

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the Pavilion, Pound Lane, Sonning, on Tuesday 14 October 2014 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT.

Mr P J Doyle (Chairman), Mr A Evans, Mr J Hargrave, Mr T Fisher, Mr I Runnalls.
Mrs L A Bates (Clerk). 7 Visitors.

APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS.

Apologies were received from Mrs Pownall who was unwell and Mr Farnese who had undergone a small operation. The Chairman welcomed all those present.

8537: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

Minute 8523 line 7 ‘intension’ was changed to intention. The Minutes, having been corrected circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

8538: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations.

As several visitors wished to speak on specific items the Chairman agreed that, after the Casual Vacancy item, Public Question Time would be brought forward followed by SCC Scoreboard and then the Web site. These items are, however, reported under their original agenda placing.

8539: CASUAL VACANCIES.

The two vacancies, created by the resignation of Ms Reeve and Mr Liddiard, had been advertised but there had been no call for an election. The two vacancies could now be filled by co-option. Mr Runnalls had spoken to Mr Peter Morrison who was interested in joining the Council. Mr Morrison was present and said that he was a retired accountant and had moved to the area about two years previously. Prior to that he had been involved in local affairs and wished to do the same in Sonning. The Chairman said that it would be important to attend the monthly meetings and Mr Morrison said that he would make this a priority. The Chairman said that there would be training opportunities. Mr Runnalls then proposed that Mr Morrison should be co-opted as a Councillor, the Chairman seconded and this was unanimously approved. The Clerk would provide the necessary documentation ready for Mr Morrison’s appointment to be conformed at the November meeting.

8540: SPC DECISION TO SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO ICO.

Following the decision to send a copy of an e-mail to the ICO (min. 8522 item 6 line 5) the Council had agreed to reconsider following an objection and this was discussed. It was unanimously agreed not to send the email at this time but the Council reserved the right to send a redacted copy in the future. The Clerk would check with the ICO about dealing with items received after a case was closed.

8541: CORRESPONDENCE.

WBC Sports Awards Invitation. All members of the Council and the Clerk were invited to the award ceremony on 28 November at Bearwood College. Mrs Pownall hoped to attend and had submitted the names of two pupils at Sonning School.

BALC AGM. This would be held on 5 November at Grazeley Village Hall at 7.00pm.

Accident on Exercise Machines. The Clerk had contacted the manufacturers who had expressed sympathy and wished Sophie a speedy recovery. However they had said that, in an external,

8541: CORRESPONDENCE (Cont'd).

unsupervised environment, it was impossible to remove all risks at all times and they had taken specific actions to reduce the risk of accidents occurring with their equipment. Site signage, and usage instructions (fixed to the equipment and clearly displayed to help users to safely use the equipment) were in place. It had been clear from Ms Robson's e-mail that an element of 'horseplay' had been involved and the usage instructions did not appear to have been followed. Since 2007, when the company had commenced installation of outdoor gym equipment here had been no accidents involving the rowing machines. The Clerk had passed this on to Ms Robinson.

NetworkRail – Sonning Cutting. As part of preparation work ready for electrification of the line NetworkRail contractors had started removing trees in Sonning Cutting. This had created local concerns about the effect on wildlife, the stability of the embankment etc. Following a flow of activity the work had been stopped temporarily.

WBC Community Partnership – Amenity Vehicle provision. There was to be a meeting to discuss the WBC Amenity Vehicle provision on 27 October at 7.00pm. The Chairman would check this out.

Approach from People Magazine. Mr Evans said that several members of the Council had been approached by a journalist hoping to gain information about an international celebrity.

8542: ARRANGEMENTS FOR DEALING WITH FOI REQUESTS.

The Clerk asked for clarification over dealing with FOI requests. It was agreed that all uncomplicated requests would be dealt with by the Clerk who would refer to the Chairman and copy to all other Councillors. Where possible these would be dealt with within 20 working days. In the case of more complicated requests or where a decision was required from the Council the Clerk would take them to the next meeting for full approval.

8543: PLANNING.

The Chairman said that Cllr Haines had listed the Birchley application and it would go to full committee if the officer was of a mind to approve it. August Field seemed to be going ahead as an application to comply with the planning conditions had now been lodged. The construction management plan for the Church included removing the main gates during construction work and the Bull were anxious to know how parking would be managed in the very limited available space. A new application to demolish the existing building at Holme Park Sports and replace with a new building had been submitted. The Chairman read out an article in the Henley Standard regarding progress for a new River crossing but it seemed a solution was just as far away. The proposed new development in the area would generate 2.5 cars per household adding to the existing pressure on the Bridge. In addition the lorry movements generated by the extended Lafarge gravel extraction would add pressure on Reading and Henley Bridges. Without a new crossing there would be no local bridge to take these lorries.

