

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the Pavilion, Pound Lane, Sonning, on Tuesday 14 November 2017 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT. Mr A E Farnese (Chairman), Mr T Fisher, Mrs Jacobs, Mrs P Pownall, Mr I Runnalls.  
Mrs L A Bates (Clerk), 4 Visitors (SCC & AFC Charvil).

10024: APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS. Apologies were received from Mr Morrison (holiday). The Chairman welcomed all those present.

10025: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no Declarations.

10026: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

The Minutes of the last meeting were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

10027: NEW COUNCILLORS DECLARATION OF OFFICE AND TO ABIDE WITH THE CODE.

The Chairman said that he was delighted to welcome Mrs Fielder and Mr Green onto the Council. Mrs Fielder and Mr Green signed their Declaration of Office and the Clerk witnessed these. Mrs Fielder and Mr Green had also completed their Declaration of Interest Forms, which the Clerk would send to WBC.

10028: USE OF KGV FIELD – SCC AND CFC

The Chairman said that the field was in poor condition due to overuse and it would be necessary for both Clubs to agree how best to reduce the problem. There was no doubt that there had been an increase in the number of AFC Charvil players using the field had increased since they had started playing at Sonning (from 50 to 130). The number of SCC members playing on the field, over the same period, had not increased and the field was becoming increasingly unfit for SCC to play on and, due to the overlap of the football and cricket seasons, there was insufficient time for SCC to make the necessary repairs. Having inspected the field SPC had agreed at the October meeting to allow the adult pitch to be used by AFC Charvil for the 2017/18 season but not to allow its use after March 2018. This should allow AFC Charvil to rearrange the smaller pitches and reduce the damage to the field but would mean that a new location would be required for the older AFC Charvil members. The Chairman said that SPC understood that there had been negotiations with RBC School to use one of their adult pitches. Mr Barnes (AFC Charvil) said that he had been involved in setting up the Club at Sonning and apologised that the close relationship between the Club and SPC had become distant. Over the years the Club had become very popular and the numbers had grown, he circulated a list of the latest facts and figures including members and trainers. They trained at Piggott School so as not to overuse the field at Sonning. Mr Domingos (Club secretary) said that in order to keep the balance of the Club it was necessary to have an additional pitch large pitch and they had made a short term arrangement with RBCS. If they couldn't use the SPC large pitch the age group would have to fold, which AFC Charvil were reluctant to do. It was important to be able to offer the opportunity for players to go on through to 13-15, otherwise children would not join a club in the first place. If the older group had to play elsewhere they would not feel part of the Club. They had looked at repositioning the remaining four pitches at the top end of the field but this wouldn't work. Mr Travers (SCC) said that he had paced the area and thought that it could work, SCC had hoped that AFC Charvil could use the top half of the field and SCC the other half but Mr Domingos didn't think the split would be half and half. The Chairman said that the field was for all the community to use not just for cricket and football and it did appear that AFC Charvil had outgrown the facilities available at Sonning. There

#### 10028: USE OF KGV FIELD – SCC AND CFC (Con't).

had been complaints from residents who were unable to use the field for other recreational uses when AFC Charvil were playing and adult members of Charvil FC had been seen using the pitch outside the scope of the Licence. Mr Barnes said that he had some suggestions. One that AFC Charvil should finish the season earlier in future, allowing more time for the pitch to be repaired. Two that AFC Charvil should contribute to the repairs and three that AFC Charvil should rotate the pitches. They wanted to work with SCC. Mr Travers said that this would not be enough to turn the situation around, SCC had already dropped one point in the league due to the condition of the field, if they went below three points SCC would be out of the league. The outfield was very rough due to the overuse and the repairs should be done in the autumn in order for SCC to start making improvements and these should be done every year if some improvement was to be made. In the past the field had been split 50/50 with the football clubs. The Chairman said that SPC had made a decision, the pitches were being overused and there was a need to bring the field back for community use. AFC Charvil and SCC needed to come to a mutually agreeable decision. He appreciated that both clubs had invested a lot of time and money into the children. However the Clerk and Councillors were forever getting complaints from residents about one thing or another, including the car parking, and this also needed to be addressed. An improvement had been made since purchasing the cones but the previous Saturday there had been 16 vehicles parked on Pound Lane. There had been a confrontation between a resident and one of the mothers who had become quite belligerent. The Chairman mentioned the added difficulty of the roots from adjoining trees invading the adult pitch. Paul Gabon had brought this to SPC's attention and had discussed moving the adult pitch away from them, which would limit the space available for the other football pitches. Mr Fisher asked if all the footballers played with studs and this was confirmed. Mr Travers said the outfield needed attention, it was badly pitted and was potentially dangerous. The Chairman said that it did seem very difficult for both clubs to get together. Mr Barnes said that he would be happy to work with SCC in order to find a solution and Mr Travers agreed. The Chairman thanked all the representatives for coming to the meeting and asked that they come back to SPC as soon as possible.

