

## Minutes of the meeting of Sonning Common Parish Council held on Monday 17 December 2012 at 20.00 hrs in the Village Hall.

Present: Mr Kedge (Chairman); Mr Greenwood; Mr Jones; Mrs Lewis; Ms Noble; Mrs Phillips-Tilbury; Mr Rawlins, Mr Reynolds and Mr Stoves. Mr P Simms, Henley Standard.

Prior to the meeting Mr Simms introduced Mr Dan Robinson who is taking over reporting on Sonning Common now that Mr Sims will be News Editor. Mr Kedge led the meeting in thanking Mr Simms for his long, diligent and accurate reporting on the village and wished him well for the future.

- 13/110 Apologies for absence: Mr Fort, Miss Hunt and Mrs Diwell. Councillor P Harrison.
- 13/111 Declarations of Interests by Members on Agenda Items: None.
- 13/112 Dispensations: The Parish Clerk explained the issues and options around dispensations that affect Precept setting. It was resolved unanimously that, because without dispensations the number of persons unable to participate in the transaction would be so great as to impede the transaction of the business, the granting of dispensations in the matter of deciding the Precept for 2013/4 should be granted to The Clerk under Section 33(1) of the Localism Act 2011.
- 13/113 Public Question Time under Section 30 of Standing Orders: None
- 13/114 Police Report: PCSO Boyes was not in attendance.
- 13/115 Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 7 November 2012 were presented and ratified.
- 13/116 Minutes of previous meetings:  
116.01 Planning Committees held on 19 November and 3 December 2012 were presented and approved.  
116.02 Parish Council meeting held on 19 November 2012 were presented and approved
- 13/117 County Councillor's Report: Councillor Viney advised that there are still no funds to deal with the flood hole outside the allotments. Mr Stoves opined that this is now a serious safety risk and after discussion it was resolved that Paris Clerk should make a formal complaint to OCC Highways about the risk because the Parish Council believes that it will be the cause of a serious accident sooner rather than later, especially now that the hedges have been cut back, and to request that urgent action be taken to remove the risk as a matter of urgency. Councillor Viney also advised that any requests for funds for community projects should be sent to her.
- 13/118 District Councillor's Report: Councillor Rooke, in place of Councillor Harrison, advised that the Core Strategy had just been approved and was now operative and that decisions had been made about the Council Tax treatment of empty and second homes.
- 13/119 Parish Clerk's Report - Noted. Mrs Phillips-Tilbury asked that the formal complaint to OneStop about the deterioration of their forecourt since its repair be expedited.
- 13/120 SODC Ward Boundary: Mr Kedge asked Council to approve notifying the LGBCE that: *'Sonning Common Parish Council strongly opposes the proposal that the new Sonning Common Ward on the District Council should be extended to include Shiplake and would have two District Councillors to represent it. The proposal goes against the original and very rational South Oxfordshire District Council proposal that Sonning Common Parish should be a single Ward with one dedicated District Councillor.*  
*Sonning Common Parish Council strongly supports the District Council's proposal. Sonning Common is one of the largest villages in South Oxfordshire. It is a discrete centre in its own right and needs focused representation. Shiplake residents have no practical day-to-day links here - their services are found in Henley-on-Thames. Under the LGBCE proposal, Shiplake could end up providing two District Councillors to represent Sonning Common.'* It was resolved unanimously that this representation should be made and also that all residents should be encouraged to register similar concerns before the 7 January cut-off point.
- 13/121 Triathlon 2013 Route: Mr Stoves advised of the apparent split between Henley Town Council approving of the event and the strong opposition to it in all the parishes that would be affected. He noted the difficulty in obtaining any co-operation from just Racing. It was resolved that the Parish Clerk should lodge an objection to the proposed routes as soon as possible.

- 13/122 **Budget and Precept:** Mr Stoves and the RFO briefed members on the latest information from Government regarding setting precepts. A draft budget was then circulated and its content was explained to all.  
 On the subject of the youth club (Club SC) grant Mr Reynolds described the excellent work being done by the club and its need for ongoing and increased funding if it is to survive. His views were strongly supported and he was asked to make a specific proposal to the budget meeting planned for 2 January 2013.  
 On areas where there is discretion on amounts and purposes members were asked to send their comments and suggestions to Mr Stoves and the RFO before the month end.
- 13/123 **Logo for the Parish Council.** This matter was discussed briefly and will be carried forward.
- 13/124 **Rollerpark progress:** Mrs Lewis advised that a detailed Invitation to Tender has been prepared by the Deputy Parish Clerk and is expected to be issued to selected potential suppliers in the next week with responses requested for February. Thereafter there will be an open day to show proposals followed by a decision in principle by the end of March as a precursor to serious fundraising.  
 Mr Kedge advised that Mr Stoves had asked to step down from the steering group due to pressure of work elsewhere. Mr Jones had volunteered to join the group and it was resolved to make this change with immediate effect.
- 13/125 **Matters for future consideration:** Budget and precept will dominate in January.

The meeting closed at 21.15.

The next Meeting will be on Monday 21 January 2013 at 20.00.

Chairman: ..... Dated: .....