The following applications were ongoing: Sonning Dene (F/2014/1402): Sonning Fire Station (A/2014/1327): 100 Thames Valley Park Drive (A/2014/1668): 100 Thames Valley Park Drive (CLP/2014/1606): Sonning Mead Thames Street (F/2014/1778): South Lodge Sonning Lane (F/2014/1832): 25 Glebe Lane (F/2014/1874): Birchley Old Bath Road (F/2014/1879)

The following applications had been approved: There were no approvals.

The following applications had been refused. There were no approvals.

The following new applications had been received. Cotswold Bath Road (F/2014/1971) Erection of a rear single storey extension and side dormer extension to dwelling: Sonning Farm (A/2014/1806) Application for erection of post mounted aluminium sign:

8543: PLANNING (Cont'd).

The Sharrow Parkway Drive (F/2014/2063) Erection of single storey rear extension: St Andrews Church (NMT/2014/2083) Non-material amendment to planning consent F/2014/0049 to allow the reduction of one pair of double doors to single door to north elevation, replacement of window with external door to west elevation and glazing bars to roof lights on south (hidden) elevation: Homelea (F/2014/1946) Erection of 5 bedroom dwelling following demolition of existing dwelling.

8544: CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT.

The Chairman said that Mr Thorpe had quoted £1,000 to make the changes to the document but he did not have access to Adobe. Mr Evans said that he had a contact. Following discussion the Chairman proposed provisionally accepting Mr Thorpe's quote for £1,000 in the expectation that this might be reduced, Mr Evans seconded and this was unanimously approved. The Chairman would supply Mr Thorpe with Mr Evans contact number.

8545: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR.

In the absence of Cllr Haines there were no questions.

8546: PARISHIONERS QUESTIONS

There were no questions from members of the public. The Chairman said that, reluctantly he felt he should clarify one or two things after the appalling behaviour displayed by a member of the public at the September meeting. Members of the public were welcome to speak in an orderly way when invited by the Chairman. However there would be zero tolerance to any interruptions such as those displayed at the September meeting.

8547: WEB SITE.

The Chairman invited Mrs Hicks to speak. Mrs Hicks said that they had reached a milestone and the web site was ready for proof reading. The Clerk had e-mailed those on the list but if Councillors wished to add anyone else the deadline for comments was 24 October. Once the web site was ready it was just a matter of switching over from the old web site and it was hoped that the Newsletter would be circulated at the same time giving details. Mrs Hicks also mentioned the new SPC logo, which was included on the web site, and that it would need to be incorporated on SPC headed notepaper and also asked Councillors to view and comment on the aims and objectives. The Chairman said that the web site was excellent and it could not have been achieved without the team, particularly Mr Gilmore. The Chairman asked if videos could be included and Mr Gilmore said this would be dependent on the existing server package.

8548: FINANCE.

- a) Report. The Clerk had prepared a report which was noted.
- b) Annual Audit. Mazars had completed the audit and had signed the accounts off certifying that no matters had come to their attention that might give cause for concern.
- c) Payment of Accounts (September)

The Chairman proposed making the following payments. Mr Hargrave seconded and this was unanimously approved.

8548: FINANCE (Cont'd).

September

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| Mr K Trimmings Litter – August | 145.83 |
| Quadron – Dog Bins | 84.24 |
| Wokingham Town Council- Additional WW1 Banner | 91.20 |
| Thames Water - Allotment | 74.55 |
| Mr D P Bates – Printing Draft CAA | 100.00 |
| Henley Contracting – Mow whole field | 780.00 |
| Henley Contracting – Mow outfield | 120.00 |
| Mazars Annual Audit | 360.00 |
| SSE Contracting – St Light M'tnce | 727.72 |
| Sonning Landscapes Mow Wharf 26 + mow Playground | <u>52.00</u> |
| | 2535.54 |

8549: PROPOSALS FOR QUEENS JUBILEE.

Mr Fisher and Mr Hargrave were continuing to seek further contributions for the lighting.

8550: HIGHWAYS.

