

Minutes of the meeting of Sonning Common Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Monday 20 February 2012 at 20.00 hrs

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

Also present: District Councillor Harrison, three candidates for co-option, Mr A Davies, PCSO Rawnsley and one member of the public.

- 12/160 Apologies for absence: County Councillor Viney
- 12/161 Declarations of Interests by Members on Agenda Items: None.
- 12/162 Co-option of a new member to the Parish Council: The three candidates, Mrs J Grinsted, Mrs S MacGowan and Mrs J Poska each spoke to the brief provided with Mrs Grinsted's speech being read for her due to loss of her voice. A paper ballot was held which produced no clear majority. The candidate with the lowest number of votes was eliminated. On the second ballot Mrs Samantha MacGowan received a majority of all votes cast and was duly co-opted to join the Parish Council.
- 12/163 Public Question Time under Section 30 of Standing Orders: No questions raised.
- 12/164 Bishopswood Sports Ground: Mr Davies gave a brief presentation of the plans for the improvement and development of the sports grounds. He outlined a number of areas for community involvement with the plans all of which will be expanded on at the public meeting he has convened for 27 February.
- 12/173 Standing Orders: The Chairman brought this item forward in the agenda in order to be able to implement the changes immediately if approved. The changes as documented in Appendix A hereto were put to the meeting and it was resolved unanimously to approve them and therefore they took immediate effect.
- 12/165 Twinning: Mr Kedge proposed that: 'This council welcomes in principle the move by a group of residents to form a local committee to investigate the possibility of Sonning Common's being twinned with a similar area in France. The council will give sympathetic consideration to requests for appropriate help and support.' It was resolved unanimously to approve the motion.
- 12/166 The Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 8 February 2012 were presented approved and ratified.
- 12/167 The Minutes of previous meetings:
 - 167.01 Planning Committee held on 6 February 2012– were presented and approved.
 - 167.02 Parish Council meeting held on 16 January 2012 - were presented and approved.
- 12/168 The Police Report: PCSO Rawnsley assured the meeting that the local crime level remains low. Members indicated their continued appreciation of the local police team.
- 12/169 The County Councillor's Report: County Councillor Viney had sent in a note that Oxfordshire County Councillors voted on Friday 10th February that there would be no increase in Council Tax from OCC 2012/2013.
- 12/170 The District Councillor's Report: Councillor Harrison reported that a new service to alert councillors and communities to road works has been launched; that it is expected that the number of SODC councillors will be reduced from 48 to 36 leading to single councillor wards; the Warm Homes Healthy People project has funds to help vulnerable people; the Core Strategy has moved into a mid-examination period; SODC has reduced Council Tax by 2.5%.
- 12/171 Parish Clerk's Report: This was noted. The Parish Clerk advised that new Play Area Reporting forms are about to be issued. It was confirmed that Mrs Lewis will continue to report on Baskerville Road and Mr Fort on Lea Road. It was agreed that Mrs MacGowan should replace Mrs Phillips-Tilbury in reporting on Churchill Crescent.
- 12/172 Amended Meeting dates for 2012/13: It was resolved to accept the proposed changes to the Finance Committee meeting dates in April, July and September.
- 12/174 Neighbourhood Plan: Ms Noble report that progress is being made with Site Allocations and Landscape Assessment. There is to be a major public event all day on 28 April.
- 12/175 Office Assistance: It was resolved that Mrs H Lewis should be employed as Assistant Clerk for 7 hours per week subject to the normal probationary period, references etc as proposed by Finance Committee recommendation F12/108.1.

12/176 Snow plan: Mr Jones briefed the Council on the success of the Snow Plan – one practice run and two real events - and the interest that it has generated in other parts of the country. He outlined how the experience would be used to even better effect next winter.

12/177 Prisoner rehabilitation: Mr Reynolds explained how the sudden change in Huntercombe's role makes work in the community impossible.

12/178 SODC Core Strategy: Members noted that proposed modifications are available in the Parish Office and comments can be made until 16 March 2012.

12/179 Matters for future consideration:

Mrs Diwell asked that time be allowed on 19 March for a short presentation about Widmore Pond;

Mrs Phillips-Tilbury wishes to explore the acquisition of the redundant telephone box from Blackmore Lane to make a planting feature;

Miss Hunt will advise on progress with obtaining a new bus shelter near Essex Way.

The meeting closed at 21.35

The next Meeting will be on Monday 19 March 2012 at 20.00 hrs.

Chairman

Dated

Appendix A - PROPOSED CHANGES TO STANDING ORDERS

The provision of microphones makes it sensible to review the rules about the conduct of meetings to take account of their presence. It is therefore proposed to amend Standing Orders as follows:

SO if now reads:

A person shall raise his hand when requesting to speak and stand when speaking (except when a person has a disability or is likely to suffer discomfort). The Chairman may at any time permit an individual to be seated when speaking.

It is proposed that in future SO1f should read:

A person shall raise his/her hand when requesting to speak. When given the floor he/she shall remain seated and use a microphone, if available, when speaking. Councillors shall stand to raise points of order whether or not a microphone is available.

This change further affects SO6 t and u which presently read:

SO6 t A member shall stand when speaking unless permitted by the Chairman to sit.

SO6 u Members shall address the Chairman. If two or more members rise, the Chairman shall call upon one of them to speak and the others shall resume their seats. Whenever the Chairman rises during a debate all other members shall be seated and silent.

It is proposed that in future SO6 t and u should read:

SO6 t When given the floor a member shall remain seated to speak and shall turn on the microphone, if available, before speaking.

SO6 u Members shall address the Chairman. If two or more members raise their hands, the Chairman shall call upon one of them to speak and the others shall be silent. Whenever the Chairman intervenes during a debate all other members shall be silent.

Appendix B - SONNING COMMON PARISH COUNCIL REVISED MEETING DATES 2012/13 Changes highlighted

MONTH IN 2012	Parish Council	Finance Committee	Planning Committee	
	Monday 20.00	Wednesday 19.30	Monday 19.30	Monday 19.30**
JANUARY	Thu 5:Precept only 16	4:Budget only 11	3	16
FEBRUARY	20	8	6	20
MARCH	19	7	5	19
APRIL	16	4	2	16
MAY	14 AMPC (18.30) then APM 21	9	Tuesday 1	21
JUNE	18	6	6	18
JULY	16	4	2	16
AUGUST	-	8	6	20
SEPTEMBER	17	5	3	17
OCTOBER	15	10	1	15
NOVEMBER	19	7	5	19
DECEMBER	17	5	3	17
JANUARY 2013	21	9	7	21

** Will start at 19.00 if a long agenda.