#### 10029: CORRESPONDENCE

Draft Letter re. Housing allocation numbers. A further draft letter had been received from Barkham Parish Council to be sent jointly to either Sajid Javid or Alok Sharma.

S106 Funds. WBC had confirmed that there was still £5513 of S106 funds earmarked for SPC. Once the August Field development commenced there would be £6460 in S106 money available to SPC which had to be spent on open spaces, pitches and recreation ground but the majority had to be spent on play areas.

CIL Funds. WBC had confirmed that there was £8140 of CIL money due to SPC from Inniscarra and this would be paid directly into the SPC account.

Street Naming and Numbering. This department had confirmed that the Bungalow, Sonning Lane would now be known as Lime Tree House.

WBC Highways and transport Budget Consultation. This was available online until 30 December.

Crime prevention Scheme. Up to £7000 was available under this scheme for community groups and non-profit organisations for crime prevention in their locality.

#### 10030: PLANNING.

Report. Mr Runnalls said that the following had been approved: 12a South Drive (172579): Old House (172189): The Atrium (172637): RBCS (171780): Reading Blue Coat School (172485. 26 Sonning Meadows (172603): Great House (Appeal), this was for 18 new car park spaces.

## 10030: PLANNING.

It was understood that negotiations were underway to purchase an adjoining property in order to use the garden as an extra car park but this would require planning permission. Mr Runnalls said that Acrefield (172583) had been refused. The Officer, in his report, had said that protection of what remains of the semi-rural part of the Conservation Area had been made more important by the development of the adjoining plot and that any gains from developing the site would be substantially outweighed by the environmental harm that would be caused.

**The following applications were on going:** Reading Blue Coat School Sonning Lane (152342-F/2014/2319) split decision: The Lawns Old Bath Road (171424): Hope Cottage 11 Pound Lane (171651): 20 Glebe Lane (172347): 6 Hawthorn Way (172715): The Great House (172697): St. Andrews Church (172756).

**The following applications had been approved:** See above.

**The following applications had been refused.** See above.

**The following applications had not been proceeded with.** None.

**The following new applications had been received.** St. Andrews Church (172756). Full planning application for the erection of electrically operated steel gates. Ranmore Parkway Drive (172701). Householder application for the proposed erection of a part single/part two storey rear extension, a single storey front porch extension, plus the addition of a mezzanine floor with roof-light and the part conversion of garage to create habitable accommodation to dwelling.

**b) Site Allocation Update.** Mr Fisher said that this had been a very useful meeting, lasting approximately for 2 hours and a lot of it was confidential. A traffic light scheme was being operated, Red, not being currently considered, orange under consideration, green to go into the Local Plan 2026-2030. Only one Sonning site was green and would go into the Local Plan, the site to the rear of Little Glebe, which had already been allocated for 25 dwellings in 2025. Unfortunately, if there was a shortfall across the Borough WBC would need to reconsider those sites in the orange category. Once the list was had been completed there would be final consultation in in August 2018. The total number of dwellings required was 8000 on 1100 sites, plus 3 master planning sites. WBC were planning 30 dwellings per hectare. A full, confidential, list of the site allocations in Sonning, was handed to all Councillors.

## 10031: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR.

In the absence of Cllr Haines there were no questions.

## 10032: PARISHIONER QUESTIONS.

There were no questions.