Mr Evans said that the traffic had been particularly bad over the previous weekend. The Chairman said that the traffic was much slower due to the road repairs in Sonning Eye. The Chairman had attended a Highways meeting and it had been explained by a Highways Officer that, in another area, a project to install rainwater ducts would take two weeks if the route was closed completely, three weeks if the route was shut half and half but nine months if the route were kept open. Mr Evans said that delays were being caused because the temporary traffic lights in Sonning Eye were out of sequence. Mr Evans said that a vehicle had damaged the bus shelter roof in Pearson Road and the Chairman said that he was attending to this. The Clerk agreed to contact WBC Highways regarding the broken bollard at the junction of Pearson Road/Pound Lane. The Chairman said that a pantechnicon had arrived in Thames Street to remove a resident's furniture, but finding nowhere to park had driven down to the farm cottages in Charvil Lane. Two transit vans had then ferried the furniture to the pantechnicon ready to drive it to Newbury. The following day another pantechnicon arrived and had the same problem but there was no parking space at the farm cottages and he had returned to his depot. In both cases the drivers had arrived at the bridge, and finding the weight restriction had turned into the Vicarage drive causing huge traffic jams. Mr Runnalls said he had seen a Keyline lorry travelling through the road works in Sonning Eye heading towards Sonning Bridge. He had spoken to Keyline who had traced the lorry and found that it had been on its way to an address on Sonning Eye and had not crossed the Bridge. However, separately, a traction engine had been seen travelling over the Bridge.

8551: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G.

- a) Report. Mrs Pownall said that here was little to report but there were a number of quotes to be discussed.
 1. Quote for Beech Trees. Cannon Tree Care had quoted £2166, including VAT to remove the stump in the playground and to reduce the crown in height and diameter of the tree in the recreation ground. The Clerk would obtain another quote.
 2. Quote to Repair Play Surface. The manufacturers had quoted £714 to repair the damaged safety surface. Mr Farnese proposed accepting this quote, Mr Runnalls seconded and this was unanimously approved.

8551: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G. (Cont'd)

3. Quote for Water Management. Henley Contracting had quoted for this and the Chairman would ask Mr Collier to supply a quote.
 4. Quote for SLTC Hedge. Henley Contracting had quoted £600 to level the SLTC hedge, which had been poorly trimmed by the previous contractor. Mr Hargrave proposed accepting the quote Mr Fisher seconded and this was unanimously approved.
- b) Safety Checks. In the absence of Mr Farnese there was no update.
- c) SCC Scoreboard. The Chairman invited Mr Travers (Chairman SCC) to speak. Mr Travers introduced Mr Anderson the architect who had drawn up the plans for the proposed store who was also SCC vice Chairman. Mr Travers explained the reason for the store and the proposed position in front of Beech Lodge. The scoreboard was currently stored in the compound and was open to the elements. It required an electrical supply and under the existing arrangement it was plugged into the pavilion with the cables spread across the grass. The intention was to put an electric supply in the ground, which would be safer. The Chairman asked about the height of the proposed building, which was 9ft and dictated by the size of the scoreboard. Mr Anderson said that this was relative, it would look smaller out in the field but he would double check the size. The Chairman asked if the scoreboard was portable and Mr Travers said it was on wheels but was not designed to be portable. A planning application was required as was a concrete base. The building could be timber framed or block-work and it would be possible to remove it if necessary. SCC anticipated the store being installed in spring 2015. The Chairman said that he would like to discuss the matter when all Councillors were present and the item would be on the November agenda.
- d) Wharf Repairs. The Chairman said that Thames Water wanted to replace the SPC padlock with one of their own and with both SPC and Thames Water holding keys. Thames Water would be liaising with the Great House over renovations of the pumping station.

8552: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

- a) Safety Checks. In the absence of Mr Farnese there were no updates.

Request from Great House. The Chairman said that the new manager of the Great House had spoken to him about proposals to build an arch into the car park but was unaware that the cottages to the right were listed or that previous plans had included putting a fence on the boundary between their garden and the Wharf. The Chairman had suggested that a ready grown hedge could be obtained.

8553: WW1 CELEBRATIONS 4 OCTOBER.

The Chairman said that this had been an enjoyable occasion. The Clerk had arranged the food and it was agreed that any profit should go to the Sonning Poppy Appeal.

8554: DEFIBRILLATOR.

Mr Evans agreed to ask Ms Reeve for the information to go in the proposed letter appealing for funding towards the defibrillator. The Clerk would ask Kim Savage about the possibility of Barclays funding and the Chairman would speak to Mr Hicks about Rotary funding.

8555: PREPARATIONS FOR TWINNING ANNIVERSARY 1995-2015

The Chairman said that the Chairman of the Twinning Committee had said that SPC would need to participate in this official occasion. Councillors agreed to think about possibilities.

8556: ACTION LIST.

The Action List was reviewed and updated.

8557: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next Meeting would be held on Tuesday 11 November 2014 at 7.30pm.

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