); Former Fire Station (C/2014/0408); Little Court Farmhouse (LB/2014/0465 & F/2014/0465)

The following applications had been approved: Star Court Thames Street (F/2013/2455); St. Andrews Church (F/2014/0049); Former Fire Station and Land to Rear (NMT/2014/0175); The Farmhouse (CLP/2014/0450); Sonning Bridge (F/2014/0420).

The following applications had been refused: There had been no refusals.

The following new applications had been received. No new applications.

8450: CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT.

The Chairman said that the document had not appeared and he would contact Mr O'Callaghan and Mr Hart, there was a need to pull the document together. WBC would be launching a permit scheme for anyone wishing to carry out work to the highway.

8451: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR.

In the absence of Cllr Haines there were no questions.

8452: PARISHIONERS QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

8453: DEFIBRILLATOR.

The Chairman said that it would be important to have the training. Ms Reeve was pursuing this but this was in great demand,

8454: WEB SITE.

Ms Reeve had sent a message to say that the vote on the logo had not been unanimous. Examples would be superimposed on the trial web site for Councillors to see it in situ so they could make an informed decision.

8455: FINANCE.

- a) Report. The Clerk had prepared a report which was noted.
- b) Appointment of Internal Auditor. Mr Cedrick Gilson, who had carried out the internal audit for the past three years was prepared to undertake the internal audit for the same fee 2013, £45. The Chairman proposed appointing Mr Gilson as internal auditor for 2013/14, Mrs Pownall seconded and this was unanimously approved.
- c) Payment of Accounts. Mr Farnese proposed making the following payments Mrs Pownall seconded and these were unanimously approved.

March

Mr K Trimmings Litter – part Feb	72.92
Mrs A R Hulley Litter – part Feb	78.12
Quadron – Dog Bins Feb	83.56
Mr S Liddiard – poppy Seeds	36.80
Berks Sports – Contribution to road repairs	100.00
Age Concern – S137 Payment	200.00
T V Air Ambulance – S137 Payment	200.00
Berkshire Blind – S137 Payment	50.00
CAB – S137 Payment	50.00
ReadiBus – S137 Payment	150.00
Sue Ryder – S137 Payment	100.00
Twyford Volunteers – S137 Payment	50.00
Sonning PCC – S137 Payment	200.00
Keep Mobile – S137 Payment	50.00
Nat Savings SPC Contribution to Tennis Court Fund	567.51
Nat Savings SLTC Contribution to Tennis Court Fund	2979.42
Mrs L A Bates – Honorarium Less Tax	2480.12
Mrs L A Bates Telephone	40.00
Nat. Savings – Transfer of Investment	<u>145.83</u>
	7488.50

8456: DOCUMENT REVIEWS.

- a) Freedom of Information Scheme.
- b) Complaints Procedure.

These two documents had been previously circulated, both were based on standard models. Following discussion the Chairman proposed adopting both models, Mr Farnese seconded and this was unanimously approved.

8457: PROPOSALS FOR QUEENS JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS.

An additional £550 had been donated bringing the total to £9708. The Chairman said that seeking donations towards the project had saved the Council a great deal of money and it was possible that more donations would be received. Staff at the Mill said that they had previously had to rely on their telephones to light the way. The lights were low maintenance and low energy.

8458: HIGHWAYS.

The Chairman said that large grain transporters has been seen travelling from the Bridge and along Thames Street. Lafarge had amalgamated with a Swiss company. Mr Evans said that he had nothing to report except there were more pot holes but no repairs had been carried out. One pot hole in Thames Street had been badly filled and there were more by the crossing. Mr Farnese would ask about repairs at the meeting on 29 April. Mr Runnalls asked where any reports about overweight lorries should be sent and Mr Evans said to him. Mr Evans asked if anyone had volunteered in reply to his request in the Newsletter but there no one had. The Chairman said that Henley wanted a weight limit on their bridge.

8459: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G.

