

Minutes of the meeting of Sonning Common Parish Council held on Monday 19 December 2011 at 20.00 hrs in the Village Hall

Present: Mr Kedge (Chairman); Mrs Diwell; Mr Greenwood; Mr Jones; Mrs Lewis; Ms Noble; Mrs Phillips-Tilbury; Mr Reynolds; Mr Stoves.

Also present: District Councillor Harrison, Mr P Simms and Mrs A Symons.

- 12/118 Apologies for absence: Mr Rooke; Mr Fort; Miss Hunt.
- 12/119 Declarations of Interests by Members on Agenda Items: None.
- 12/120 Public Question Time under Section 30 of Standing Orders: No questions raised.
- 12/121 Minutes of the Finance Committee held on 7 December 2011 were approved and ratified
- 12/122 Minutes of previous meetings:
- 122.01 Planning Committees held on 21 November and 5 December 2011 – Approved.
 - 122.02 Parish Council meeting held on 21 November 2011 – Approved.
- 12/123 Police Report: No representative present.
- 12/124 County Councillor's Report: Councillor Viney not present.
- 12/125 District Councillor's Report: Councillor Harrison reported that: SODC has been shortlisted for the 'Council of the Year' award by the Local Govt chronicle; SODC intends pass on savings made in the form of a 2.5% Council Tax reduction of £3.09 for a Band D home; unoccupied properties remain a problem that SODC cannot afford to pursue effectively; completion of the Core Strategy has been further delayed; more information is available about Neighbourhood Planning progress on the SODC website; SODC has published advice for those communities wishing to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee or the Olympics.
- 12/126 Parish Clerk's Report: Re the item on Footpath repairs Mr Stoves advised that he had had no useful response from OCC highways on this matter and asked that it be referred to Councillor Viney.
- 12/127 Noticeboards: Mrs Phillips-Tilbury's proposal that the Parish Council embark on the phased replacement of Noticeboards at the rate of two per financial year was accepted unanimously but on discussion was amended to remove the limit of two per year. Thus it was resolved to authorise the phased replacement of Parish Noticeboards at a rate to be agreed with the Finance Committee with the supplier to be Messrs Greenbarnes Ltd at £1,061.96 per unit plus an allowance of up to £200 for each fitting and disposal of old board. Mr Jones requested that Essex Way be in the first tranche.
- 12/128 Town and Parish Forum Feedback: Ms Noble provided feedback from this recent event. The information provided about Neighbourhood Plans was very relevant and confirmed views already formed that specialist help would be needed and that costs would range from £30K to £100K.
- 12/129 Neighbourhood Plan: Mr Greenwood report on the evaluations of various proposals to provide external expertise for this project and what had been learned from them. He asked first that Council consider the letter proposed by the Planning Committee to be sent to SODC to seek approval to proceed. The letter was reviewed and it was resolved that it should be hand delivered to SODC on 20 December. (Done) He then described the three support approaches offered and their potential costs and sought approval for the one favoured by the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party which is to provide up to £10,000 in the remainder of the financial year for support from BDOR and the Localism Network. It was resolved unanimously to approve this provision with the RFO overseeing the issue of purchase orders for each step along the way.
- 12/130 Play Areas: The Play Areas Working Party sought authorisation from the Parish Council for the following two motions that were approved unanimously:
- 12/130.01 The Parish Council authorises the Play Areas Working Party and the Clerk to pursue the establishment of a bye-law restricting use of the three play areas to children under the age of 12.
 - 12/130.02 The Parish Council authorises the Play Area Working Party and the Clerk to initiate and follow the procedure for banning dogs from the three play areas.
- 12/131 Car Parking: Mr Stoves and Ms Noble opened a discussion and sought suggestions to improve the situation. A number of ideas were proffered from better marking and use of areas outside shops to the possible purchase of additional space. The Clerk advised that discussions are ongoing with the Co-op about their responsibilities for the car park behind the village hall and that a date for the yellow lines is still awaited. Mrs Diwell advised that the status of the Silver Birches should be checked before any works. No firm decisions were made.

- 12/132 Village Hall Windows: The Parish Clerk described the problems encountered in getting more than one useful quotation for the provision of two opening windows for air circulation at the top of the hall. It was resolved to authorise him to accept the quotation £1,590 from Henley glazing and Windows Ltd.
- 12/133 Poor Lands Trust: The Parish Council was asked to nominate a representative to replace Mrs Hargreaves who is standing down after many years. No names were put forward. The Clerk will circulate information and the matter will be addressed again in January.
- 12/134 Matters for future consideration:
To consider providing funds for events for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the 2012 Olympics.
To hear a proposal from Ms Jo Quintin of SC primary for twinning with a village in Normandy.
To invite Mr Lilly to present to the next meeting on next steps regarding Lea Meadow.
To receive an update on the Library situation.

The meeting closed at 21.33.

The Precept Meeting will be on Thursday 5 January at 19.30 hrs.
The next Meeting will be on Monday 16 January 2012 at 20.00 hrs.

Chairman Dated