

Minutes of the meeting of Sonning Common Parish Council held on Monday 15 September 2014 in the Village Hall.

Present: Mr Kedge (Chairman); Mrs Diwell; Mr Jones; Mrs Lewis; Ms Noble; Mr Rawlins; Mr Collings (Parish Clerk) and Mrs Varnes (Deputy Clerk).

Also present: County Councillor Bartholomew (for item 15/062); District Councillor Harrison (for item 15/063) and Ms H Patchett (Henley Standard).

Before the meeting opened Mr Kedge informed the council of the death in August of David Dearlove. David was a long term resident of the village and a very committed member of the parish council in the 1990s. He was an active member of the then General Purposes Committee and everything he tackled was very much 'hands on'. He was particularly involved in the running of the three play areas and until a few weeks before his death regularly came into the office to report on potholes and other problems he had seen - Philip says that he misses David's weekly visits. David was not only an active member of our community he was also a character in the best sense of the word and will be much missed.

- 15/057 Apologies for absence and declarations of interests: Mr Fort; Mr Greenwood; Miss Hunt; Mrs Phillips-Tilbury; Mr Reynolds Mr Stoves. No declarations.
- 15/058 Public Question Time under Section 30 of Standing Orders: None.
- 15/059 The meeting was advised that the Police Report was circulated by email.
- 15/060 Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 6 August 2014 were presented and ratified.
- 15/061 Minutes of previous meetings:
 - 061.01 Planning Committee held on 21 July, 4 & 18 August & 1 September 2014 were presented and approved.
 - 061.02 Parish Council meeting held on 21 July 2014 were presented and approved.
- 15/062 County Councillor's Report: Cllr Bartholomew reported that Oxfordshire County Council's Thriving Families project is set to expand ahead of schedule after the Government named it as one of the best performing in the country; that provisional data shows that 'A' level results are similar to 2013 with 93% achieving at A*-E in at least two or more subjects. Around 43% have achieved two or more 'A' levels at A*-B. He also advised of changes that have taken place to the voter registration system. On local matters he reported that he has supported local objections to the Lea Meadow planning application; that he has made Community Fund awards to Oxfordshire Play Association for a Sonning Common Playday during half-term on 30 October, and to Sonning Common Youth Club for an air hockey table. He has a small amount remaining and would welcome further applications. After the report Mr Kedge stated that: 'I would like to say on behalf of the parish council and residents of Sonning Common how much we appreciate all you do, and try to do, as our County Councillor. You work in close consultation and co-operation with the parish council and you get things done for the village. We are very grateful to you.'
- 15/063 District Councillor's Report: Cllr Harrison reminded all that SODC officers all carry photo IDs that should be checked to avoid impersonation; he reported that £1m has been committed to the Better Broadband project; he suggested that the Lea Meadow application will be refused and may go to appeal. He advised that any applications to develop exception sites in the AONB are unlikely to be approved.
- 15/064 Parish Clerk's Report: Mr Stoves expressed concern at potential costs of car park flood works.
- 15/065 External Audit Report: It was resolved to approve and accept the Annual Return report.
- 15/066 Allotment Rentals from 1 October: It was resolved to accept the Finance Committee recommendation to increase the full plot rental to £30 per annum pro rata for others.
- 15/067 Representative to the Scout Committee: It was resolved to nominate Miss Jo Hunt.

- 15/068 Neighbourhood Development Plan progress: Mr Rawlins that the scoping report is progressing, that meetings with potential developers continue and that the draft plan is being worked on.
- 15/069 Skatepark project: Mrs Lewis reported that: 'Skatepark construction must begin within weeks to ensure the payment of grants and avoid winter working. We have been massively delayed by changes in the football club's trustees and subsequent legalistic wrangling over a very simple transfer of ownership. We hope that all of this will be completed in the next few days. Whilst fundraising is continuing, the project needs assurance that up to £15K will be available before authorising work to begin. This problem was presented to Finance Committee last Wednesday and after extensive discussion of the issue and the finances the committee resolved to recommend to Council that a subvention of up to £15K be made to initiate construction. It is expected that, if used, this funding will be returned as further grants and funds become available.' Mrs Lewis asked Council to support that recommendation. It was resolved to make the subvention available.
- 15/070 Website questionnaire: Mrs Varnes described the request to survey, at no cost, our website users and others about our communications with them. This was agreed.
- 15/071 Matters for future consideration: Play Areas Inspections frequency and process; Formal letter to NatWest regarding the effects of the bank closure.

Meeting closed at 20.55

Next meeting: Monday 20 October 2014 at 20.00.

Chairman: Dated: