

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the Pavilion, Pound Lane, Sonning, on Tuesday 9 July 2019 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT. Mr A E Farnese (Chairman), Mr T Fisher, Mr P Morrison. By invitation  
Cllr Michael Firmager (WBC), 3 members of the Sonning Society. Mrs L A Bates (Clerk).  
1 Visitor.

10363: APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS. Apologies were received from Mrs J Fielder (holiday),  
Mrs J Harvey (recovering from operation). The Chairman welcomed all those present.

10364: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations.

10365: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

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

10366: NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN.

Mr Fisher outlined the informal meeting between representatives of the Society, himself, the Clerk, the Leader of SODC, a councillor representing Woodcote PC and another representing Watlington PC who had been involved with the preparation of their Neighbourhood Plans. A lot of hard work, and costs, had been involved in preparing the NP. Mr Hart (Society) said that the Oxfordshire Councillors had been very supportive of NPs and, if adopted, WBC had to accept a NP as part of the Local Plan for the area. Mr Morrison said the NP might not be adopted. Mr Hart said that there were existing documents but a NP offered the best protection against inappropriate development and it was a good way to become aware of the policies and the NP could be put together in 2 or 3 years. The two Oxfordshire representatives offered support to streamline the preparation of our plan and suggested that it could be achieved in 18 months given sufficient resources. A talk arranged by CPRE had also recommended having a NP but cautioned that a NP must be consistent with the Local Plan and hence attention should be given to the timing of Local Plan updates. The Chairman asked how the Society saw this working. Mr Hart said that SPC and the Society should work together, SPC needed to adopt a draft proposal that could be circulated in the Parish to gain residents support. Mr Hart agreed that the Society could put an initial proposal together suggesting the way the two organisations could move forward. The Chairman asked about the cost. Mr Hart said that £10,000 was available from WBC but other plans had cost up to £60,000, including a Traffic Management Plan. A cost of £10,000 was anticipated as this was the cost for locations similar to Sonning. The Chairman asked if a plan would make any difference considering the cost. Mr Hart said that the plan should take a long view ahead. There would need to be consultation and what to do in the meantime could be discussed. The Chairman said that he liked the idea of sitting down to discuss the issues. Mr Morrison said that there were concerns that the Neighbourhood Plan wouldn't influence the WBC Local Plan. Mr Hart said that the Neighbourhood Plan would allow Sonning to decide on the layout of new development as Watlington and Whitchurch had. The Chairman said that the main issues in Sonning were traffic and infrastructure. Cllr Firmager said that he would assist if he could and that all parishes were different and it was hoped that the plan would do the best for the local area. There were eighteen parishes in the WBC area and all were different. The 3<sup>rd</sup> bridge would make a difference to the congestion in Tames Street, Charvil Lane and Pound Lane. Mr Fisher said that consultation was essential, other councils had benefitted from residents joining their local parish council's once they understood the situation. Mr Fisher asked if there were any other problems except for

#### 10366: NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (Cont'd)

Financial and Mr Hart said that it was essential that WBC were supportive. Following a short discussion about the next step Mr Hart agreed that the Society would put a draft together for discussion at the September meeting.

#### 10367: CORRESPONDENCE.

PEST UK. The Clerk had asked for a reduction in the annual fee as only two reports had been received instead of eight. It transpired that the tick box for reports had been unchecked but this had now been rectified and the missing reports had been received.

Mrs Harvey. Mrs Harvey had thanked the Council for the 'get well soon' bouquet of flowers.

Litter on Wharf. Mr Doyle had sent a photo showing a mound of rubbish around the notice asking for rubbish to be taken home. It was difficult to know how to manage this and Mr Doyle had suggested removing the bin. Unfortunately prior to the bin being supplied the rubbish had accumulated anyway.

Wokingham Veteran Tree Association. The Association had written asking for a donation. This would be considered later in the year. They had also asked for a venue for their meetings.

Pavilion Gas. BG had now revised the account and removed the items for gas. The Clerk would go through and check the invoices.

