

Members are summoned to the meeting of  
**Sonning Common Parish Council**

On Monday 17 July 2017 at 20.00 hrs in the Village Hall Wood Lane Sonning Common.

Public and Press are welcome to attend

**AGENDA**

- 18/046 Apologies for absence and declarations of interests: To receive any apologies for absence and any declarations of pecuniary interest and/or requests for dispensations from Members regarding any item on this agenda.
- 18/047 Public Question Time under Section 30 of Standing Orders.
- 18/048 Police Report items.
- 18/049 To approve the Minutes of previous meetings:  
049.01 Finance Committee held on 5 July 2017.  
049.02 Planning Committee held on 19 June and 3 July.  
049.03 Parish Council meeting held on 19 June 2017.
- 18/050 To receive the County Councillor's Report including any updates on the Chiltern Edge School situation.
- 18/051 To receive the District Councillor's Report.
- 18/052 To receive the Parish Clerk's Report - Appendix A attached.
- 18/053 Memorial Hall Field Working Party (MHFWP) update – verbal report from the Parish Clerk.
- 18/054 Village Centre Working Party (VCWP) – verbal report from Mr Howe.
- 18/055 B481 speed limit update – verbal report from the Parish Clerk.
- 18/056 NDP updating status – verbal report from Mrs Varnes.
- 18/057 Widmore Pond matters:  
057.1 To consider purchasing and putting up a plaque to recognise the decades of care that the late Dave Brownjohn bestowed on his beloved Widmore Pond and its wildlife.  
057.2 To discuss the future management and servicing of the pond given the strong possibility of obtaining ongoing sponsorship  
057.3 To consider if there should now be a single Environment Working Party to bring together and oversee matters hitherto in the purview of the Trees Committee and the Woodlands Working Party and the Widmore Pond Committee.
- 18/058 ClubSC – To consider appointing Mr Rinta-Suksi to take over from Mr Jones as the SCPC nominee to the ClubSC management with a brief to make recommendations about the future role of SCPC to the September meeting.
- 18/059 Trees and AONB update – verbal report from Mr Rust.
- 18/060 To delegate council powers to the Finance Committee during August.
- 18/061 Matters for future agendas.

Next meeting: Monday 18 September 2017 at 20.00.



**Philip Collings**  
Parish Clerk

## Appendix A

### SONNING COMMON PARISH COUNCIL Parish Clerk's Report to the meeting on 17 July 2017

This report is circulated to assist in the effective use of Councillors' time by informing Members of matters by type:

- A. Progress with tasks specifically assigned to the Clerk;
- B. Progress with tasks being overseen by Members;
- C. Matters affecting the day-to-day running of the Council's business;
- D. Regulatory and legislative changes anticipated.

	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Resp.</b>	<b>Status</b>
A	Freedom of Information Act 2008. Work continuing to ensure full compliance with publications scheme. Incomplete.	12/16a	Clerk	OPEN
A	Hedges – work being authorised for PC hedges to be cut.	13/070	Clerk	OPEN
A	Knotweed outside and on land inside 33/35 Peppard Road. Seeking action from OCC Highways.	Clerk	Clerk	OPEN
A	New vandalism problems in Play areas reported to TVP and being dealt with.	Deputy Clerk	Deputy Clerk	CLOSE D
A	Electricity poles in Wood Lane. No news at present.	Clerk	Clerk	OPEN
A	SODC litter bin at corner Ashford Ave and Reade's Lane reinstated. Investigating replacement of lamppost mounted ones.	Deputy Clerk	Deputy Clerk	OPEN
A	New noticeboard – site identified agreement now sought from OCC.	Clerk	Clerk	OPEN
B	MHF Working party – office supporting this long term activity. VAT expertise obtained and planned for.	17/079	Deputy Clerk	OPEN
B	Woodland purchase proceeding.	Clerk	Clerk	OPEN
B	Village Centre Working Party being supported.	Clerk	Clerk	OPEN
B	Tree Working Party – now Woodland Working Party being supported	Clerk	Clerk	OPEN
B	Allotments. No vacant plots.	Clerk	Clerk	OPEN
B	Register of Interests – Individuals must maintain own information.	12/46	Cllrs.	OPEN
B	Parking in Pages Orchard and Ashford Avenue. 14 new parking spaces approved.	15/082	Clerk	CLOSE D
C	Village Hall awaiting completion of legal formalities.	Clerk	Clerk	OPEN
C	Contact made with other 11 Large Villages and now awaiting replies. Text of contact email on next page for information.	Clerk	Clerk	OPEN
C	Document standards. Work being done to standardise and index properly as part of developing an operational manual.	Clerk	Clerk	OPEN
C	Data Protection Act and individual Councillors. Please discuss with the Clerk individually.	Clerk	Clerk	OPEN



