

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held via Skype, on Tuesday 13 April 2021 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT. Mr A E Farnese (Chairman), Mr T Fisher, Mr A Halliday, Mr P Morrison.
Cllr M Firmager (WBC). 1 Visitor. Mrs L A Bates (Clerk).

10677: APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS. Apologies were received from Mr A E Farnese (unwell) and Mrs Jan Fielder. In the absence of Mr Farnese Mr Fisher agreed to take the Chair.
The Chairman welcomed all those present and introduced Lynn Jones Deputy Bursar of the RBCS.
The Chairman referred to the sad death of His Royal Highness Prince Phillip Duke of Edinburgh and then lead a minute's silence as a mark of respect.
The Chairman and Councillors offered their best wishes to Mr Farnese.

10678: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest.

10679: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

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

10680: CORRESPONDENCE.

Duke of Edinburgh Funeral. This would take place a Windsor Castel on Saturday 17 April at 3.00 pm.

Reply From WBC CEO Re. Planning Decision on 55 Flats. An initial acknowledgment from the CEO's assistant had said that the letter had been sent to the Planning Department for a reply.

Election of Police Commissioner. The only election to be held in Sonning on 6 May was for the Police Commissioner.

Next meeting. The proposed face to face meeting could not take place in the pavilion due to covid restrictions. The Hall was not open for meetings until 17 May and a safety assessment would need to be undertaken. The Clerk would provisionally book the hall for 18 May.

Filming in High Street. An episode of Midsummer Murders was to be filmed in the High Street and other locations in Sonning.

SPC Land in Sonning Eye. A resident had approached SPC about the possibility of hiring Salter Skiffs from the parcel of land adjoining the River. An onsite meeting was being arranged.

Travellers. WBC had reported groups in the area and security would need to be tightened up.

WBC Road Resurfacing. WBC were to spend £4.8 million on road resurfacing but no Sonning roads were included.

WBC Travel Plan. This was now out for consultation. The Chairman said that this was about cycling and Walking.

10681: PLANNING.

List. The Chairman said that the following applications had been approved. Land South of Old Bath Road (201833): Sonning Church of England School (203230): Little Barn Holme Park Farm Lane (210270): 26 Sonning Meadows (210379):

The following applications were ongoing). Linkside Duffield Road 19/24/38) APPEAL APP/X0360/W/20/3254803 Holme Park Sports Ground APPEAL APP/X0360/W/20/3260833: 103 Pound Lane (203293): Little Goggs (210053): Microsoft Campus Building 5 (210435), 20 West Drive (210115), Reading Blue Coat School (210693). Uppfield Charvil Lane (210287). Berkshire County Sports Club (210694). Weir House (210925): Bank Cottage Holme Park Far, (210826).
with associated garaging, following demolition of existing dwelling and outbuildings.

35 West Drive (210919): The Beeches Bath Road (211073). Householder application for the proposed erection of 2 m boundary wall and electronic sliding access gate. (28/04/21)

The following applications had been approved. See above.

10681: PLANNING. (Cont'd)

The following applications had been refused. No refusals.

The following applications had been withdrawn. No applications had been withdrawn.

The Chairman said that thanks were due to Cllr Firmager and Mr Etherington who had attended the planning committee meeting and spoken against the proposal for 57 flats on land off Old Bath Road (201833). Unfortunately, the WBC planning committee had ignored their objections and approved the application. The Chairman explained that, having explained objection there was no further opportunity for objectors to correct inaccurate comments made by officers.

Neighbourhood Plan. The Chairman said that a letter was being delivered to all residents explaining that they would be receiving the questionnaire by the end of April.

10682: PARISHIONERS QUESTIONS.

Lynn Jones said that the RBCS Head had been asked about holding an Elegant Picnic in the school grounds and she would be progressing this. It was explained that this was a annual event..

10683: BOROUGH COUNCILLORS QUESTION TIME.

Mr Halliday asked if the detrimental effect the 57 flats would have on existing services had been considered, but it seemed they had not. Mr Halliday also asked Lynn Jones if the Headmaster was a doctor, she confirmed that he was not, he had been a teacher at the school for some years.

