

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the Pavilion, Pound Lane, Sonning, on Tuesday 8 September 2015 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT. Mr A E Farnese (Chairman), Mr A Evans, Mr T Fisher, Mrs S Jacobs, Mr P D Morrison, Mrs P Pownall, Mr I Runnalls. M Haines (WBC). Mrs L A Bates (Clerk).

8721: APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS. The Chairman welcomed all those present.

8722: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

Two typos were amended in min. 8708, line two and min. 8716, line four. The Minutes, having been amended, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

8723: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

Mr Fisher, as treasurer of the Twinning Association, would have an interest in item 11c).

8724: CASUAL VACANCY.

This was ongoing. The Chairman would speak to a resident who had shown some interest.

8725: CORRESPONDENCE.

Near accident involving a bus, Pound Lane. The Chairman had discussed the incident outside the school, which had been reported at the July meeting with Michael Horton (WBC Highways) and agreed that the Clerk would arrange a meeting in September between the police, head teacher (Sonning Primary School) and SPC.

Safety posts at Lige Way entrance. Another of the bollards had been removed and it was agreed that the Chairman should price the cost of replacing them all in timber.

Pound Lane Belisha Beacon. The Chairman would pursue WBC Highways about a replacement.

Thames Water Pump Hunt. Privately owned pumping stations would become the responsibility of Thames Water in 2016. They were trying to locate those owners who were unaware of the change and asked if an article could be included in the next SPC newsletter. This was agreed.

Waste. Mr Gulzar, Waste Reduction Officer WBC, had offered to speak about contamination and increasing recycling participation. Mr Gulzar would be invited to the October meeting.

Eye and Dunsden Meeting. A representative from Oxford CC was to talk about OCC's road-raising proposals for the Playhatch Road. Mrs Jacobs and Mr Fisher would attend.

CIL Meeting. Mark Cupit had given notice of a CIL meeting to be held at WBC Offices on 28 October, 4 – 6 pm. The Chairman said that more CIL funding would be available to those parishes with a Parish Plan. There were fewer restrictions on spending CIL money compared with S106.

Sue Ryder Request. The Charity had asked if some information could be on the SPC web site with a link to the Sue Ryder web site and this was agreed. The Chairman would accept an invitation to afternoon tea on the 7 November 12 – 2 pm in aid of the Wokingham Community Hospice.

Sonning Golf Club. Promotional information about the dining facilities (Christmas Parties and Sunday Lunch) at the Club had been received.

OCC Minerals and Waste Plan. Having read the information from OCC the Chairman said that the plans showed a massive increase in waste sites over the next few years. It would be worth watching for any local developments. Mr Evans said that recent works in Sonning Eye had resulted in lots of mud on the road. The Chairman said that the car park at the Mill at Sonning was to be resurfaced.

8726: PLANNING.

Mr Runnalls said that there were several old, outstanding planning applications on the planning list, which would not now be determined and it was agreed to remove these. Cllr Haines said that the

## 8726: PLANNING (Cont'd).

developers were waiting for WBC to make a decision on August Field and Acre Field but were running out of patience. Mr Runnalls said that the gap in the Golf Club hedge, left after the Oak tree had been removed, had been opened up further over the bank holiday weekend. Mr Runnalls had spoken to Kelly Noviss (Tree Officer WBC), who had visited the site. Unfortunately there was no proof as to who had carried out the work and the Golf Club had knew nothing about it. There was an application to install lighting on the Berkshire Sports Ground and Mr Barker had asked to speak to a Councillor about the proposal. Cllr Haines said that the Golf Club had not sought pre-application advice before submitting their application for 17 dwellings on the Golf Club land. There had been a lot of objections to the proposal, including no need for additional housing and this would fill in an important green space between Sonning and Woodley. WBC had also asked for a full safety survey, as golf balls were already going into existing gardens and were a hazard. Mr Runnalls said that if a tree with a TPO on it was removed the landowner was required to replace it and added that land adjoining the Golf Club on the A4 boundary had been sold.