## 10033: FINANCE.

- a) **Report.** The Clerk had prepared a report which was noted. The report also included the draft 2018/19 budget figures. Councillors would consider these and bring and questions, changes, revisions to the December meeting for consideration. The final draft would be presented at the January meeting ready for agreement. The Precept could then be agreed ready to send to WBC by the deadline, 2 February.
- b) **Projector/Screen.** WBC would no longer send any hard copies of planning applications, except for developments of over 10 dwellings. All applications would have to be viewed on-line and printed off at A4. It was agreed that viewing through a projector would only be of use at meetings, not to show to residents. Printing off at A4 would still be necessary so a projector/screen would be of limited use.

## 10033: FINANCE (Cont'd).

- c) Payment of Accounts. Mr Fisher proposed and Mrs Jacobs seconded making the following payments for October and these were unanimously approved.

### PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS NOVEMBER '17 (1 TO 31 OCTOBER)

Date	Chq	Name	Service item	Gross	VAT	Net	Committee	Sub-Comm.
5/10/17	428	SLTC	Data protection	30.00	5.00	25.00	ADMIN	Admin Misc.
5/10/17	429	ISS	Dog Bins Sept.	156.00	26.00	130.00	ENVIRONMENT	Dog Bins
5/10/17	430	Scribe	A/C Ann Fee	169.80	28.30	141.50	ADMIN	Misc.
5/10/17	431	E A	Wharf licence	51.83	0.00	51.83	ENVIRONMENT	Wharf Licence
5/10/17	432	Henley Land	Outfield (May)	65.00	0.00	65.00	SPORTS	SCC Utilities
5/10/17	432	Henley Land	Main Mowing.	245.00	0.00	245.00	RECREATION	Main Mow
5/10/17	433	Son. Land	Mow Playground	60.00	0.00	60.00	RECREATION	Mow Play
5/10/17	434	Castle Water	Pavilion Water	60.23	0.00	60.23	SPORTS	Pav. Utilities
5/10/17	434	Castle Water	Square Water	5.65	0.00	5.65	SPORTS	Square (SCC)
12/10/17	435	Son. Land	Mow Playground	90.00	0.00	90.00	RECREATIUN	Mow Play
12/10/17	435	Son. Land	Mow Wharf x 2	84.00	0.00	84.00	ENVIRONMENT	Mow Wharf
12/10/17	435	Son. Land	P. Lane hedge	60.00	0.00	60.00	RECREATION	Hedge Pound
12/10/17	435	Son. Land	Wharf hedge	28.00	0.00	28.00	ENVIRONMENT	Wharf hedge
13/10/17	DD	SEC	St. Light Energy	454.28	21.63	432.65	HIGHWAY & LIGHT	Light Energy
15/10/17	436	Mazars	Annual Audit	360.00	60.00	300.00	ADMIN	Audit
15/10/17	437	Henley Land	Main Mowing x 2	490.00	0.00	490.00	RECREATION	Main Mowing
15/10/17	437	Henley Land	Mow Pond area	430.00	0.00	430.00	RECREATION	Pond Mowing
15/10/17	438	L A Bates	Honorarium (less tax)	2580.50	0.00	2580.50	CLERK	Clerk
15/10/17	438	L A Bates	Telephone (x 2)	80.00	0.00	80.00	ADMIN	Tel.
15/10/17	439	Inland Rev.	Tax & NIC	267.54	0.00	267.54	CLERK	Clerk
			<b>Total</b>	<b>5767.83</b>	<b>140.93</b>	<b>5626.90</b>		

## 10034: HIGHWAYS.

School Crossing Patrol. Mr Fisher had meet Cllr Bowring (WBC) on 18 October with Cllr Claire Borsberry-Lewis and Luke Henderson (head teacher Sonning Primary School). Serous concerns were expressed regarding the safety of the crossing since losing the School Crossing Patroller and Mr Fisher had shown the results from the electronic speed devise (one vehicle travelling at 65mph in the 20mph zone at 4.10pm as pupils would be leaving the after-school club). Cllr Bowring had mentioned that WBC were considering changing the crossing to a light controlled one. Mr Fisher said that he understood that a donor was making a contribution towards a School Crossing Patroller in another area.

Speed Indicator. Mr Fisher had said that the last download had shown a vehicle drive at 60 mph, mid-afternoon. A percentile of 65.5%. There was some speeding in both directions, 27.7% one way and 28.5% the other. The highest number of vehicles was 3816. Mr Runnalls said that he had been overtaken by a speeding vehicle as he drove down Pound Lane.