10684: FINANCE.

- a) Payment of Accounts. Mr Morrison proposed, and Mr Halliday seconded making the following payments for April and this was unanimously approved.

PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS APRIL '21 (1- 31 March '21)

Date	Chq	Name	Service Item	Gross	VAT	Net	Committee	Sub-com
12/03/21	765	TIVOLI	Dog Bins	165.69	27.60	138.09	ENVIRON	Dog Bins
12/03/21	766	J Gilmore	Plan Print etc	130.14	0.00	130.14	ADMIN	N Plan
18/03/21	767	Avoncrop	Seed etc. Field	438.00	60.00	378.00	REC	Field M'tnce
18/03/21	768	Keep Mobile	Donation	50.00	0.00	50.00	DONATE	Keep Mobile
18/03/21	769	Twyford Vol.	Donation	50.00	0.00	50.00	DONATE	Twyford Vol
18/03/21	770	Sue Ryder	Donation	100.00	0.00	100.00	DONATE	Sue Ryder
18/03/21	771	ReadiBus	Donation	100.00	0.00	100.00	DONATE	ReadiBus
18/03/21	772	Air Amb.	Donation	200.00	0.00	200.00	DONATE	Air Amb.
18/03/21	773	Age Concern	Donation	200.00	0.00	200.00	DONATE	Age Concern
18/03/21	774	Berks Blind	Donation	50.00	0.00	50.00	DONATE	Berks Blind
18/03/21	775	Me2 Club	Donation	50.00	0.00	50.00	DONATE	Me2 Club
18/03/21	776	Relate	Donation	50.00	0.00	50.00	DONATE	Relate
18/03/21	777	TIVOLI	Dog Bins	165.69	27.60	138.09	ENVIRON	Dog Bins
18/03/21	778	Link Visit	Donation	50.00	0.00	50.00	DONATE	Link Visit
28/03/21	781	SSE	St Light Repair x 2	285.25	47.54	237.71	HIGH/ LIGHT	St Lighting
28/03/21	782	L A Bates	Honorarium	2735.00	0.00	2735.00	CLERK	Honorarium
28/03/21	782	L. A. Bates	Telephone	40.00	0.00	40.00	ADMIN	Telephone
28/03/21	783	Inland Rev	Tax x 2	381.95	0.00	381.95	CLERK	Tax
28/03/21	783	Inland Rev	NIC x 2	227.10	0.00	227.10	CLERK	NIC
28/03/21	784	R A Wallace	Repair & Clean	480.00	0.00	480.00	SPORT	Pav. M'tnce
28/03/21	785	T. Fisher	Mat for Pavilion	50.66	0.00	50.66	SPORTS	Pav. M'tnce
31/03/21	786	Henley Land	Mowing	260.00	0.00	260.00	REC	Main Mow
31/03/21	786	Henley Land	Repair/gate/nets	425.00	0.00	425.00	REC	Rec M'tnce
31/03/21	787	Heritage Trees	Tree Work	2250.00	375.00	1875.00	REC.	Trees
31/03/21	788	L A Bates	NPlan Question	2251.91	375.32	1876.59	N Plan	Printing
31/03/21	789	CJG Consultant	Envelopes/labels	197.10	32.85	164.25	N Plan	Printing.
				11383.49	945.91	10437.58		

10685: HIGHWAYS

Speed Indicators (SID). The Chairman said that the maximum speed recorded, Pound Lane southbound, was 55 mph. The number of vehicles was up on the first lockdown month in 2020 but overall was 30% down on normal numbers. Unfortunately, a speed of 70 mph was recorded in Pound Lane, northbound, travelling towards the zebra crossing, at 7.15 am. Although early it was still possible for pedestrians, including children, to be around. Vehicles travelling towards the A4 were 700 up on those travelling in the opposite direction.