#### 10368: PLANNING.

**Report.** The Chairman said that no new applications had been received but 190825, Little Shire, had been withdrawn.

**The following applications were on going).** The Lawns Old Bath Road (190693): TVP Building 1 Thames Valley Park Drive Earley (191243): TVP Building 1 Thames Valley Park Drive Earley (191243): Berkshire County Sports Club (191526): RH&CC Sonning Lane (191555): Chyreen Holmemoor Drive (191283): Little Shire Mustard Lane (191594).

**The following applications had been approved.** The Great House at Sonning (190825).

**The following applications had been refused.** No refusals.

**The following applications had been withdrawn.** Little Shire (191426).

**The following Appeals were underway.** 22 Pound Lane (APP/X0360/D/19/3228021).

**The following new applications had been received.** None.

#### 10369: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR.

There were no further questions for Cllr Firmager, Who left the meeting at this juncture.

#### 10370: PARISHIONER QUESTIONS.

There were no questions.

#### 10371: FINANCE.

- a) Report. The Clerk had prepared a report which was noted.

10371: FINANCE (Cont'd).

b) Payment of Accounts. Mr Morrison proposed and Mr Fisher seconded the following payments:

**SPC PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS JULY (1 TO 31 JUNE) '19**

Date	Chq	Name	Service item	Gross	VAT	Net	Committee	Sub-comm.
09/06/19	595	Sonning Litter	Litter (replace 587)	150.00	0.00	150.00	HIGHWAYS	Litter
09/06/19	596	Henley Land	Mowing	260.00	0.00	260.00	RECREATION	Main Mowing
09/06/19	597	Height Tree Care	Work to Horse Chestnuts etc.	2124.00	354.00	1770.00	RECREATION	Misc.
09/06/19	598	Castle Water	Allot	14.08	0.00	14.08	ENVIRONMENT	Allot Water
09/06/19	598	Castle Water	Square	95.22	0.00	95.22	SPORTS	Square Water
09/06/19	598	Castle Water	Pavilion	49.11	0.00	49.11	SPORTS	Pav. Water
09/06/19	599	L A Bates	TV Licence	154.50	0.00	154.50	SPORTS	SCC TV
09/06/19	599	ZEN	c-Panel (Annual)	71.86	11.98	59.88	ADMIN	Subscriptions
09/06/19	599	ZEN	Domain Name (Annual)	59.40	9.90	49.50	ADMIN	Subscriptions
09/06/19	600	TIVOLI	Dog Bins x 2 (April + May)	331.20	55.20	276.00	ENVIRONMENT	Dog Bins
20/06/19	601	A E Farnese	AGM Refreshments	26.46	0.00	26.46	ADMIN	Misc.
20/06/19	602	Sonning Litter	Litter (part month May)	106.45	0.00	106.45	HIGHWAYS	Litter
20/06/19	603	Sonning Land	Mow Wharf. x 4	112.00	0.00	112.00	ENVIRONMENT	Wharf Mow
20/06/19	603	Sonning Land	Mow Rec x 4	120.00	0.00	120.00	RECREATION	Play Mow
20/06/18	603	Sonning Land	Hedges (P Lane)	60.00	0.00	60.00	RECREATION	Pound Hedge
26/06/19	604	CAS	Insurance – Ann Premium	1653.22	0.00	1653.22	ADMIN	Insurance
26/06/19	605	L A Bates	Honorarium less TAX	2723.75	0.00	2723.75	CLERK	Honorarium
26/06/19	605	L A Bates	Telephone	40.00	0.00	40.00	ADMIN	Print/Post/Stat
26/06/19	607	Inland Revenue	TAX	151.00	0.00	151.00	CLERK	Tax
26/06/19	606	Inland Revenue	NIC	99.03	0.00	99.03	CLERK	NIC
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8401.28</b>	<b>431.08</b>	<b>7970.20</b>		

c) 2018/19 Annual Return – Annual Governance Statement.