**The following applications were on going:** South Lodge Sonning Lane (F/2014/1832): Acre Field, Charvil Lane (F/2015/0235): August Field and Acre Field Charvil Lane (F/2015/0354). 29 Sonning Meadows (F/2014/2444): The Great House at Sonning (F/2015/0283): 32 Sonning Meadows (F/2015/0848):

**The following applications had been approved:** 51 West Drive (150116): Dennisholme (150314)

**The following applications had been refused.** There were no refusals.

**The following new applications had been received.** Sonning Golf Club (150098) Outline application for the erection of 17 dwellings with associated highway works, public open space and landscaping.(Access and layout to be considered): 2 Seagrave Close (152012) Erection of a single storey rear extension to dwelling to form an orangery, and the erection of a white PVCu verandah to rear of dwelling: 9 Glebe Lane (152000) Proposed erection of single storey front and rear extensions to dwelling: 15 Sonning Meadows (152290) Prior approval of the erection of a single storey rear extension, which would extend beyond the rear wall of the original house by 4.75 metres, for which the maximum height would be 4.0 metres and the height of the eaves 3.0 metres: Berks County Sports Club Sonning Lane (152174). Full application to replace walkover pathway lights and bollards with 5no galvanised lamp posts: The Great House at Sonning (15216). Full application for the proposed erection of a canopy to restaurant terrace: The Great House (152129). Application for a non-material amendment to planning consent F/2015/0333 to allow minor amendments to the porch, main entrance and terrace steps: 20 Old Bath Road (150735). Two storey front and rear extensions, single storey front and rear extensions, to include alteration of roof space to additional habitable accommodation, erection of low level wall and railings.

## 8727: CONSERVATION AREA ASSESSMENT.

There was no update and the Clerk agreed to contact the Conservation Officer, Giles Stephens.

## 8728: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR.

The Chairman asked about the damaged light on the Belisha Beacon in Pound Lane and Cllr Haines said that WBC were already aware of the damaged one on the A4. Mr Fisher asked if there was any progress on the third bridge. Cllr Haines said the new traffic study was under way and was being paid for jointly by WBC, Reading BC and Oxon CC. Oxon were firmly against the idea and everything had gone very quiet. Rob Wilson, MP, Theresa May, MP, and John Howell MP, were all in favour of the bridge as were the local councils, WBC, RBC and West Berkshire. Mrs Jacobs said there had been some mention of the effect the new bridge would have on Caversham, what effects would there be. Cllr Haines said that traffic coming off the A329M would be able to access Caversham more easily. The likely cost of the project was in the region of £100M. Mr Evans said

8728: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR) Cont'd).

that WBC had been quick to remove the tree that was growing close the telephone wires. Mr Morrison said that a similar problem in Thames Street had resulted in his telephone line, and that of his neighbour, being cut off for some time, the cause had been trees breaking the cable. Mr Runnalls said that a large branch had fallen off a tree from the Shelvingstone garden. The Chairman asked how WBC were managing. Cllr Haines said that they had to find savings of £6M and their budget would be cut again in 2016/17. Although Wokingham were the lowest subsidised authority in the country they had not increased their council tax for 2015/16 but they were likely to in 2016/17 but this would be limited by the Government to 2%. Wokingham had teamed up with West Berkshire for Care Services. Mr Fisher asked if there was anyone at WBC who could prepare a drainage plan for the Parish Council's water scheme on the recreation ground. Cllr Haines said that WBC dealt with highways but he was not aware that they dealt with private land, he would check but they had a very restricted budget. Cllr Haines said that he was aware that Sonning drains were inadequate and thought WBC would be reluctant to allow additional water from the field to drain into the system.

8729: PARISHIONER QUESTIONS.

There were no questions.

8730: WEB SITE.

There was no update. Mr Runnalls said that a parishioner had said that the web site was not up to date and agreed to find out exactly what he was referring to.

8731: FINANCE.

