

## **Minutes of the meeting of Sonning Common Parish Council held on Monday 17 March 2014 at 20.00 hrs in the Village Hall.**

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

**Also present:** Ms H Patchett (Henley Standard) plus County Councillor D Bartholomew and District Councillor P Harrison for part of the meeting.

Before opening the business of the meeting Mr Kedge paid tribute to the late Mr William Gittings who served on the Parish Council between 1988 and 1997. For much of that time he was a very effective chairman of the General Purposes Committee and he was well known for his commitment to and work in the village. The meeting sent condolences to his widow.

- 14/142 Apologies for absence and declarations of interests: Apologies: Miss Hunt; Mr Jones  
No declarations.
- 14/143 Public Question Time under Section 30 of Standing Orders. None.
- 14/144 Police Report previously circulated: Mr Kedge thanked PCSO Boyes for his report and for his excellent organisation of the Parish Council's visit to the Police College and Museum which was highly appreciated by all who went there.
- 14/145 Minutes of Finance Committee meeting on 5 March 2014 were presented and ratified.
- 14/146 Minutes of previous meetings:
  - 146.01 Planning Committee held on 3 March 2014 were presented and approved.
  - 146.02 Parish Council meeting held on 17 February 2014 were presented and approved.
- 14/147 County Councillor's Report: Cllr Bartholomew advised that between 2010 and 2018, savings totalling £265 million will have been achieved by sharing services and reducing costs. Despite these savings he advised of an extra £800,000 to extend personal care visit durations; £1m extra for general highway maintenance across the county; a £400,000 contingency fund to deal with issues from flooding and winter weather and a total of £315,000 for community budgets. He advised of his concerns about extending gravel extraction at Caversham and the third bridge proposals that are 'moving up the political agenda'.
- 14/148 District Councillor's Report: Cllr Harrison advised that the SODC budget has been agreed; that SODC has concerns about increases in town and parish precepts; that the SHMA will increase the number of houses to be built in the district and that there are discussions about a possible large new development site. Regarding the Community Governance Review, after strong questioning, he opined that residents' opinions would be the most important factor.
- 14/149 Parish Clerk's Report: Noted.
- 14/150 Neighbourhood Development Plan progress: Mr Greenwood advised the meeting that the NDP Scoping Report is to be published shortly for consultation and that it will then underpin the production of the whole NDP. The On Your bike event on 27 April will be used to conduct a survey on recreational and sports needs.
- 14/151 Skatepark project: Mrs Lewis reported that a significant grant has been agreed and will be announced shortly and that new tenders are being sought for building to the agreed design following the demise of the previously favoured supplier.
- 14/152 Office space: The Parish Clerk proposed that the Parish take over the office vacated by FISH. It will be used first to display NDP material and then for storage to allow the office to be better used with additional meeting space. The total offices cost per quarter would be £720 plus a one-off budget of up to £850 for shelving, repainting etc. It was resolved to approve this proposal.
- 14/153 Railings outside the Co-operative: It was resolved to provide £325 for the railings to be painted green to match the hall and bollards in advance of the Britain in Bloom judging.
- 14/154 Year End Accounts: It was resolved to approve these as circulated.
- 14/155 Annual Parish Meeting of Electors: Mr Kedge advised that the main topic of the meeting on 12 May will be the possible third bridge from Reading. Speakers from Reading, Oxfordshire County and District Councils and Mr Rawlins for the Parish Council will present information and views for public discussion. Information about the Community Governance review will be on display in the lobby.
- 14/156 Matters for future consideration: None.

The meeting closed at 21.15.

Next meeting: Monday 14 April 2014 at 20.00.

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