

Minutes of the Virtual Monthly Meeting of Sonning Parish Council held via Skype from various location., on Monday 11 May 2020 at 6.00pm.

PRESENT. Mr A E Farnese (Chairman), Mr T Fisher, Mr P Morrison. 3 visitors 2 via Skype, I via telephone. Mrs L A Bates (Clerk).

10520: APOLOGIES/WELCOME TO VISITORS. Apologies were received from Mrs J Fielder and Mrs J Harvey.

The Chairman welcomed all those present.

10521: DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest.

**SEE BELOW FOR PLANNING  
WHICH WAS INCLUDED IN THIS  
MONTHLY MEETING**

10522: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

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

10523: CORRESPONDENCE.

Condition of the Outfield. Mr Travers (SCC) had asked for a meeting to discuss the condition of the field and Mr Fisher had agreed to meet him

Outstanding Invoice. The accountants dealing with HMRC in relation to the VAT on the pavilion had requested a part payment of their invoice. The work had not concluded but the accountants had submitted an invoice for full payment, which SPC had declined. Following discussion Mr Morrison proposed and the Chairman seconded paying the part payment of £1800 and this was unanimously approved.

The Great House Licence. This was to sell drinks in the garden to hotel residents and those eating at the hotel between 10am to 11.00pm (the time limit did not apply to bona fide hotel residents). The system had previously been permitted under TEN's since 2017. It was agreed there were no objections.

Bonfires. Clare Lawrence had circulated a briefing on bonfires prepared by the Public Protection Partnership (PPP) for clarification in case of any complaints. Most one-off domestic bonfires did not constitute a "statutory nuisance" and WBC were asking for these be dealt with by residents approaching their neighbour. If a bonfire was causing a statutory nuisance it should be addressed through more formal action by PPP, but most of the reports WBC were receiving were one-off domestic bonfires that did not constitute a "statutory nuisance". If however, commercial waste was being burnt or was creating black or noxious smoke then PPP should be contacted to formally record it.

Mowing Boundary KGV Field. Mr Fisher had spoken to a resident who was willing to mow the boundary. A first trial mowing had taken 2 1/2 hour's, but subsequent mowing's should take less time. It was agreed to ask the resident to mow the boundary once a month to see if this was sufficient.

Boats Moored along the Thames. It had been discovered that one or two residents who were living in boats moored on the Thames, just west of the Lock were using the adjacent woods as a toilet and had been doing this for some months. The NRA and Environmental Health had written to the occupants requesting them to discontinue this. It had transpired that the boats were not registered and did not hold Licenses.

Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government. The Secretary of State, the RT Hon Robert Jenrick, MP, had written thanking all Parish Councils for their contribution during the current pandemic.

## 10524: PLANNING.

Report. The Chairman said that Little Gogs Farm, Holme Park Farm Lane. (193344), 22 Pound Lane (200435) and 2 Hawthorn Way (200452), had been approved.

The following applications were on going. 11 South Drive (200757).: Chyreen (200775).

The following applications had been approved. Little Gogs Farm, Holme Park Farm Lane: 22 Pound Lane (200435): 2 Hawthorn Way (200452).

The following applications had been refused. No refusals.

The following applications had been withdrawn. None.

The following new applications had been received. Star Court, Thames Street, (200747). Full application for the erection of a dwelling and ancillary garage with habitable accommodation to the first-floor following demolition of the existing dwelling and garage. 12/05/20 Thatched Cottage, Sonning Lane (200904). Householder application for the proposed erection of a part first floor par two storey side extension plus basement extension, changes to fenestration, erection of new detached triple garage with first floor accommodation and creation of new swimming pool, following demolition of existing garage and greenhouse. 13/05/20

Neighbourhood Plan. This was on hold.

The following applications were discussed in order to agree comments.

Thatched Cottage (200904). The Chairman said that the existing property was a fine example of a large thatched dwelling, one of only 4 thatched dwellings in Sonning, and lovely as it was. The Chairman asked Mr Bailey, the applicant, about the thatching and the new swimming pool. Mr Bailey said that the roof was of Norfolk Reed had to be rethatched as required by his insurance company and the pool was to be reoriented to allow for the extension. Following discussion, it was agreed that there were no objections to the proposal and to recommend approval.

