

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held in the Pavilion, Pound Lane, Sonning, on Tuesday 10 December 2019 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT. Mr A E Farnese (Chairman), Mr T Fisher, Mrs J Fielder, Mrs J Harvey. 1 visitor.
Mrs L A Bates (Clerk).

10438: APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS. Apologies were received from Mrs Harvey (family illness) and Cllr M Firmager (Purdah). The Chairman welcomed all those present.

10439: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations.

10440: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

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

10441: CORRESPONDENCE.

Request to Clear Footpath to Lychgate. A resident had asked if WBC could clear the foliage growing out of the Churchyard wall leading from Pearson Road to the Lychgate. WBC had replied that they could trim the area twice yearly if this would be to the satisfaction of the resident. The resident had agreed to monitor the results.

Angus Ross request for Youth Sport Support. Cllr Ross had reminded parishes that he had asked them to provide matched funding for young sports people from their parishes. This would be discussed at the January meeting.

Eye and Dunsden PC. David Woodward had circulated concerns about Reading BC's proposed flood relief scheme and the effect it would have on Eye and Dunsden.

Neighbourhood Plan Web Site. Mr Gilmore had asked if there could be a link to a web site for the neighbourhood Plan, from the SPC website. This would allow maximum publicity of the event on 18 February. The Chairman said that the need for this could be considered after the 18 February.

Bridge Lights. Mr Stevens had successfully reset the lights and checked each individual light but only one was faulty. Unfortunately the lights had gone out again, repeating Mr Fisher's experience. The Chairman would speak to Mr Stevens.

The Link Visiting Scheme. This would be discussed at the January meeting.

Mayors Fundraising Gold Day. Councillors were invited to gather teams of four to play at this Charity Golf Day on 24 April 2020.

Invitation to Mayors Schools Carole Concert. The Chairman and guest were invited to attend thon on Sunday 8 December at 5.00pm. The Clerk would accept on the Chairman's behalf.

10442: PLANNING.

Report. The Chairman said that he felt that the Parish Council were facing some challenging planning applications and it would take time and money to fight them and possibly employing professional advice. The following applications had been approved: South Meadow Cottage (192249) and The Atrium (192312). Linkside (192438), as a major development had been listed but no date had been set yet.

The following applications were on going). The Lawns Old Bath Road (190693): 11 South Drive (192182): Linkside Duffield Road (192438). 15 South Drive (192118).

The following applications had been approved. See above.

10442: PLANNING (Cont'd).

The following applications had been refused. No refusals.

The following applications had been withdrawn. None.

The following Appeal had been dismissed. York Cottage.

The following new applications had been received. No new applications

b) THE ATRIUM (192312) Amended Plans - to agree comments.

Revised plans for the Atrium had been published online but SPC had not been advised. Following discussion it was agreed to seek Mr Thorpe's advice.

Neighbourhood Plan. There was no update.

Sonning Place. It was agreed that the Clerk would ask Jason Varley, the Officer dealing with Enforcement, about the possible breach of planning at Sonning Place.

10443: QUESTIONS FOR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR.

In the absence of Cllr Firmager there were no questions.

10444: PARISHIONER QUESTIONS.

Mr Doyle said it was important that Mr Stevens was chased about the Bridge Lights, the Chairman had already agreed to do this. Mr Doyle asked if SPC were aware of the site known as York Cottage. Having checked the list of proposed repairs in the Design and Access Statement he could find no mention of the front window, which had been replaced, and he would be taking this further. Mr Runnalls said that the advertisements that SCC had put on the practise nets had not been removed, the Chairman would chase this up. Mr Runnalls also said that the footpath contractor's sign was still in place and signs advertising the development at August Field were still in place. This was a Highways issue.

10445: FINANCE.

- a) Report. The Clerk had prepared a report which was noted.
- b) Draft Budget 2020/2021. This had been circulated and Mr Morrison said that the proposed Precept would increase by 2%. Mr Fielder suggested a figure be included for Bus Shelters and £50 for the contribution towards further improvements to the Lychgate. The Clerk would adjust the figures ready for approval at the January meeting.
- c) Pound Lane Improvements – Request for CIL Contribution. Mr Fisher said that he had informed WBC Highways that SPC considered £27,000 to be too much for replacing a few signs and cosmetic changes to the crossing and that the money would be better spent on a Pelican crossing. This would offer increased safety for children, elderly people and others using the crossing. Mrs Fielder had seen blow up bollards representing children, which seemed to encourage drivers to slow down. Mrs Fielder agreed to find out costs.
- d) SLTC Proposal for Spending £6,000 on Court Improvements. SLTC wanted to use £6,000 from the sinking fund to resurface the courts. This would extend the life of the courts for 5 years. They also wished to suspend the annual payment for 2020. A previous request to use money from the sinking fund for their Club Hut had been agreed on the proviso that SLTC

10445: FINANCE.

would top up any shortfall found when major court repairs were needed (approximately 5 years time). Following discussion the Chairman proposed agreeing the proposal, with the proviso that SLTC would pay for any shortfall, Mr Morrison seconded and this was unanimously approved.