The Chairman had received an email from Martin Heath (WBC) in which he attached two options for safety measures in Pound Lane. Option one included moving the existing 20 mph by the existing zebra crossing back towards the roundabout where there was an existing 20 mph sign, and making the majority of the road a permanent 20 limit. Other features included new gateway signs either side of the road, and a change in road surface colour, together with a prominent sign to alert drivers. Consideration had been given to removing the centre markings and replacing with a continuous edge of carriageway marking, which would introduce an element of uncertainty, which would be reflected in lower speeds. Doing the same after the zebra crossing up to the junction of Pearson Road was another possibility. 20 mph roundels on the road would highlight the 20 mph, limit or alternatively signs, which might be less intrusive. Changes to the zebra crossing could include a full height 75mm, ramp as well as being widened which would make pedestrians feel safer when close to moving vehicles.

Option 2. The only difference was that the gateway feature would start as vehicles came in off the roundabout, but space constraints meant that there would only be one sign on the right island. Gateway features should generally be sited back so drivers do not suddenly encounter them and be viable over a certain stopping distance. Mr Halliday said that WBC seemed to be ignoring the basic problem of speed. Residents wanted speed reduced before an accident happened. Mr Halliday said that he had been following up on the accident in Thames Street, where a cyclist had wobbled into the path of an oncoming vehicle, WBC knew about the problem with the loose drain cover but did nothing until after the cyclist was killed. The Chairman said that it would take some time before any plan was implemented and asked everyone to give their feed-back on the proposals and any other suggestions for traffic calming measures (such as chic canes).

Mr Halliday said that he was happy to meet Mr Melton, with the Chairman in Charvil Lane to observe traffic speeds. The Chairman said that Mr Heath had indicated that he might reduce the speed limit in Charvil Lane to 30 or 20 mph. Mr Morrison said that lots of pedestrians and cyclists used Charvil Lane and he had observed impatient drivers trying to overtake both. This was a very busy road.

Contact with Cllr Jorgensen. The Chairman said that Cllr Jorgenson, still hadn't replied, but Mr Heath had, the Chairman would suggest an onsite meeting. Cllr Firmager said that Cllr Jorgenson was standing for re-election and she was likely to be busy canvassing.

Wayfinding Signs. The Chairman said that Mr Farnese had agreed to meet up when the weather improved.

10686: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G

- a) Safety Checks. In the absence of Mr Farnese there was no update. The Chairman said that he would see if the new spanner would fit the Spica so he could adjust it.
- b) Pavilion. The Chairman said that Mr Fixit had spent two days repairing and cleaning the pavilion, including the showers. The electrician would complete the remaining repairs but had said that the electrical inspection was not required. Mr Murphy had contacted the Chairman to say he had some new ideas, which he wanted to discuss.
- c) Tree Works. The Chairman said that all the tree works had been completed and the recreation ground was looking very good. Mr Travers was concerned about ruts near the side screen and had asked if SPC would chase Mr Beckinsale.

10687: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G (Cont'd)

- d) Security Proposals (Travellers). The Chairman said that he and Mr Farnese had met Lynn Jones and discussed options for the gap between Sonning Field and the RBCS nature reserve. A 5-bar gate with pedestrian access to one side was the favoured option. Lynn Jones was obtaining a quote.
- e) SLTC Net. The Chairman had installed the new net and it had already coming away from the eyelets. The Clerk would ask for a refund. The Chairman would take a photo to show the company.

10688: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

Safety Checks. In the absence of Mr Farnese there was no update.
Litter. Mr Morrison was keeping an eye on the Wharf.

10689: CLIMATE CHANGE.

The Chairman had been put in touch with Gregor Murray who said that WBC had 250,000 trees at their disposal. A new Tree officer was to be appointed to oversee this.

10690: HIGH SPEED BROADBAND.

The Chairman said that Sonning was not classified as 'rural' and could not benefit from the same subsidised scheme as Sonning Eye.

10691: POLICE & SECURITY.

In the absence of Mrs Fielder there were no figures.

10692: ALLOTMENTS.

The Chairman said that Mr Farnese was obtaining a quote for the fence.

10693: ACTION LIST.

This was reviewed and updated.

10694: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 18 May 2021 at 7.00 pm venue to be confirmed.
Note: Now confirmed as a Skype meeting on Tuesday 25 May 2021

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