Star Court. (200747) Mr Fisher said that due to the lockdown he hadn't been able to consult neighbours as usual, however a similar application already had approval. The site was located in the Conservation Area close to several Grade 1 & 11 houses. The proposed dwelling would not be visible from Thames Street and the flat roof was lower than the that of the existing dwelling. The new dwelling would be seen from the Atrium, but trees would be planted along that boundary. The proposed dwelling was of a contemporary design, more energy efficient and included a large roof terrace, which was considerably larger than the one included in the existing planning permission. There was a potential for overlooking the Atrium, but this was mitigated by 2m high louvred sight screens over most of its length, as a self-build there was no CIL liability. A garage annex with habitable (guest) accommodation above was included in the application. A significant number of trees on the site were designated to be removed, some under the existing permission, many were category C but some category B were to be removed to allow landscape enhancement. Bat and Greater Crested Newt Survey's had been undertaken, as mitigation 6 bat boxes were to be fitted to two trees and, as there were no ponds in the area it was unlikely that GC Newts would be found. Mr Murphy, who had difficulty joining the meeting now joined via telephone and was upset that he hadn't been able to make his comments during the discussion and suggested that the Council had treated all his applications in a less favourable manner than the applications for Star Court. The Chairman said that if Mr Murphy wanted to voice his concerns about previous application this was not the correct forum and suggested that Mr Murphy wrote to express his disquiet. As deadline for comments was not until 22 May it was agreed to postpone any comments on this application until 18 May when it was hoped that Mr Murphy would have the opportunity to make his views known.

Sonning Golf Club (200951). This application was discussed briefly although it was scheduled for discussion at the next planning meeting on 18 May. The Chairman said that the outline plans

## 10524: PLANNING (Cont'd).

for the Golf Club, which had been allowed at appeal, had included an artist drawing, which indicated 13 1 ½ storey dwellings, the full application was for 13 much larger 2 ½ storey dwellings and indicated a gap into the adjoining golf practice area as phase 2 of the development. The access to the current proposed development would be putting additional pressure on a very busy part of Pound Lane and extending the development would increase this. Mr Morrison and Mr Fisher would look at the proposal in more detail ready to discuss on 18 May.

## 10525: PARISHIONERS QUESTIONS.

There were no questions.

## 10526: FINANCE.

- a) Report. The Clerk had circulated a report, which was noted.
- b) Payment of Accounts. Mr Morrison proposed, and Mr Fisher seconded making the following payments and this was unanimously approved.

### SPC PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS MAY (1 to 30 April '20)

Date	Chq	Name	Service Item	Gross	VAT	Net	Committee	Sub-committee
24/04/20	693	Sonning PCC	Part Donation (shortfall)	50.00	0.00	50.00	DONATIONS	Sonning PCC
24/04/20	694	Sue Ryder	Part Donation (shortfall)	50.00	0.00	50.00	DONATION	Sue Ryder
24/04/20	695	Sonning Land	Mow Play area	32.00	0.00	32.00	REC.	Mow play area
24/04.20	695	Sonning Land	Mow Wharf	28.00	0.00	28.00	ENVIRON	Mow Wharf/
24/04/20	696	Inland Rev.	Tax	151.25	0.00	151.25	CLERK	TAX
24/04/20	696	Inland Rev.	NIC	99.03	0.00	99.03	CLERK	NIC
24/04/20	697	SLCC	Annual Subs	161.00	0.00	161.00	ADMIN	Subscriptions
			TOTAL	571.28	0.0	571.28		

- c) Income & Expenditure Accounts. Mr Morrison had prepared the 2019/20 Income and Expenditure accounts, which had been circulated. The Chairman proposed accepting the accounts. Mr Fisher seconded and this was unanimously approved.
- d) CIL Contribution to Loddon Flood Scheme. WBC had asked the Clerk if SPC would be prepared to contribute towards a flood defence scheme for the River Loddon. There were no details, but WBC had been asked to give prior warning about any request for contributions rather than putting them straight onto the official request. All Northern parishes were being asked to contribute. It was agreed that at this stage the answer was to refuse the request.

## 10527: HIGHWAYS

Speed Indicators (SID). Mr Fisher said he had sent a report, which he referred to. The highest speed had been 55mph in Pound Lane. The average speed was between 25 mph and 30 mph. The percentage of vehicles using the road was creeping up after an initial reduction following the lockdown. Although there were fewer vehicles on the road the speed had increased. The average speed was 22.5mph and the percentage of vehicles over the 20mph speed limit was 75%..

10528: RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT W.G.

The ROSPA Playground Safety Report had been received. The Chairman said there was a need to look at the playground.

Safety Checks. The Chairman said that the children's playground was closed but the main recreation area was open. Mr Fisher would check the exercise bikes.

10529: TECHNICAL SERVICES.

Safety Checks. The Chairman had been unable to carry out the safety checks, but his wife had been observing it. Mr Morrison said that he would look in on his daily walk.

Bridge Lights. The Chairman said it was best to leave this until things were back to normal, when SPC could take control of the situation.

10530: POLICE & SECURITY.

Mr Fisher said that Mrs Fielder had sent a report, which only showed the theft of a bicycle from Old Bath Road.

10531: ALLOTMENTS.

The Clerk said that one allotment was in a poor state and one person had refused it, one possibility was to offer it as two half allotments rent free for one year. This would continue to be reviewed.

10532: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The Chairman said that he hoped there would be an improvement on the current situation by the next meeting.

The next meeting would be a virtual one and held on Tuesday 9 June 2020, via Skype, at 6.00pm. The next planning meeting would be held via Skype on 18 May at 6.00pm

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