

Minutes of the meeting of Sonning Common Parish Council held on Monday 17 June 2013 at 20.00 hrs in the Village Hall.

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

Mr D Robinson, Henley Standard, County Councillor Bartholomew and one member of the public were also present.

Apologies for absence: Mr Stoves.

- 14/024 **Declarations of Interests:** None
- 14/025 **Public Question Time under Section 30 of Standing Orders:** No questions.
- 14/026 **Police Report:** Not present- email update already circulated.
- 14/027 **Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 8 May 2013** were presented and ratified.
- 14/028 **Minutes of previous meetings:**
 028.01 **Planning Committee held on 8 and 20 May 2013** were presented and approved. Mr Reynolds proposed that in view of Mr Greenwood's decision to stand down from the Chair of the Planning Committee that a formal vote of thanks should be made for the many years of sterling and dedicated work that Mr Greenwood has put in to making this Committee effective in its work. This was given unanimous and enthusiastic approval.
 028.02 **Parish Council meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council both held on 20 May 2013** were presented and approved.
- 14/029 **County Councillor's Report:** Councillor Bartholomew reported that a contract is about to be let to provide superfast broadband (24mbps) to 90% of the county by 2015; that a new Local Transport Plan area strategy has been developed for consultation; that the Minerals and waste Core Strategy has been approved by OCC; that he will be visiting to discuss dropping some more kerbs with SCPC representatives. Councillor Bartholomew was asked if he can obtain help with the continuing infestation of Japanese Knotweed from the derelict houses on Peppard Road.
- 14/030 **District Councillor's Report:** Not present
- 14/031 **Parish Clerk's Report:** Noted. It was agreed that the new benches at Widmore Pond look splendid. The need for action on Brind's Copse/2A Grove Road Site was noted.
- 14/032 **Audit matters:** It was resolved that the Year end accounts for 2012/2013 be approved, that the Internal Auditor's report be accepted and that the Chairman be authorised to sign the External Audit Annual Return. Mr Kedge asked that the Council's appreciation of the RFO for another successful Audit be recorded.
- 14/033 **Community Governance Review of South Oxfordshire District:** It was resolved that the letter in Appendix B of the Agenda be sent to SODC as the Council's input.
- 14/034 **Car Parking:** After a brief discussion it was resolved that in the light of the Planning Inspector's recent decision regarding backland development in Wood Lane, a longer term view of the parking/traffic situation in Sonning Common is now desirable. Further approaches to SODC by the Parish Council are deferred until the NDP (which will include parking and traffic considerations) has been validated by the Parish Council and it has also considered the cost and advisability of commissioning a professional traffic management report.
During the discussion it was noted that neither District Councillor had pursued the action promised of them by Mr Buckle nor was either present at the meeting. It was resolved that the Council should write to both Councillors to express this concern.
- 14/035 **Neighbourhood Development Plan:** It was resolved that the NDPWP Proposals set out in Appendix C to the agenda be endorsed by the Parish Council and that they should be posted on the NDP website and be written up for the SC magazine.
- 14/036 **Skatepark progress:** Mrs Lewis reported on a slew of activities including that the site details have been finalised; that fundraising is well underway including actions on seeking grants, organising a raffle and a range of other community fundraising events.

- 14/037 Post Office/OneStop: Mrs Phillips-Tilbury report on a very constructive and amicable meeting that had been held with OneStop Management. A further meeting within six weeks is planned as a follow-up.
- 14/037A Media Policy: This matter was deferred by the AMPC for revision that was tabled under the 10 o'clock rule. There was a lively discussion about the third line of paragraph 3 which read: *'Members will not criticise or complain about such decisions if approached to do so.'* A proposal to delete the whole line was rejected by 9 votes to 2. A second proposal to amend the line to read: *'Members will not criticise or complain about such decisions if approached by the media to do so.'* was carried by 9 votes to 1. The Policy was then approved for publication.
- 14/038 Matters for future consideration: No matters raised.
- 14/039 Personnel Matter: A motion nominating Mr L Rawlins as one of the Parish Council's representative Trustees with immediate effect until 31 December 2015 was passed unanimously.

The meeting closed at 21.25

Next meeting: Monday 22 July 2013 at 20.00.

Chairman: Dated: