

Minutes of the meeting of Sonning Common Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Monday 16 January 2012 at 19.30 hrs

Present: Mr Kedge (Chairman); Mrs Diwell; Mr Fort; Miss Hunt; Mrs Lewis; Ms Noble; Mrs Phillips-Tilbury; Mr Reynolds; Mr Stoves.

Also present: County Councillor Viney, Mr P Simms and 10 members of the public.

12/140 Apologies for absence: Mr Greenwood and Mr Jones. District Councillor Harrison.

12/141 Declarations of Interests by Members on Agenda Items: None.

12/142 Election of the Chairman of the Parish Council: Mr Kedge was nominated by Mrs Phillips-Tilbury and seconded by Mr Fort. There being no other nominations Mr Kedge was elected unanimously.

Mr Kedge then said "It is a privilege to be appointed chairman of such a vital, forward-thinking, hard-working council, particularly one that has been elected by the village - the first time this has happened in over 25 years."

Mr Kedge then asked for nominations for the now vacant position of Vice Chairman. Mr Stoves was nominated by Mrs Phillips-Tilbury and seconded by Mrs Lewis and elected by eight votes to nil with one abstention. Mr Stoves accepted the position and asked for the support of all members in taking on the role as a relative newcomer to the council.

12/144 Lea Meadow plans: This item was advanced up the agenda to allow for the public interest in it. Mr Lilly and his colleague Mr Dijkstra reprised the history of the application and their wish to work with the community on behalf of the landowner to find an acceptable way forward. A number of planning points were put forward as was the benefit of working with a landowner rather than a developer. Questions were asked about one large versus several small developments and about when application number three will appear. Mr Fort asked if the next application can be held back until it can be positioned with the Neighbourhood Plan work of the next 6-9 months. This was agreed to. No decision was sought or given.

12/143 Public Question Time under Section 30 of Standing Orders: Mrs Hughes asked for explanation of specific expenditures to date, of current spend versus income and of the 20% increase made to the parish precept. Mr Kedge ruled that as the first question was already being addressed through correspondence with the Parish Clerk that the others should be dealt with in the same way.

12/145 Twinning: Mrs Jo Quinton outlined the benefits others have found from twinning between villages and put forward a proposal to seek an arrangement with St Luc et Guichainville in Normandy. After discussion it was agreed that there was sufficient interest to take the idea further. It was resolved to revisit the matter on 20 February and to invite a representative from Goring to attend to outline the benefits as seen there.

12/146 Minutes of the Finance Committee meetings held on 4 and 11 January 2012 were approved and ratified.

12/147 Minutes of previous meetings:

147.01 Planning Committees held on 19 December 2011 and 3 January 2012 – Approved.

147.02 Parish Council meeting held on 19 December 2011 – Approved.

147.03 Precept meeting held on 5 January 2012 – Approved.

12/148 Police Report: No representative present.

12/149 County Councillor's Report: Councillor Viney reported on delays in work to rectify a problem outside 42 Wood Lane; that there will be a need to agree on priorities for activities arising under the Localism Bill; that Club SC is going from strength to strength and has young people from all three parishes making use of it. Responding to Mr Fort, she agreed to send a definitive update on the plans for the library funding cuts – especially relevant dates; she also agreed to get details of when the yellow lines will be put down.

12/150 District Councillor's Report: In Councillor Harrison's absence the Parish Clerk read out headlines from his written report – there is funding available for talented athletes; that there is a new 'Tell Us Once' service for the recently bereaved; that Building Control has moved to Abingdon; it is hoped that the Core Strategy will be adopted early in May.

12/151 Parish Clerk's Report: This was noted with no questions raised.

12/152 Meeting dates for 2012/13: After slight modification it was resolved to accept the schedule attached as Appendix A.

- 12/153 **Play Areas:** It was resolved to approve the interim posting of notices restricting use of the three play areas to children under the age of 12 pending the establishment of a bye-law (minute 12/130.01 refers).
 - 12/154 **Neighbourhood Plan:** Ms Noble reported that work is to begin on a Design and Landscape Statement and a Site Assessment study. No new actions requested.
 - 12/155 **Poor Lands Trust:** The Parish Clerk advised that the nominee must be resident in Sonning Common. Miss Hunt volunteered on the basis that the meetings would be in the evenings. It was resolved that if the Clerk confirms that this is the case Miss Hunt will be appointed.
 - 12/156 **Noticeboards:** On the recommendation of the Finance Committee it was resolved to accept the chosen supplier's offer of an 8% discount (£558.55) if all six Noticeboards are purchased as a single lot at a cost of £5,813.21 plus VAT.
 - 12/157 **Event funding:** It was resolved that the Parish Council should underwrite up to £250 of preparatory costs for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Tea Party in the expectation that the funds would be recouped from ticket sales.
 - 12/158 **Precept publication:** It was resolved to support Mr Stoves request to publish a newsletter explaining the parish budget and precept as an insert in the next issue of the Sonning Common Magazine.
- Appointment:** Mr Kedge pointed out that with the departure of Mr Rooke it would be advisable for the Finance Committee to have an additional permanent member. He had asked Mr Jones if he would be prepared to take that on and he had agreed. The need was agreed and it was then resolved that Mr Jones should become that permanent member.
- 12/159 **Matters for future consideration:**
To follow up on the twinning suggestion; To resolve the vacancy on the council; To receive a report on Widmore Pond plans and progress; To consider further Jubilee celebrations; To review car parking progress.

The meeting closed at 21.07

Appendices: A: 2012 meeting dates.

B: Notes from Councillor Harrison.

Twinning presentation will be circulated separately and available on request.

The next Meeting will be on Monday 20 February 2012 at 20.00 hrs.

Chairman: Dated:

APPENDIX A

SONNING COMMON PARISH COUNCIL
 AGREED MEETING DATES IN 2012

MONTH IN 2012	Parish Council	Finance Committee	Planning Committee	
	Monday 20.00	Wednesday 19.30	Monday 19.30	Monday 19.30**
JANUARY	Thu 5:Precept only 16	4:Budget only 11	3	16
FEBRUARY	20	8	6	20
MARCH	19	7	5	19
APRIL	16	11	2	16
MAY	14 AMPC (18.30) then APM 21	9	Tuesday 1	21
JUNE	18	6	6	18
JULY	16	11	2	16
AUGUST	-	8	6	20
SEPTEMBER	17	12	3	17
OCTOBER	15	10	1	15
NOVEMBER	19	7	5	19
DECEMBER	17	5	3	17
JANUARY 2013	21	9	7	21
** Will start at 19.00 if a long agenda.				

APPENDIX B

District Councillor's Report January 2012

Townlands Hospital

Waitrose in Henley have selected Townlands Hospital as one of their 3 charities for January 2012.

GLL Sports Foundation Funding for talented athletes

There is good news for all the talented athletes situated within South Oxfordshire, as our leisure management contractor, GLL, has launched its 2012 GLL Sports Foundation Funding scheme. Talented athletes can apply for up to £1,500 towards training, equipment and travel, as well as free access to the 78 GLL sports facilities across the country. The scheme is open for applications until 20 February 2012, so please ensure that all talented athletes in your ward, parish, village or town are aware of the scheme! For athletes to secure a chance to gain some of the £40,000 funding available, applications can be submitted using the following link:

<http://www.gllsportfoundation.org/mainpage.asp?id=65> For more information on the GLL sports awards, please contact Cath Dale on 01491 823128 or email cath.dale@southandvale.gov.uk

Tell Us Once - new service for recently bereaved

Released on November 25, 2011. When someone close to you has died, there are a lot of things that need to be done at a time when you least feel like doing them. **Tell Us Once** is part of a nationwide project led by the Department for Work and Pensions, and is designed to make it easier for the public to inform the necessary authorities and departments about a death.

In Oxfordshire, registrars will be able to inform over 20 different agencies on behalf of anyone who chooses to make use of the service, including:

- Pension,
- Disability and carers' service
- Jobcentre Plus
- Overseas health team
- War Pensions Scheme
- Child benefit
- Child tax credit & working tax credit
- Personal taxation
- Housing benefit office
- Council tax
- Council housing
- Electoral services
- The DVLA
- Libraries
- Blue badges
- Adult services
- Children's services

Previously, once a statutory death registration had been completed, you would have to contact all the local and national government agencies to inform them of the death. For more information or call 0845 129 5900 or visit www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/tellusonce

Important information for the submission of South Oxfordshire Building Regulation applications

As you may be aware the building control team for South and Vale has been located at Abingdon since April 2011. As we continue to progress to a fully integrated service current arrangements for registering postal applications at South is to change in the New Year.

PLEASE NOTE FROM 3 JANUARY 2012 ALL POSTAL BUILDING REGULATION APPLICATIONS FOR SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL SHOULD BE SENT TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:-

Building Control Services Vale of White Horse District Council
Abbey House Abingdon Oxon OX14 3JE

Changes to the council's Housing out-of-hours service

From 01 December 2011 the out-of-hours services operated by Housing will change.

The Housing service will now operate as a joint service across both South and Vale. All clients from either district will be directed to call one number and speak to a duty officer.

This service, which runs at all times when the officers are closed including public holidays, is primarily to assist those who find themselves homeless in an emergency.

If you have any questions or queries regarding the new arrangements please contact: the Shared Housing Needs Manager, Lyn Scaplehorn, on ext 3322 or lyn.scaplehorn@southandvale.gov.uk

Domestic abuse outreach half yearly report

The South and Vale Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and South Oxfordshire District Council provide funding to A2 Dominion to support victims of domestic abuse and their families in South and Vale.

The type of confidential support A2 Dominion provides can include safety information right through to offering refuge accommodation for victims. A2 Dominion aims to enable any person to live free from abuse or fear at home or in a relationship. In the six months from April 2011 the outreach workers have helped 24 victims and their families.

Core Strategy update

I have included the following timetable on the progress of the current Core Strategy document.

The next steps deal with the publication of the various 'soundness' changes that have emerged following the hearings conducted by the Inspector in July and November this year. These 'soundness' changes amend those parts of the core strategy identified in the hearings as not being likely to be found sound. These are changes to the 'submission' version of the core strategy that was agreed at full Council in 2010 and was submitted to the Secretary of State (the Planning Inspector) in March 2011, as then amended in June 2011. We are awaiting news early next week from the Inspector, who will finalise and confirm the soundness related changes he wishes us to publish. They will be published for six weeks to allow for interested parties to submit comments. The council will receive these comments on behalf of the Inspector and all comments received will be passed to him for consideration.

Key forthcoming dates therefore are:

- Friday 3 February – commencement of six week publication period
- Friday 16 March – end of six week publication period
- By Friday 23 March – all comments received during six week publication period to be passed to Inspector for his consideration.

Once the Inspector has considered all the responses he will complete his final report, which is then passed to the council. If he concludes that the core strategy is sound then the council can proceed to adopt it. If there are no further delays to the process then it is anticipated that Cabinet and full Council will meet to consider adoption in early May 2012.

When the Inspector's conclusions are received they will be published on the webpage www.southoxon.gov.uk/corestrategyexamination where you can also find other key documents, including the SODC Fact Check Response we sent to the Inspector just before Christmas asking him to review some of his draft conclusions.