- a) Safety Checks. Mr Farnese had carried these out and said that some equipment needed to be cleaned.
- b) Report. Mrs Pownall said that the ceiling in the home showers was flaking and she agreed to obtain quotes. Mrs Pownall said that Berkshire Sports had marked out parking bays in their car park enabling more cars to park. Mrs Pownall agreed to look into possibilities for the SPC car park.
- c) Field Maintenance Quotes. Supagrass had not sent a quote but their quote for 2013 had been £2,000. Henley Contracting had quoted £625 for verti-draining, £495 for liquid iron to kill the moss/feed, £325 to terrarake the field and £985 to over-seed, total £2430. They were not proposing to roll the field which would increase impaction. In addition they proposed to dress the pitches with 40 tonnes of 60/40 seed, which would improve the condition of the grass, at a cost of £1975. The football and cricket club representatives supported all the recommended maintenance but this was well over the budget figure of £2200. The clubs particular concerns centred around the poor state of the goal mouths, which would get worse. They did concede that the cost of the grass seed was rather high. Following discussion the Chairman proposed accepting the first four items totalling £2430 plus and spending up to an additional £1,000, totalling £3430, Mrs Pownall seconded and this unanimously approved. The Clerk would ask Henley Contracting what they could do for £1,000 in relation to dressing the field.
- d) Mowing Quotes. SCS, the current mowing contractor, had increased his charges from £80.22 to £81.65 per cut plus VAT. Henley Contracting were significantly more expensive and would charge £240 per cut, which would include cutting the boundaries twice a year and mowing the SLTC area. It was agreed that HCL would provide a better service although they would be more expensive. Following discussion the Chairman proposed accepting the Henley Contracting quote of £240 per cut, Mr Farnese seconded and this was unanimously approved.
- e) Request for Score Board Store. Mr Travers introduced himself as the new Chairman of SCC and said that he would like to have a good relationship with SPC. The proposed position for the store was directly opposite the pavilion and set back in the trees next to Beech Lodge and it was likely to be 8ft by 8ft. It would be wooden clad but a metal shutter would be fitted for security. A position near the car park would be more vulnerable. There would need to be an electrical supply. The Chairman asked why the score board couldn't be brought out from the compound, where it was currently stored, for fixtures. Wheeling it out each time was not idea and involved long lengths of electric cable lying across the field. Mr Travers said that the score board needed to be wired up and it would be better if this was permanent. SCC would pay for the work and it could be carried out in stages. A permanent store would be advantageous for SCC and would improve their standing. Mr Farnese had no objection to the score board but to the proposed store and thought that there could be objections from

8459: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G.

the immediate neighbour as it would be on his boundary. It boiled down to looks. Mr Runnalls said this would add further clutter to, what was a public field. Mr Runnalls also asked if the field was sufficient to support the level of cricket SCC were aspiring to. Following discussion the Chairman said that the design still needed to be refined and consideration given to the roller shutters and the overall height. Mr Liddiard suggested that the wooden bus shelter at the entrance to the field would be a good style to follow. The Chairman said that water flowing from the field was an issue that needed to be addressed and agreed to meet Mr Dawson for an informal view.

8460: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

Safety Checks. Mr Farnese had carried these out.

Great House Request. Tiffany Renwick had said that they were looking for a metal, rather than a wooden gate which would fit into a 1.2 metre width x 1.215 metre high opening. The preferred position would be to the right hand side of the hedge when viewed from the River. It was agreed that the dimensions were for a standard size opening and this was acceptable but Councillors would like to see the design for the gate before it was installed.

Dog Bin Quotes. Quadron had increased their charge for emptying three dog bins from £69.65 to £70.20 per month plus VAT. It was agreed that this was acceptable.

8461: WW1 CELEBRATIONS.

The Chairman said that it would be good to mark the occasion with an evening of music of song, verse and readings while enjoying a meal. The Chairman would work on this and present his ideas at the May meeting.

8462: NEWSLETTER.

It was agreed that additional copies were required due to the increased number of residences. Mr Farnese was asked about the postponed Litter Pick and he said the new date was 10-11 May. WBC would provide posters and a lorry to collect the litter bags.

8463: ACTION LIST.

This was reviewed and updated.

8464: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next Meeting would be held on Tuesday 13 May 2014 at 7.30pm.

The Annual Parish Meeting would be held in the Pearson Hall on 15 May 7.00pm for 7.30pm.

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