



Sonning Parish Council Summer Newsletter 2017



Dear Friends,

Our Summer Newsletter.

Your Parish council has been as active as much as funds and Wokingham BC allows. In the light of national and international events our small corner of Berkshire pales in to insignificance.

Our list of projects is as follows:

- a. Lighting, continuing with the planned upgrades.
- b. Speed indicator installed on Pound Lane for 20mph, can be relocated and all movements are recorded.
- c. New cricket nets installed for Junior Cricketers.
- d. A regular traffic joint forum meeting, to formalize the constant traffic problems, now including WBC Traffic Management and TVP.
- e. A new community Pavilion, updated to provide facilities for all genders, initial plans have been drawn up.

My last plea is for more councilors, we have a number of vacancies, come along to a monthly meeting as advertised on all of our four noticeboards. We are aware that our activities are not socially significant but nevertheless it can be rewarding both on a personal and parish level. All information can be found on our excellent website, if you have a mind to furnish us with your email address, we will keep you updated. It is your village, please help before we sink under the weight of traffic and businesses.

Your council wishes you and yours health and happiness in all your endeavours.

Tony Farnese
Chairman

Finance Report for year ended 31st March 2017

Overall the financial position for the year continues to be in good condition and the outlook for the coming year is positive.

Income was substantially higher than the prior year as a result of the CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) receipts during the year. These replace the Section 106 contributions. However, CIL income is restricted to spend on items of a capital nature eg. new lights and speed signs. Other income such as government grants and insurance receipts were down by about £1000 on the prior year. Administration expenditure has reduced substantially from the previous year as there were exceptional items in the year ended March 2016 eg. Conservation Area Assessment, defibrillator and safety fencing. Within the Sports figures are included expenditure on the pavilion for such things as drains, lights and doors.

With the small surplus for the year the General Fund has grown only marginally over the prior year to £34,998. SPC continue to hold £94,500 in longer term investments which whilst not earning much interest are very secure. A CIL fund of almost £22,000 is carried forward into 2017/8 for spend on items of a capital nature.

The budget has been set for 2017/18 with the precept being agreed at 2.5% higher than the previous year. With

continued good management the council is confident that it will deliver good value for money in the coming year in terms of services to the local community. We face the on-going well known challenges on drainage, parking and street lighting in the village but we strive to meet these issues.

Peter Morrison
Treasurer

Traffic /Technical services

Speed Indicating Device

Regular users of Pound Lane will have noticed that the Sonning Parish Council has installed a speed indicating device (a Mini-SID) close to the school entrance and zebra crossing. This has been in use since the beginning of May. Not only does it flash to warn drivers that they are exceeding the speed limit, it also records the speeds of vehicles (but does not photograph registration plates). The SPC has long been concerned at the speeds of vehicles in the village, especially close to both of the school entrances. The data obtained is being shared with both the Police and the WBC Highways department to see if further action needs to be taken. The highest speed so far recorded is 55mph in the 20mph limit.

The Mini-SID can and will be mounted in various positions around the village. Please contact me if you have any suggestions regarding these positions..

HGV/Speed Watch

The SPC is considering resurrecting the "HGV Watch" whereby a small team of volunteers monitor any vehicles that disregard the 7.5 tonne limit over Sonning Bridge and within the village itself. We also plan to borrow a mobile speed indicating device, recently purchased by Thames Valley Police. This can be manned by a small group to monitor vehicle speeds on a "live" basis. Drivers will observe a "smiley face" if they are within the speed limit, a "glum face" if they are speeding.

Volunteers are sought for both of the above. Please contact me if you would like to help.

School Crossing Patrol

Wokingham BC recently contacted Sonning PC to announce that they would no longer fund the School Crossing Patrol on the zebra crossing at Sonning C of E School. The present "lollipop lady" will finish her duties at the end of this school term in July. The SPC is very concerned about the continuing safety of pupils, other children and parents crossing the very busy Pound Lane. Dialogue has started to try and find a permanent solution to this problem.

Street Lighting

Observant Sonning residents will have already noticed the installation of new street lights in the village since September last year. This is part of an ongoing scheme that Wokingham BC have introduced for the period 2016 - 2018, with funding available from the Department for Transport (DfT). Sonning PC is taking full advantage of the very generous discounts on offer. So far we have replaced ageing lamp

columns/lanterns with modern, energy-saving, LED lights. The Council's electricity bill will subsequently be considerably reduced.

The SPC has also decided to replace lights within the Conservation Area with "heritage-style" lights that are now available under this DFT scheme. We are expecting these to be installed in the near future.

Parking problems in Sonning

The members of the Joint Working Group (Sonning Parish Council and Sonning & Sonning Eye Society) are in regular contact regarding Sonning's frustrating parking problems. The subject remains one of the major sources of concern from residents.

The JWG was included in talks with Reading Blue Coat School and the Highways department of Wokingham BC to attempt to resolve the problem of pupils parking in Sonning Lane. The talks were very positive and we are hoping for a solution by this September.

The Great House / Coppa Club has created a temporary car park on the Oxfordshire side of Sonning bridge. Permission has been given for one year whilst a more permanent solution is worked on.

Please feel free to contact me - trefor.fisher@sonning-pc.gov.uk or 07789 880072, with suggestions / comments or offers of help on any of the above.

Trefor Fisher

Sonning Parish Council meet on the second Tuesday of each month (except August) at 7.00pm in the Pavilion in 'King George's Field', Pound Lane. Sonning Parish Council Planning Committee also meet in the Pavilion at 6.30pm on the Monday of the week before and the Wednesday of the week after the meetings of the Parish Council.

Both meetings are open to the public.

The Parish Council Annual Public Meeting is normally held in Pearson Hall, its date and time will be posted on Parish Council notice boards.

Parish Council and Planning Committee agendas are displayed on Parish Council notice boards three working days prior to their meetings.

Changes to meeting times and venues caused by severe weather or unavoidable circumstances will be posted on Parish Council notice boards.

SONNING PARISH COUNCIL CONTACTS:

Tony Farnese – Chairman 07774 494610

Sue Jacobs – Allotments & Wharf

Ian Runnalls – Planning Chair 0118 9693389

Mena Pownall – Recreation Chair 0118 9698245

Trefor Fisher – Traffic/Technical service 07789 880072

Peter Morrison- Treasurer 0118 9697223

Lesley Bates - Clerk 0118 9697753

Email:- clerk@sonning-pc.gov.uk

Website:- <http://www.sonning-pc.gov.uk>



Sonning Parish Council wants to keep you informed



We would like to keep you better informed about what is happening in our parish. We'd like to be able to email you when something important occurs.

Please sign up to our mailing list. We promise that your mailbox will not be overloaded - you will not receive more than one email a month from us and you can opt out at any time.

If you would like to sign up to receive information from us please either visit our website and click on the Subscribe button; or fill in the information below and drop this form through the letterbox of the council offices in Pearson Hall.

Thank you



Name:	
Email Address:	
I'm interested in these topics (please tick all that apply):	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Council Meetings
<input type="checkbox"/>	Planning meetings, applications and decisions
<input type="checkbox"/>	Highways and planned roadworks
<input type="checkbox"/>	Recreation & Environment
<input type="checkbox"/>	Police & Security

We will only use your details to maintain our e-mail list and send you news about what is happening locally and information pertinent to the boxes you have ticked above.

All emails will contain an "opt out" button where you can easily request that your details are removed from our database. We will not share your information with any external parties.

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