Philip Collings  
Parish Clerk

To Chairpersons of the 12 Large Villages in South Oxon and Henley Town Council via Clerks

We are writing at the behest of our Council to find out if any or, ideally, all of the Large Villages will agree to join forces with us to present SODC with a united front on three matters that we believe affect us all. The matters in question are:

- A. Challenging the evolving Local Plan 2033 to seek a better deal for our communities
- B. Protecting and enhancing neighbourhood planning
- C. Planning enforcement

**A. Challenging the evolving Local Plan 2033 to seek a better deal for our communities.**

We have many concerns about this process, the most important being the proposed housing allocations and the method of calculating them. We feel that much more could be done to ensure that homes are actually built in Didcot as this should reduce the housing allocations to the larger villages. We also feel that no real effort is being made to place a proportion of the new housing in the 'small' villages. The Planners seem not to understand that without some new housing these villages will wither on the vine; neither do they realise that not every development has to be of 20 or more homes when allocations of small numbers to a lot of villages would give a large total. Small sites also help small local builders to prosper. The argument that small villages lack infrastructure is only true if they are allocated large numbers. If over the 16 years to 2033 each small village was required to add only 10% to its housing stock that would take 1,774 homes out of our combined allocations.

**B. Protecting and enhancing neighbourhood planning**

At great cost in time and money we now have a Neighbourhood Plan (NP) that we, perhaps naively, presumed would remove or significantly reduce the number of predatory development applications. However, like other of the so-called Large Villages in S Oxon, with or without a Neighbourhood Plan, we are still under pressure with constant raids by developers trying to get new sites opened up for development. We do not feel that SODC are really serious in defending NPs and feel that unless there is a united effort by all on this front we will go on being picked off one at a time.

**C. Planning Enforcement**

In Sonning Common we are suffering from the inability or unwillingness of SODC to either enforce Planning consents by taking relentless action, including demolition orders, to have buildings that are clearly in breach of consented plans by being too large, too tall or otherwise flouting the rules rectified OR to prevent incorrect construction from being allowed to proceed in the first place by having properly qualified and managerially supported Building Control Officers inspecting all sites at the appropriate points in construction.

We now have a situation in Sonning Common where a new dwelling, considered by the PC and residents to cause serious harm to the area, has been found (after being built) to be in breach of its planning consent that was only granted on appeal. This damaging and degrading building has set a precedent for other similar back garden developments in the surrounding area. Our view is that unless SODC is forced to take action by the sheer weight of pressure that we could exert as a group we will never see any action that will cause these cowboy developers to desist. One demolition would stop most of them in their tracks. Enforcement of the laws and rules and not capitulation must become the order of the day.

As a result of all this the Council has asked us to ask you if you would like to join forces to act on any or all of the above.

Clearly this will take some effort to organise and to make liaison effective which we are prepared to provide.

Once we know who shares our views we suggest that a kick-off meeting at a more central location than Sonning Common would be essential but may we first have your responses please.

Carole Lewis, Chair Sonning Common Parish Council

Stan Rust, Chair Sonning Common Parish Council Planning Committee