- a) Report. The Clerk had circulated a report, which was noted.
- b) Twinning Present. The Chairman said that he would ask Mr Doyle about the tapestry again. Mr Runnalls had been unable to locate anything similar. Cllr Haines suggested a series of photographs of Sonning or the video of Sonning Eye during the flooding. It was agreed that these were all good ideas and if the tapestry were not available he would follow up on the photograph possibilities. Following discussion Mr Evans proposed spending up to £100, Mr Morrison seconded and this was unanimously approved.
- c) Payment of Accounts.

The Chairman proposed paying the following payments (July and August), Mr Fisher seconded and these were unanimously approved.

July

C. C. Gilson - Internal Audit	45.00
Sonning Landscapes - Mow Rec. x 2	56.00
Sonning Landscapes - Mow Wharf x 2	56.00
Henley Landscapes - Mow Outfield x 2	120.00
Henley Landscapes - Mow Field	240.00
Mr K Trimmings - Litter (June)	145.83
Quadron - Dog Bins	85.00
Tony Thorpe Associates - CAA	1000.00
Henley Contracting - Playground fencing	2202.00
Dyno-Rod – Pavilion Drains	180.00
	<u>4129.83</u>

## 8731: FINANCE (Cont'd).

### August

Mr K Trimmings – Litter July	145.83
Sonning Scarecrows – Refund of VAT on Palmer Pump	582.14
SSE – St. Light Energy	727.50
Henley Landscapes – Mow Field	240.00
Henley Landscapes – Mow Outfield	60.00
Henley Landscapes – Mow Field	480.00
Henley Landscapes – Mow Outfield	<u>60.00</u>
	<u>2295.47</u>

- d) New Signatories. As Mr Morrison was now the treasurer he proposed that he became a signatory, this would be advantageous particularly at holiday times. The process would remain the same with any two of four signatures required for cheque signing. Mr Runnalls seconded and this was unanimously approved. Mr Morrison would complete the mandate forms and arrange for the Chairman, Mrs Pownall, Mr Runnalls and himself to sign where appropriate.
- e) Mandate for Internet Banking. Mr Morrison proposed that a new mandate be signed in order to have internet banking, this would be access only and business would not be undertaken on-line. Mr Fisher seconded and it was unanimously resolved that:
1. It is in the Sonning Parish Council's interest to apply for electronic banking
  2. The nominated individuals (Mr Morrison and the Clerk) were authorised to apply for and register for electronic banking on behalf of Sonning Parish Council and to accept the relevant Terms and Conditions for Mobile Services (as amended from time to time) for and on behalf of Sonning Parish Council.
  3. The Sonning Parish Council agrees to be bound by any relevant terms and Conditions for Mobile Services (as amended from time to time).

The Chairman and Clerk signed the form to confirm that the above was an accurate statement of what was agreed at the meeting.

## 8732: HIGHWAYS.

Mr Evans said that there had been comments from parishioners about the overgrown verge in Charvil Lane (outside August Field). The Chairman would speak to Graham Barnwell about this. Cllr Haines said that verges were cut once a year.

Cllr Haines said that WBC were now operating the Microsoft CRM scheme so Cllr Haines would receive a copy of any Councillor/parishioner logging in to report a problem copy and, as Chairman of SPC, Mr Farnese would also receive notifications. The My Council service had also been updated. The new app could record the location of the mobile phone used, and log the reported complaint, together with the photograph so it could be dealt with. Cllr Haines said that Mr Etherington had submitted some excellent photographs showing the flooded drain in Pound Lane with his objection to the Golf Club application. The Chairman said that Mr Collier had trimmed the overgrowth obscuring the lights in Pound Lane. The Chairman said that one of the footway lights on the bridge had been damaged beyond repair, probably by lorries, SEC said that it would need to be replaced at a cost of approximately £200.

## 8733: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G.

- a) Report. Mrs Pownall said that the Great House had some chairs to dispose of and had given them to SCC. Mrs Pownall had checked out LED lights for the Pavilion but they would need

## 8733: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G (Cont'd).

- b) transformers. There was some concern over the safety of these lights and Mrs Pownall agreed to get quotes from an electrician. Usage of the junior football pitch outside the Pavilion had caused a lot of damage the previous season and it had been suggested that it should be moved for the 2015/16 season to allow the pitch to 'rest'. The Clerk would try to arrange for the Charvil FC Chairman to meet up to discuss this with the SCC Chairman and the SPC Chairman. The Clerk would also mention the complaints about the state the kitchen was in at the end of the previous football season. Mrs Pownall said that it was time to complete and submit the application for funding for the new pavilion and she would circulate some possible dates for a meeting.
- c) Safety Checks. Mrs Pownall had checked the exercise machines and the Chairman had checked the play equipment. The Chairman said that the old Beech root in the playground had become very soft and may not need to be ground out.
- d) Water Drain-Off Work. The Chairman said that he had obtained a map of the drains in Liguge Way, which had helped to understand where the blockage was, and was very helpful. The Clerk said that BCC, as Education Authority at the time, had built the road to access the school, and part of the agreement was that they would maintain it (WBC were now the Education Authority). The Chairman would contact WBC property services to see if they would pay to have the drain unblocked.

Mr Fisher had observed the water flow on the field after the recent heavy rain. There had been some flooding by the Pavilion, coming from the playground side of the field and it was agreed that this should be monitored. The third contractor had some different solutions for the water problem and had suggested a French drain plus a bore hole but a soak away would be the cheapest. Costs would be in the region of £7,000. Mr Fisher said that one possibility would be to try the shallow gully, suggested by White Horse Contractors, and see if this would resolve the flooding. The Chairman said that there was a covered gully on that side of the field but he was unsure where the water went. There were concerns that draining the water into the Pound might result in it flowing into Pound Lane but Mr Driver was of the opinion that the soil in the Pound was more porous than in the field.
- e) Pavilion Drain Works. Mrs Pownall said that it was now known approximately where the blockage was but the area had to be excavated which would cost approximately £500. Following discussion the Chairman proposed spending up to £500 on the excavation work, Mr Fisher seconded and this was unanimously agreed.
- f) Quotes for the Playground. Playdale had produced a quote to remove the large orange swing from the field into the playground but the thinking was now that this swing would not be in keeping with the existing playground equipment and it would be better to reinstall it in the original position. This would mean grinding out the tree roots that had caused the damage to the safety surface in the first place. The Clerk would ask the tree officer if this would compromise the tree.
- g) Quote for Field Maintenance. Henley Contracting had provided a quote of £1575 for the annual maintenance to the field. This included Vertidrain £645: Terrarake £325 and Overseed (6 bags) £625. It was agreed that this would be beneficial to the field as it was so well used. Mrs. Pownall proposed accepting the quote, Mr. Fisher seconded and this was unanimously approved.
- h) Quote for Wharf Works. Canon Tree care had made some suggestions which would improve the Wharf. This would be reviewed on site on 14 September at 6.00pm.
- i) Availability of the Wharf. It was agreed to review all applications to use the Wharf as they were made and charges might be levied depending on the intended use. Mrs Jacobs said that to all intents and purposes the boundary between the Wharf and the garden of the Great House

8733: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G (Cont'd).

j) was now non-existent and a large gap was being established by pedestrians walking through one particular area. This would also need to be addressed.

8734: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

Wharf Safety Checks. The Chairman had carried these out and said that the boundary between the Great House and the Wharf continued to look a mess and no attempt was being made to address this after the Great House contractor had all but removed the once flourishing Beech hedge owned by SPC.

Mrs Jacobs said that the allotment boundary fence urgently needed attention and the compost bin was overflowing. The Clerk would write to the allotment holders asking them to tidy this up and asking that there be no repeat. The Chairman would inspect the fence. Mrs Jacobs said that two cars had been abandoned by the Little Glebe garages. The Chairman said that he had spoken to WBC about this. Mrs Jacobs said that the water was flowing out of one of the drains at the bottom of Lees Hill and agreed to contact Eddie Napper.

8735: ACTION LIST.

The Action List was reviewed and updated.

8736: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The date of the next meeting would be Tuesday 13 October 2015 at 7.00pm.

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