

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the Pavilion, Pound Lane, Sonning, on Tuesday 9 February 2016 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT. Mr A E Farnese (Chairman), Mr A Evans, Mr T Fisher, Mrs S Jacobs, Mr Morrison, Mrs P Pownall, Mr I Runnalls. By invitation Cllr M Haines (WBC) (from 8.00pm). Mrs L A Bates (Clerk).

8808: APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS. There were no apologies. The Chairman welcomed all those present.

8809: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

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

8810: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations.

8711: CASUAL VACANCY.

This was ongoing.

8812: CORRESPONDENCE

WBC Meeting for Chairmen. All parish Chairmen had been invited to attend a meeting with WBC Executives on 10 February. The Clerk would advise WBC that this was too short notice to change plans and the Chairman already had a commitment. Later Cllr Haines explained that this meeting had been organised by a team of members of other authorities, not WBC. This was part of a 'peer' challenge where senior officers from different authorities visited their 'peers' and provided feedback on how well they thought each other were doing.

SLTC Footpath. The Chairman said that this would be better investigated once the trees were removed, providing that SLTC were in agreement of the proposal.

Berkshire Fire and Rescue Consultation. In order to provide information to assist with the consultation there would be two information events at Pincents Manor, one on 7 March from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm and another on 9 March from 9.30 am to 11.30 am.

WBC Trees and Landscape. In reply to the request for a site visit in order to advise on the position of the proposed drain near the playground entrance (in regard to the proximity to trees) Kelly Noviss had said that WBC could not provide this service due to budget restraints and suggested seeking advice from a tree expert. If any work was carried out near trees a Conservation Area application would need to be completed.

Allotment Apple Tree. The holder of the allotment with the apple tree had asked if it was her responsibility or SPC's to prune the tree. This had always been the allotment holder's responsibility and the Chairman would ask Mr Tinson for advice on pruning.

CIL Terms of Reference. WBC had sent a revised agreement for Council's to sign. It was agreed that there was no need to reconsider SPC's previous decision, not to sign up, and the Clerk would inform WBC.

Cycle Racks. Mr Bates had asked about the proposed cycle rack and it was agreed to consider these once the drainage work had been agreed.

Donation Requests. Berkshire Vision and Relate had asked if SPC would consider making a donation. SPC already made a donation each year to Berkshire Blind and assumed that they had changed their name (since confirmed). There was a small amount in the budget and it was agreed to consider this at the March meeting. If Councillors would like any other organisation to be considered they should bring their proposals to the meeting.

## 8813: PLANNING.

a) Report. Mr Runnalls said that Mr Thorpe had asked to make a presentation, at the next planning meeting, on his application for the Pavilion, Holme Park Farm. It had previously been agreed that the planning meetings were not a forum for applicants to present their plans. The Clerk would inform Mr Thorpe. Mr Runnalls and Mr Fisher would attend the appeal hearing for August and Acre Field. The Birchley application had been approved. Mr Runnalls had received a letter from the Environment Agency in reply to his enquiry about vehicular access along the towpath. Any application would be considered on their merits. The development in the Churchyard was discussed and the Chairman agreed to speak to one of the Church representatives about opening the protective fence around the graves at the weekend, when there was no building work under way, to allow relatives to access the graves.

**The following applications were on going:** South Lodge Sonning Lane (F/2014/1832): Acre Field, Charvil Lane (F/2015/0235) (Appeal): August Field and Acre Field Charvil Lane (F/2015/0354) (Appeal): The Great House at Sonning (F/2015/0283): 29 Old Bath Road (150735): Reading Blue Coat School Sonning Lane (152342- F/2014/2319) split decision: Little Shire Mustard Lane (152478): Unit 1 Sonning Farm (152363): 20 Old Bath Road (152751): 47 West Drive (152543): Holme Park Farm House, Holme Park Farm Lane (153218): Land adjacent To Model Farm Cottages Bath Road (153307): Glebelands Thames Street (153390): The White House High Street (153369:

**The following applications had been approved:** Birchley Old Bath Road (152701): Pavilion, Holme Park Sports Ground (15330: Microsoft Ltd (153300).

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

**The following new applications had been received.** There were no new applications.

## 8814: CONSERVATION AREA ASSESSMENT.

There was no further update

## 8815: NEW CODE OF CONDUCT.

WBC had revised the Code of Conduct, copies of which had been circulated to all Councillors, and were inviting all parishes to adopt it. Following discussion Mr Morrison proposed adopting the new Code of Conduct, Mr Fisher seconded and this was unanimously approved.

