

Minutes of the meeting of Sonning Common Parish Council held on Monday 16 March 2015 in the Village Hall.

Present: Mr Kedge (Chairman); Mrs Diwell; Mr Fort; Mr Greenwood; Miss Hunt; Mrs Lewis; Mrs Phillips-Tilbury; Ms Noble; Mr Rawlins; Mr Reynolds; Mr Stoves and Mr Collings (Parish Clerk) and Mrs Varnes (Deputy Clerk).

Also present: Two members of the public; County Councillor Bartholomew for 15/144; District Councillor Harrison for 15/145; Mr C McLoughlin Henley Standard.

- 15/139 Apologies for absence: Mr Jones. No declarations..
- 15/140 Public Question Time under Section. Mr Negus asked a question about the proposed ATM at the village hall; Residents asked about progress on parking in Pages Orchard.
- 15/141 Police Report previously circulated was noted.
- 15/142 Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 4 February 2015 were presented and ratified.
- 15/143 Minutes of previous meetings:
143.01 Planning Committee held on 16 February 2015 were presented and approved.
143.02 Parish Council meeting held on 16 February 2015 were presented and approved.
- 15/144 County Councillor's Report: Councillor Bartholomew reported that despite savings set to reach £292 million. OCC has decided that the council tax will rise by 1.99%, equivalent to 46p a week for a Band D property; that the 2014 inspection by the children's services inspectorate OFSTED rated Oxfordshire's child protection system as 'good' and described its approach to tackling child sexual exploitation as 'high quality'; that a public health report has praised the Oxfordshire School Nurse programme; that the Connecting Oxfordshire consultation has begun and can be contributed to at <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/connecting-oxfordshire>. He reported that tackling the Peppard Road/Sedgewell Road flooding work is being rescheduled.
- 15/145 District Councillor's Report: Councillor Harrison reported that SODC has reduced its element of Council Tax by 3%; that the deep cleaning programme is continuing; that things are settling down after the fire and that the election count will be held in Henley.
- 15/146 Parish Clerk's Report - noted.
- 15/147 Neighbourhood Development Plan progress. Mr Greenwood reported that 376 residents had attended the public exhibitions and more than 200 feedback forms have been received. The Plan is still in the pre-submission phase and work continues.
- 15/148 Skatepark project: Mrs Lewis reported that the contract is to be signed on 17 March and work will commence on 23 March.
- 15/149 A motion proposed by Mr Rawlins under the ten o'clock rule that: *'Sonning Common Parish Council would be firmly opposed to any proposal to extend the built-up area of Reading into South Oxfordshire - as appears to be implied in plans for a new Free (Primary) School to be sited at Dyson's Wood in South Oxfordshire; it is understood that the intended catchment is to serve the Caversham area. This would be an inappropriate location and would set an unwelcome precedent for more housing development around it; development that would also impact the thin green belt around the north of Reading. It would also be a less accessible location for parents and pupils - bringing excess traffic onto a minor country lane.'* was discussed and received unanimous support. It was also agreed that the relevant bodies should be advised of the sentiments of the Council on this matter.
- 15/150 Matters for future consideration. Members were reminded of the need for volunteers to marshal 'On Your Bike' on Sunday 26 April.

Meeting closed at 21.02. Next meeting: Monday 20 April 2015 at 20.00.

Chairman: Dated: