

Draft - Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Electors of Sonning Common Parish Council

Held on Monday 18 April 2011 in the Village Hall, Wood Lane, Sonning Common at 19.30

The meeting was chaired by Mr Alan Rooke, Chairman of the Parish Council

Those present included: Mr Kedge, Miss Hunt, Mrs Noble, Mrs Phillips-Tilbury, Mrs Lewis, Mr Reynolds, Mrs Poska, Mrs Diwell (members of the Parish Council), Mr P Simms (Henley Standard) plus over 40 members of the public and representatives of local organisations. All present received a brief report on the past year and current activities attached as an appendix to these minutes.

APM1 Apologies for absence were received from Mr Greenwood, Mr Fort and Mr Stoves.

APM2 The Minutes of the meeting held on 19th April 2010 were approved.

APM3 There were no matters arising from those Minutes.

APM4 Chairman's address. The Chairman welcomed everyone and introduced those members of the council present. He thanked all the current members of the council for the way that they had all pulled together to build an effective team to represent the parish and its interests. He introduced the new parish clerk and thanked him for his efforts in support of the councillors.

The Chairman reminded the meeting that its purpose was for the parish council to listen to its electors and the many organisations that work with and for them in the village for the wellbeing of the community.

APM5 Brief reports from and about local organisations whose activities affect life in Sonning Common. Mrs Phillips-Tilbury organised and introduced this session of reports from representatives of the following organisations:.

| Organisation | Representative |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Village Gardeners | Mrs Chrissie Phillips-Tilbury |
| Community Police Team | PCSO Tim Forrest |
| First Responders | Mr Mike Thompson |
| Neighbourhood Watch | Mr Mike Brennan |
| Chiltern Society | Mr Mike Brennan |
| Chiltern Edge Horticultural Society | Mrs Janet Evans |
| Nottakwire Singers | Mrs Margaret Moola |
| Lunch Club | Mrs Freda Buckner |
| F.I.S.H. | Mr Phil Clarke |
| Health Walkers | Mrs Sue Birtwhistle |
| Women's Institute | Mrs Jackie Mellion |
| Community Plan | Mrs Anne Symons |
| Sonning Common Society | Mrs Sylvia Dickins |
| Sonning Common Magazine | Mr Graham Thomas |
| Sonning Common Library | Mrs Rosemary Dunsdon |

Each speaker outlined the activities of their organisation, how it operates and what it does for the good of the area. All should have their contact details on the Parish Council website.

APM6 The new Parish Council website www.sonningcommonparishcouncil.org.uk was demonstrated by Mrs Gail Noble who asked everyone to provide feedback once they had had a chance to use it.

APM7 Public Participation. There were no requests made from those attending to go beyond what had already been said.

The meeting closed at 21.00 Signed.....Dated.....

Appendix to the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Electors of Sonning Common Parish Council held on Monday 18 April 2011 in the Village Hall, Wood Lane, Sonning Common at 19.30

2010/2011 Parish Council Report

Council actions over the past year

1. New frontage to village hall. Refurbishment of bus shelter and seats.
2. Churchill Crescent play area re-equipped.
3. Successfully opposed original development plans for Lea Meadow.
4. Convened a public meeting re. library closure proposals . Strong resolution sent to County Council opposing closure.

Administrative changes since December 2010

1. Four councillors and the clerk resigned in December.
2. Four new councillors co-opted and new clerk (Philip Collings) appointed.
3. New Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Chair of Finance elected.
4. New Standing Orders based on national model agreed/adopted.
5. Committee Terms of Reference ('essential for good governance') agreed/adopted.
6. General Purposes Committee abolished and its responsibilities transferred to the full council for more open decision making
7. Public participation/question time is now on agenda before the main items and not at the end of the meeting, allowing residents' views to be taken into account.

Current Initiatives

1. Reinstatement of a public toilet in accordance with residents' wishes expressed in the recent Community Plan survey.
2. Update of village hall sound system in plan.
3. New parish council website now open.
4. New software for accounting system I use.
5. J Stoves has volunteered to be our footpaths officer.
6. Grants: £4,500 to Chiltern Edge Youth Centre, reviewed annually.
£500 to Sonning Common Magazine, reviewed annually.
£300 to The Village Gardeners
7. Liaising with Co-op to improve car park drainage.

Under Consideration or planned

1. Improving ventilation of village hall.
 2. Erecting gates and fencing to Baskerville Road play area and gates to Churchill Crescent play area.
 3. Replacing/refurbishing the village notice boards.
 4. Taking all possible action to preserve our library and youth centre.
 5. Continuing to encourage and support local societies and initiatives.
 6. Close watching brief on proposals for housing development in the village and appropriate response in the light of residents' views.
 7. Working towards becoming a Quality Council.
 8. Taking positive steps to respond to local wishes.
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