## 8816: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR.

Mr Evans said that he had logged a call to WBC regarding an accident on the A4/Hawthorn Way following a request from a resident living opposite the site of the accident. So far there had been no reply. The barrier between the A4 and Hawthorn Way was very flimsy and offered no protection from cars speeding from the roundabout and losing control. This was the third accident in a short space of time. Cllr Haines said that the driver's insurance should pay for any damage, the barrier was a sight barrier and was not meant to be strong. The length nearest the roundabout was a crash barrier but it did not extend all the way. The 50mph speed limit was considered to be appropriate. The Chairman asked if the crash barrier couldn't be extended all the way. Cllr Haines said that raising the curb/path was under consideration but unfortunately this was probably not WBC's highest priority. The Chairman said that WBC had not even repaired the damage. Mr Evans agreed to produce a list of bullet points so that the Clerk could write to Matt Davey about this issue.

Cllr Haines said that the WBC finances had improved slightly as they were to receive £2.5 m under an agreement reached with the government.

Cllr Haines said that the August and Acre Field appeal was to be heard on 16 February, he was unable to attend but Mr Runnalls had agreed to read out his statement. The meeting would be run on a quasi-legal manor, depending upon what suited the Inspector. There was a certain amount of

## 8816: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR (Cont'd).

pressure on Planning Inspectors from the Government who were in favour of building new homes and a certain amount of pressure for development in the northern parishes. Mr Runnalls said that Sonning was a limited development area and a Conservation Area. Cllr Haines said that the resident in the property adjoining the Pavilion, Holme Park Sports Ground, had sent him vast amounts of information regarding hyperbolic chambers, Cllr Haines had listed the application for a traveller site on land adjoining Model Farm Cottages.

## 8817: PARISHIONER QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

## 8818: FINANCE.

- a) Report. The Report had been circulated.
- b) Payment of Accounts. The Chairman proposed making the following payments, Mr Runnalls seconded and these were unanimously approved.

### January

Payments							
Date	Cheque No.	Name	Service item	Gross	VAT	Net	Committee Headings
20 Jan '16	100238	A E Farnese	Christmas refreshments	65.30	0.00	65.30	ADMIN
20 Jan '16	100239	Purco Print	Newsletter printing	60.00	0.00	60.00	ADMIN
20 Jan '16	100240	Alpha Windows	Repairs to Pav. Door	114.00	19.00	95.00	PAVILION
20 Jan '16	100241	Sonning Landscapes	Cut Wharf Willow	100.00	0.00	100.00	ENVIRONMENT
20 Jan '16	100241	Sonning Landscapes	Mow Wharf	28.00	00.00	28.00	RECREATION
20 Jan '16	100241	Sonning Landscapes	Allotment Hedge	80.00	00.00	80.00	ENVIRONMENT
20 Jan '16	100241	Sonning Landscapes	Remove Beech Stump	40.00	0.00	40.00	PAVILION
20 Jan '16	100242	Quadron	Dog Bins Part Nov Dec & Jan	228.90	38.00	190.90	AMENITIES
30 Jan '16	100243	Henley Landscapes	Mow Main Field 1	240.00	00.00	240.00	RECREATION
30 Jan '16	100244	SSE Contracting	St. Light Mtnce	727.50	121.25	606.25	LIGHTING
30 Jan '16	100245	L A Bates	Honorarium less tax	2508.00	0.00	2508.00	CLERKS
30 Jan '16	100245	L A Bates	Telephone	40.00	0.00	40.00	ADMINISTRATION
30 Jan '16	100246	Inland Revenue	NIC & Tax	213.36	0.00	213.36	CLERK
			<b>Months Total</b>	<b>4445.06</b>	<b>178.25</b>	<b>4266.81</b>	

c) Licence Fees. The current Licence Fees were: CFC £500: SCC £1500: SFC £600, and had been the same since 2013. Following discussion it was agreed that a small increase should be made in 2016 while Mr Morrison produced a plan on which to base any future increase. The Chairman proposed that the annual fee for each club should be raised so that in 2016 CFC would pay £550, SCC would pay £1550 and SFC would pay £625, Mr Morrison seconded and this was unanimously approved.

