

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the Pavilion, Pound Lane, Sonning, on Tuesday 8 October 2019 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT. Mr A E Farnese (Chairman), Mr T Fisher, Mrs J Fielder, Mr P Morrison. By invitation
Cllr Michael Firmager (WBC). 3 visitors.
Mrs L A Bates (Clerk).

10401: APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS. Apologies were received from Mrs J Harvey (unwell).
The Chairman welcomed all those present.

10402: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations.

10403: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

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

10404: CORRESPONDENCE.

Air Pollution The results of the air monitoring in Thames Street had been received. These showed that the level of carbon dioxide did not exceed the objective of 40 microgrammes/m³, and in fact showed a reduced figure from the previous year. There were general concerns in the community as the foul smell from vehicles was often evident. The Clerk would see if it were possible for SPC to carry out surveys of their own.

Gala Dinner on behalf of the Pavilion Fund. This had been very successful and it was thought that over £30,000 had been raised.

Parish Council Walkabout. Edward Hobart, one of the community police officers responsible for the area, had suggested meeting up with a representative from SPC to walk/drive around the parish to share any concerns. Mr Fisher and Mrs Fielder would follow up on this excellent idea.

Work to Great House/Coppa Club. Work to replace the existing canopy over the Coppa Club would be commencing on Monday 14 October for five weeks. Mr Fisher would meet the project manager onsite to discuss access through the Wharf gate. It was agreed that a key should be given to the project manager for the duration of the project.

Lifebuoy's. A question had been raised about a lifebuoy on the Wharf. The Clerk had checked but there were no regulations requiring one. One London authority were removing theirs as they were seen as a hazard due to their weight and the difficulty for anyone to throw it with any accuracy and sometimes even causing more difficulty. The Chairman said that he would check this out with his contact.

Wharf Gate Sign. The existing sign had faded and needed to be replaced. The Clerk would ask Mr Doyle to make a new one.

Offer to carry out design work for Neighbourhood Plan. Mr Woodward had offered his services as a Graphic Artist if required.

WBC Updates Highway Design Guide. This was now available.

Operation Bridge. Other parishes were making plans for the death of important dignitaries, these included a loose leaf black edged condolence book, to be bound with other Wokingham parishes and lodged with the Berkshire Achieve Office once completed, sending flowers etc. The Clerk would find out where these might be available.

Local liaison meeting (Tarmac). This would take place on 17 October and Mr Morrison would attend.

10404: CORRESPONDENCE (Cont'd).

Bridge Lights. These didn't seem to be working and it was likely to be a fault that SEC would need to deal with. The Clerk would contact Mr Stevens.

10405: PLANNING.

Report. The Chairman said the following applications had been approved: Sonning Golf Club (191164): TVP Building 1 Thames Valley Park Drive Earley (191243): TVP Building 1 Thames Valley Park Drive Earley (191243): The Atrium (191808): 37 Glebe Lane (192191): 29 West Drive (191767): RH&CC Sonning Lane (191555):

The following applications were on going. The Lawns Old Bath Road (190693): Little Shire Mustard Lane (191594): West Drive (191767): Little Shire (192072): 29 West Drive (191767): 37 Glebe Lane (192191).

The following applications had been approved. See above.

The following applications had been refused. No refusals.

The following applications had been withdrawn. None.

The following Appeal had been dismissed, 22 Pound Lane (APP/X0360/D/19/3228021).

The following new applications had been received. South Meadow Cottage (192249). Full application for the proposed change of use of existing lower ground floor bedroom and en-suite WC (Use Class C3) to fitness training studio with associated WC (Use Class D2): 11 South Drive (192182). Full application for proposed erection of one 5no. bedroom dwelling with associated landscaping and car parking, following the demolition of existing dwelling: 2 South Drive (19) conditions 2 and 3 of planning consent 170989 for the householder application for the proposed erection of a first floor front/ side extension, two storey rear/side extension and a two storey rear extension to the existing dwelling. Conditions 2 refers to approved details to be substituted as follows: 01, 05B and 06 and condition 3 relate to external materials to alter the tile hanging on the dormers to cedar cladding: 7 Glebe lane (192599). Householder application for proposed erection of a single storey front extension including the insertion of 2no. roof-lights: The Atrium (192312). Full application for the proposed construction of an external swimming pool and ornamental pond to the rear of The Atrium, regrading of garden land at Pool Court, provision of external lighting to tennis court and amendments to approved landscaping schemes proposed in connection with applications 181850, 173369 (Pool Court) and 180857 (The Atrium): Linkside Duffield Road (192438). Full application for the erection of 12No flats, a detached car port & cycle store, car parking, widened site access and landscaping following demolition of the existing dwelling and out buildings.

SOUTH MEADOW COTTAGE (192249) to agree comments...

Mr Fisher said that this was to convert an existing basement bedroom into an exercise and fitness centre, with classes operating from 9.15am to 4.00pm. There were concerns that, this could cause some congestion if one class followed immediately after the other and it was suggested and the maximum number of parked vehicles should be limited. The next door neighbours didn't have any concerns. Following discussion it was agreed to say no objections in principle but concerns about too many vehicles using the single track access road, onsite access at all times for emergency vehicles and class numbers reduced to 6 to 8.