The Clerk had circulated the 2018/19 AGAR documents, pages 1 to 6, which, included the Internal Auditors report, the Annual Governance Statement and the Annual Accountancy Statement. These were all reviewed. Following discussion Mr Morrison proposed approving the Annual Governance Statement, Mr Fisher seconded and this was unanimously approved.

d) 2018/19 Annual Return Accountancy Statements

Having reviewed the Annual Accountancy Statements the Chairman proposed approving the Accountancy Statement, Mr Fisher seconded and these were unanimously approved.

Mr Morrison said that thanks were due to the Clerk for keeping the day to day finance records.

e) Accountants Draft Outline of Letter to HMRC reference VAT on Pavilion.

The accountants had redrafted their outline proposed approach to HMRC and had emailed it the previous day for circulation. They had agreed a fee of £2,000, to draft a letter to HMRC, and a liability of £50,000. Following discussion it was agreed that the proposed approach was a good one and the Chairman proposed accepting the fee and asking the accountants to progress to the next stage. Mr Morrison seconded and this was unanimously approved.

f) Parish Council Financial Standing Orders.

The Clerk had circulated the draft Financial Standing Orders based on the NALC proposal. Following discussion Mr Morrison proposed and the Chairman seconded adopting the revised Financial Standing Orders and this was unanimously approved.

#### 10371: FINANCE (Cont'd).

- g) New Signatory. It had been agreed at the May meeting that Mrs Harvey should replace Mrs Pownall as the new signatory on the Barclays account. Mr Morrison agreed to progress this.

#### 10372: HIGHWAYS

School Crossing. There were no further updates

Speed Indicators (SID). Mr Fisher said that the figures for Pound Lane showed 4500 vehicles per day. A vehicle driving at 65mph at 12.55am had been recorded and figures showed that at least one vehicle per day was travelling at 55mph and 70% of vehicles were over the speed limit. Charvil Lane figures were similar but slightly slower than in Pound Lane.

Lorry Watch. Mr Fisher said that West Berkshire dealt with overweight vehicles and he would send photos of offending vehicles to them.

Lorry Watch. Mr Fisher and his colleagues were trying to match dates and would choose one spot in each of their parishes to monitor.

Rerouting High Power Electricity Cables in Sonning. Mr Fisher had suggested that the Church should be consulted.

#### 10373: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G.

- a) Safety Checks. The Chairman had inspected the playground and he and Mr Fisher would be cleaning the equipment and would also check out the netball post.
- b) Pavilion Fund Raising. Mr Morrison would check the account and pass the information on to SCC.
- c) Pagoda Light. This was ongoing.
- d) Charvil Football Club Property. Mrs Harvey would continue to liaise with the Club.
- e) SLTC Main Gate. The Chairman said that he and Mr Fisher would look at the gate again.

#### 10374: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

Safety Checks. The Chairman had carried out the safety checks on the Wharf.

Lighting Upgrade. Mr Fisher said that he had spoken to a Mr Smith about the scratches and the light shields would be delivered at the end of July.

Wharf Gate. Henley Contracting had said they would do this at the end of July.

#### 10375: V.E. DAY 2020.

Mrs Fielder was looking into this.

#### 10376: ALLOTMENTS.

The Chairman said that a skip was required so the compost heap could be removed and the area tidied up and seeded.

#### 10377: POLICE AND SECURITY.

In her absence Mrs Fielder had provided the latest police report. There had been criminal damage in Old Bath Road where vehicles had been damaged. The theft of a wallet from a gentleman's jacket, which had been hanging up, had been reported in Thames Street. The theft of an ice cream

10377: POLICE AND SECURITY (Con't).

bike had been reported by Mrs Drogemuller. It was understood that a resident had arranged fundraising to help replace the stolen bike.

10378: NEWSLETTER.

The Chairman would speak to Mrs Pownall about this.

10379: WEB SITE.

This continued to work well.

10380: ACTION LIST.

This was reviewed and updated.

10381: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 10 September 2019 at 7.00pm

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