## 8819: HIGHWAYS.

Mr Evans had agreed to produce bullet points for the Clerk regarding the A4/Hawthorn Way issue (see 8816).

Electronic Speed Indicators. Mr Evans had investigated and discovered that the best ones were solar powered, prices varied from £1900 up to £3000 (both plus VAT). Mr Runnalls had spoken to a contact and said that a sign that could read the volume of traffic, speed of traffic and the time

## 8819: HIGHWAYS (Cont'd)

were essential. WBC's permission, as the Highway Authority, would be required. This sign required a power supply which would add £2000 to the initial cost of £1400. The advantage was that the sign could be seen from both directions. The Clerk would ask the Twyford Clerk if they had been involved in installing their electronic sign.

No Cold Calling Scheme. Mr Evans said that he had met the Trading Standards representative to consider the best places to install the 'No Cold Calling' signs. It had been reasonably clear where to put the signs on the village side of the A4 but had proved to be more difficult the other side. Sonning was the first 'No Cold Calling' scheme to be completed and this would be launched on 10 February at 2.00pm. Everyone was welcome to meet up at the Bull Inn before setting off around the area. Trading Standards were paying all the costs.

The Chairman said that the replacement wooden bollards for the entrance to Ligure Way would cost £54 each and there were eight plus installation.

## 8820: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G.

- a) Safety Checks. Mrs Pownall had checked the exercise machines and the Chairman had checked the playground. Some of the play equipment would benefit from power washing.
- b) Pavilion. Mrs Pownall said that there had been another break-in, access had been through the door to the home team changing room. The door was now just bolted and Mr Pownall had agreed to install a new lock. The Umpires room had been broken into but nothing had been taken. Cllr Haines said that the police were aware of such incidences, which were on the increase. Post offices, hairdressers and now villages were being targeted. Mortimer post office and shops in Shinfield had been affected. The Chairman would ask a carpenter to carry out repairs to the door.
- c) Sonning School Football. Mrs Pownall asked if the school could use the field on 26 February. This would not affect the sports clubs and Councillors approved the request.
- d) Water Drain-Off Work. Mr Fisher had met Mr Napper, who had confirmed that the proposed drain could be linked into the existing drain. The Chairman said that the Council had a duty of care to remove the water from the field.
- e) Pavilion Drain Works. Mrs Pownall said that this was ongoing.
- f) Quotes for the Playground. The Chairman said that Henley Landscapes had made a suggestion and the Clerk would ask for details and a quote.
- g) Quote for Wharf Works. There had been no contact from the Great House. Mrs Jacobs said that one of the benches was broken and agreed to keep an eye on this. Mrs Jacobs would check the name of the seat for the Clerk, who might be able to identify the person who had donated it. Mrs Jacobs would report the pot hole in Thames Street.
- h) SPC Meeting with Sports Clubs. This would take place on Monday 22 February at 6.00 pm in the Pavilion. The Chairman, Mrs Pownall and Mr Fisher would attend. The Clerk would take notes.
- i) Reply from Mr Barker. There had been no reply from Mr Barker but he had telephoned the Clerk to say he was disappointed that the Council had chosen to write to him rather than

contacting him direct. The Chairman said that the tree was sitting on the boundary and was a joint responsibility but it seemed unlikely that Mr Barker would make a contribution. Following discussion the Chairman proposed that, in the interests of safety, SPC should take on the responsibility and ask the contractor to fell the tree at a cost of £750. Mr Morrison seconded and this was unanimously approved.

8821: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

Safety Checks. The Chairman had carried out the safety checks and there was nothing to report.

8821: TECHNICAL SERVICES (Cont'd).

Lighting Upgrade. The Chairman and Mr Fisher had met David White (WBC) to discuss the possible upgrade on 19 January. There were huge savings to be made though the scheme but the style of columns and lanterns available (galvanised metal) were unlikely to meet with everyone's approval and were not suitable for the Conservation Area. Mr Fisher had carried out a lighting inspection and had identified one or two that might need to be replaced in the near future. The Clerk asked if they had agreement with SEC to install the lights in their area as this had resulted in higher overall costs in the past. The Chairman and Mr Fisher would meet up with Mr White again to discuss these issues.

8822: WEB SITE.

There was no update.

8823: ACTION LIST.

The Action List was reviewed and updated. The Chairman would check to see if the Charvil lane slabs had been cleaned by WBC as requested.

8824: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 8 March 2016 at 7.00pm.

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