Speed/Lorry Watch. Mr Fisher was still waiting for the police vetting. Mr Fisher had asked about the information collected by the ANPR camera on the Bridge and was told that this could be available to him once the vetting had been completed. Once the Speed Watch was underway the results could be sent to T V Park police who would send a warning letter to the offender.

Sonning Lane Parking. Mr Fisher said that this was at an impasse, RBCS said that they could only implement the parking at the RRFC after the parking restrictions had been implemented. Unfortunately Mr Horton had now moved on from his post in Highways but Sara Allman had taken

#### 10034: HIGHWAYS (Cont'd).

his place. Mr Fisher would make contact with her for any news about the school crossing. Mr Green suggested that a crossing nearer to the A4 would be more practical as it would serve the people from Glebe Lane.

Bridge Lights. SEC had quoted £290 plus VAT to replace 3 lights on the Bridge, Mr Fisher proposed accepting the quote, the Chairman seconded and this was unanimously approved. Mr Fisher said that Giles Stephens has approved the replacement lights. The Chairman suggested a sweep up of the Bridge while Thames Street was closed for highways work and this would take place on 21 November. All were welcome to assist during the morning.

Mr Fisher said that Mrs Plant had been in touch with someone about the road humps and had reiterated that they were a health hazard.

#### 10035: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G.

- a) Safety Checks. Mr Farnese had inspected the play equipment.
- b) New Pavilion. Mrs Pownall said that she had got in touch with the project manager but there was nothing to report so far. The Chairman said that he was sceptical about project management.
- c) SCC Practice nets. The Chairman said that he had checked the nets when he met the SLTC Chairman, Romy Spindler. They had parking for approximately 12 vehicles but the membership had grown and they now had 100 juniors. The hedge needed some attention but this was now SLTC's responsibility. Ms Spindler would check the specification for disabled access and send to the Clerk.
- d) Improvements to Approach Road to KGV Field. The Chairman said that Delta Force had done a good job at the school and asked the Clerk to contact them.
- e) Playground Quote. Proludic had quoted £3319 plus VAT to lay a path in the playground. It was agreed to leave the work until the spring.
- f) Hedge Trimming Pound Lane. The Clerk would chase Mr Collier. Mr Green said that he had noticed cars parking in the car park late at night and adjacent to Beech Lodge and there were concerns about drug use. Mr Green agreed to keep watch to see if it became a matter of concern.
- g) Wharf Gate. The Chairman had a contact in Sonning Eye who would supply a quote for a wooden gate.

Mrs Pownall said that CFC had been given fobs to open the new school gates. Mr Green said that the parking seemed to be working and things had improved.

#### 10036: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

Safety Checks. The Chairman would carry out the safety checks on the Wharf.

Lighting Upgrade. Mr Fisher would ask Mr Wight if he could quote for additional lights.

Allotment hedge. Mrs Pownall would ask Mr Collier to trim this and also to trim the foliage, around the street light nearest the A4.

#### 10037: NEWSLETTER.

It was agreed to produce the next edition in the New Year. All copy to be with Mrs Pownall by the beginning of December.

10038: POLICE AND SECURITY.

Mr Fisher said that he would be unable to attend the next meeting but would receive the minutes of the meeting. There had been a break-in at the RC&HC. Mrs Fielder said that there had been three break-ins recently, one in Old Bath Road and another in West Drive and the culprits seemed to be after the keys to the owner's cars. The police had made people aware that contactless bank cards were vulnerable and the information could be accessed. A pack of 10 RFIC cards to place in wallets etc. were available for the police for £1 and these would prevent others accessing the information. The police had also recommended flicker (fake) TV which as a deterrent, these could be purchased for about £20 and other security devices were available. On the whole Sonning was fairly safe.

10039: WEB SITE.

There was nothing to report.

10040: CHRISTMAS DRINKS.

It was agreed that the Chairman would purchase 6 red and 6 white wines plus juice and refreshments for the main meeting on 12 December.

10041: ACTION LIST.

The Action List was reviewed and updated.

10042: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 12 December at 7.00pm.

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