- e) Payment of Accounts. The Chairman proposed and Mr Morrison seconded, making the following payments:

SPC PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS DEC (1 to 30 Nov) '19

Date	Chq	Name	Service Item	Gross	VAT	Net	Committee	Sub-committee
05/11/19	638	WBC	May Election	225.00	0.00	225.00	ADMIN	Election
05/11/19	639	KS Paving	New Path Rec,	5040.00	840.00	4200.00	REC.	Rec Misc.
05/11/19	640	RES	Extinguisher Service	58.50	9.75	48.75	SPORTS	Pav. M'tnce
13/11/19	641	Height Tree Care	Fell Willow and remove arising's	99.63	0.00	99.63	ENVIRON	Wharf M'tnce
13/10/19	642	TIVOLI	Dog Bins	331.20	55.20	276.00	ENVIRON	Dog Bins
			TOTAL	5754.33	904.95	4951.63		

10446: HIGHWAYS

School Crossing. Mr Fisher said that he had exchanged emails with Martin Heath (WBC Highways) and unfortunately he wouldn't be able to attend a SPC meeting until February, however he would be able to attend a site meeting in Charvil Lane prior to that but no firm commitment had been agreed. Mr Heath had also asked for more data on speeds in Pound Lane.

Speed Indicators (SID). Mr Fisher said that SID 2 had been moved to Pound Lane South with Mr Runnalls assistance. Speeds checks in Pound Lane had shown a vehicle travelling south at 60mph at 14.45 in December. Vehicle numbers continued at around 4,000 per day each way. When SID 2 had been in Sonning Lane it had showed a vehicle travelling at 80mph outside the RBCS at 10.15pm. Details had been sent to Martin Heath and Bracknell Speed Watch. SID 2 would be moved to Thames Street next.

Lorry Watch. Mr Fisher had finally linked up with colleagues and had spent 2 hours in Barkham but no offences had been observed. A warning letter had been sent to an offender on an earlier date in Sonning. Mr Doyle said that he had seen a Tarmac lorry go over the bridge on its way to the depot but the manager had denied that there was a lorry of that description in the depot. Residents should be encouraged to report offending vehicles. Mr Doyle asked about the using the ANPR cameras and Mr Fisher explained that training was required to read the results but the demand was such that there were not enough slots for the Police, who had priority, to be trained.

10447: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G.

- a) Safety Checks. The Chairman had inspected the playground and he would be checking the Exercise Equipment.
- b) Pavilion Fund Raising. This was ongoing.
- c) ROSPA Report. Completed
- d) Rec. Path. Mr Fisher would chase the contractor as some edges showed signs of deteriorating.
- e) Charvil Football Club Property. This was ongoing.
- f) Sonning School Request for Car Park Markings. It was noted that the school no longer allowed onsite parking and staff were now parking in the SPC car park rather than in the school, which

10447: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G. (Cont'd).

added to the congestion. Following discussion it was agreed that the idea of white markings in the car park would be unacceptable in the semirural location and the request would be refused.

- g) SLTC Main Gate, Water & Signs. The gate was still under consideration. The Clerk had found an old map identifying the source of the SLTC water supply, which was from the square not the pavilion. The Chairman would follow this up with Mr Pownall. The new SLTC Chairman had asked if they could have a sign at the Pound Lane entrance, along with SCC etc, and also at the Sonning Lane entrance. The Clerk had explained that SPC did not own the land in Sonning Lane, which belonged to either RBCS or WBC Highways and SLTC would follow this up separately. Following discussion it was agreed that a SLTC sign should be allowed the Pound Lane end but siting and the design of the sign would need SPC approval.

10448: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

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

Bridge Lighting. It had been agreed that the Chairman would follow this up.

VE Day 2020. Mrs Fielder said that she had arranged with the Coppa Club to provide food for the BBQ and the Scouts would cook it. The plan was to start at 2.30pm with speeches starting at 3.00pm and a bugler at 3.30pm and Church would ring the bells. Food would be served from 4.00pm. It was suggested that Mrs May (MP) would do the reading and the Twinning Association would be asked if they wished to participate. Suggestions for inclusions to the event would be welcome but arrangements had to be in place in time to include details in the March Parish Magazine.

10449: ALLOTMENTS,

Mrs Fielder said that the contractor had made a very good job of clearing the compost and the area had been laid to turf. Mrs Fielder would ask Allotment holders for a contribution towards a seat to place on the improved site.

10450: POLICE & SECURITY.

Mrs Fielder said that she still had a supply of security items if anyone wanted one. There had been a note from the Police about securing sheds and it was suggested that dog walkers might be asked to keep a watch for suspicious activity. Mrs Fielder said that parking in Holmemoor Drive was an issue and residents had asked for additional lighting in Old Bath Road, which could be very dark.

10451: NEWSLETTER.

The Chairman agreed to chase Mrs Pownall who had agreed to prepare the draft ready for printing.

10452: WEB SITE.

This continued to work well.

10453: ACTION LIST.

This was reviewed and updated.

10454: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 14 January 2020 at 7.00pm.

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