10406: NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA DEDICATION

This was the first stage towards a neighbourhood Plan, parishes had to decide if the whole parish was to be included or parts. As it was less straight forwards to choose just parts of the parish it had been agreed to include the whole parish. The Clerk had drafted the correct form of words for

10406: NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA DEDICATION (Cont'd)

The covering letter and WBC had provided a map to show the Neighbourhood Area for dedication. Following discussion Mr Morrison proposed, Mr Fisher seconded and this was unanimously approved, that the Chairman and Clerk sign the declaration and submit it for WBC's approval.

10407: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR.

Cllr Firmager said that, as Chairman of the Borough/Parish Liaison Forum he was hoping to improve communications between the Borough and Parishes. Cllr Firmager had visited Parishes about three years previously to discover their main concerns, generally these seemed to be highways and communications. Cllr Firmager now felt that the agenda should be informed by Parishes and views on this had been shared at the most recent meeting. Cllr Firmager wished to be a Champion for Parishes. Any questions should be sent to Cllr Firmager and he would raise them with WBC and he agreed to find out WBC's position of Lifebuoy's and likely costs. Mr Fisher explained the problems encountered trying to achieve the right improvements in Pound Lane and that replies were either not forthcoming or took a long time to arrive, which had caused a lot of delays. Mr Fisher agreed to copy Cllr Firmager in on any future emails, particularly over the outstanding request for small CA double yellow lines in Sonning Lane. The Chairman said that it was not just Sonning who were experiencing poor communications with some departments at WBC, Winnersh had similar experiences. Mr Doyle, asked from the floor, about the recent survey WBC had sent out regarding the housing numbers that the Government had imposed on Wokingham (800 per annum). Cllr Firmager said that there had been an excellent response from the public and these would be sent to the Government. Cllr Firmager also said that everyone wanted a third bridge except Oxfordshire. Mr Doyle asked if WBC had thought about infrastructure and Cllr Firmager said that WBC had allocated SDL's which provided much needed funding for infrastructure. If developers build out all the developments that WBC had approved it would solve much of the housing numbers difficulties.

10408: PARISHIONER QUESTIONS.

Mr Doyle said that the Scarecrow weekend would take place in 2020 and suggested that the organisers should carry out a Risk Assessment⁰. Although not a Council responsibility he was concerned about the High Street and other roads packed with visitors and the fact that vehicles were still able to drive through the village. The Chairman said he would speak to the organisers and Cllr Firmager said that WBC had a department who would advise on this.

10409: FINANCE.

- a) Report. The Clerk had prepared a report which was noted.
- b) Pound Lane Improvements – Request for CIL Contribution. Mr Fisher would write to Martin Heath outlining the discussions about changing the existing crossing for a Pelican crossing, including the fact that SPC had allocated £20,000 of their CIL funding for this at the time. It was disappointing to hear the request for £27,000 CIL funding towards the improvements only included cosmetic improvements to the crossing and some additional signing. Cllr Firmager would be copied in on this.
- c) Annual Audit.

This had been concluded satisfactorily but a note to the effect that a problem with timing on the 2017/18 return should have resulted in a No in answer to section 1 assertion 7.

10409: FINANCE (Cont'd).

- d) Payment of Accounts. Mr Fisher proposed and Mr Morrison seconded the August and October payments:

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

Date	Chq	Name	Service item	Gross	VAT	Net	Committee	Sub-com.
09/06/19	595	Sonning Litter	Litter (replace 587)	150.00	0.00	150.00	HIGHWAY	Litter
09/06/19	596	Henley Land	Mowing	260.00	0.00	260.00	REC	Main Mow
09/06/19	597	Height Tree Care	Work to Horse Chestnuts etc.	2124.00	354.00	1770.00	REC	Misc.
09/06/19	598	Castle Water	Allot	14.08	0.00	14.08	ENVIRON	Allot Water
09/06/19	598	Castle Water	Square	95.22	0.00	95.22	SPORTS	Square
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 (Ann	71.86	11.98	59.88	ADMIN	Subscription
09/06/19	599	ZEN	Domain Name	59.40	9.90	49.50	ADMIN	Subscription
09/06/19	600	TIVOLI	Dog Bins x 2 (April + May)	331.20	55.20	276.00	ENVIRON	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 May)	106.45	0.00	106.45	HIGHWAY	Litter
20/06/19	603	Sonning Land	Mow Wharf. x 4	112.00	0.00	112.00	ENVIRON	Wharf Mow
20/06/19	603	Sonning Land	Mow Rec x 4	120.00	0.00	120.00	REC	Play Mow
20/06/18	603	Sonning Land	Hedges (P Lane)	60.00	0.00	60.00	REC	Pound Hedge
26/06/19	604	Business at CAS	Insurance – Ann Premium	1653.22	0.00	1653.22	ADMIN	Insurance
26/06/19	605	L A Bates	Honorarium - 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/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
			TOTAL	8401.28	431.08	7970.20		

SPC PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS OCT (1 TO 30 SEPT) '19

Date	Chq	Name	Service Item	Gross	VAT	Net	Committee	Sub-com.
21/08/19	620	Henley Land	Main mowing x 2	520.00	0.00	520.00	REC	Main Mow
23/09/19	621	TIVOLI	Dog Bins x 1 (Sept)	165.60	26.60	139.00	ENVIRON	Dog Bins
22/09/19	622	Sonning Land	Mow Play x 1	30.00	0.00	30.00	REC	Play Mow
23/09/19	622	Sonning Land	Mow Wharf	28.00	0.00	28.00	ENVIRON	Wharf M'tnce
23/09/19	622	Sonning Land	Cut allotment hedge	120.00	0.00	120.00	ENVIRON	Allot M'tnce
23/09/19	622	Sonning Land	Cut field hedge	45.00	0.00	45.00	REC	Field boundary
			TOTAL	908.60	26.60	882.00		

10410: HIGHWAYS

School Crossing. Mr Fisher said that thanks were due to Mr Runnalls for assisting with the installation of the SID on Pound Lane as part of the information required by WBC to make a decision on moving the 30mph zone back to the A4. It would be in place for two weeks. Mr Fisher said that previous emails from Sara Allman appeared to confirm that the crossing could be upgraded to a Puffin crossing at a cost of £20,000 and SPC had agreed to use part of their CIL to fund this. However the latest emails said that the crossing would have cosmetic improvements. Mr Fisher agreed to follow this up and copy Cllr Firmager in on his emails.

10410: HIGHWAYS (Cont'd)

Speed Indicators (SID). Mr Fisher said that the figures for Charvil Lane showed a speeding car travelling at 65 mph up to the speed bump, at 2.25 am. There had been 3500 vehicles, Monday to Friday. Pound Lane showed 4200 vehicles. One vehicle was travelling at 55 mph 5.50pm on a Saturday evening and other vehicles were generally travelling at 40/45 and 50 mph. Mr Runnalls said that he and other residents were thinking about purchasing a mini-SID for Charvil Lane but finding the right location with a suitable lamppost was proving difficult. The Chairman said that he would check to see who produced Puffin crossings and the cost.

Lorry Watch. Mr Fisher said that he had signed up but needed to agree a mutually convenient date. Mr Fisher had now been told that SPC could not use the information from the MPR on the Bridge. However he and Mr Runnalls would meet up to discuss the process of prosecuting lorry owners, which would necessitate a court appearance. Mr Fisher had been contacted about heavy vehicles in Sonning Eye and he had explained that West Berks Trading Standards carried out regular lorry checks. Mr Runnalls said that a 44 ton vehicle had driven over the Bridge, on its way to Travis Perkins, he had followed it into the depot and challenged the driver who said he was following his sat-nav. Another lorry in Charvil Lane had knocked a tree down.

Mr Fisher said that WBC were remarking the lines in Pound lane and Sonning Lane and Cllr Firmager agreed to chase up the request for Conservation Area markings in Sonning Lane.

10411: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G.

- a) Safety Checks. The Chairman had inspected the playground.
- b) Pavilion Fund Raising. It was understood that over £30,000 had been raised at the Dinner.
- c) Rec. Path Quotes. The contractor had agreed to carry out the work over the half-term school holiday.
- d) Charvil Football Club Property. Mrs Harvey continued to liaise with the Club.
- e) SLTC Main Gate & Water. The gate was still under consideration and the Chairman would chase Mr Pownall about locating the water leak.

10412: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

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

Lighting Upgrade. Still waiting for WBC to carry out repairs to the columns. Mr Fisher reported that he had reset the Bridge lights but it appeared that they had gone out again. The Clerk would contact SEC.

Wharf Gate. This had now been installed and was an improvement.

Wharf tree. The contractor still hadn't completed removal of the remains of the damaged tree and the Chairman said that it needed urgent attention. The Clerk would chase again stressing the urgency.

10413: V.E. DAY 2020.

Mrs Fielder had spoken to the Vicar who said that the Church hadn't thought to celebrate the occasion as there were fewer veterans around in Sonning but would assist if SPC were of a mind to do something. The date agreed was Friday 8 May 2020 at 3.00pm, with people assembling on the Rec. from 2.30pm. The programme would include reading from Churchill's speech, a barbeque or picnic, Church bells ringing and a piper. It was also suggested that the beacon should be lit and

10413: V.E. DAY 2020.

The possibility of planning a tree in the Pound as a remembrance was discussed. Details would be included in the Christmas newsletter and Parish Magazine, which Mrs Fielder would arrange.

10414: ALLOTMENTS.

Mrs Fielder said that a huge pile of manure had been delivered to the allotments. Mrs Fielder agreed to obtain prices for a grab loader or skip to remove the compost pile from the allotments.

10415: POLICE & SECURITY.

Mrs Fielder said that she hadn't received a police report but would circulate one if it were received.

10416: NEWSLETTER.

The Chairman was preparing this.

10417: WEB SITE.

This continued to work well.

10418: ACTION LIST.

This was reviewed and updated.

10419: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 12 November 2019 at 7.00pm

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