

Minutes of the meeting of Sonning Common Parish Council held on Monday 20 October 2014 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 and Mr Collings (Parish Clerk) and Mrs Varnes (Deputy Clerk).

Also present: Four members of the public; County Councillor Bartholomew; District Councillor Harrison and Ms H Patchett (Henley Standard).

15/072 Apologies for absence: Miss Hunt; Mr Jones; Mr Stoves. No declarations.

15/073 Public Question Time under Section 30 of Standing Orders.

15/073.1 The members of the public who were all residents in Pages Orchard wishing to confirm the extent of the parking problems referred to as agenda item 15/082. It was agreed to bring this item up the agenda for immediate discussion. Having heard the residents' views Cllr Bartholomew advised that the problems had been explained to him and he, Mr Kedge and the Parish Clerk had visited the site and met the PCSOs there. He has subsequently obtained agreement from SOHA to fund half the cost of £8,600 to install a 'Grasscrete' parking area, but there is no funding available from OCC for the balance. A map showing several possible areas for parking was circulated and it was agreed that the Parish Clerk should seek an estimate for work on three areas and use this to seek maximum funding from SOHA plus grants from other sources. Cllr Harrison suggested SODC's CIF as a possible source.

15/073.2 Cllr Harrison, as a resident, asked several questions pertaining to past actions by the Parish Council. These included the statement in the Henley Standard boundary advertisement that he had 'irrationally campaigned against us'; whether emails and letters to Cllr Rooke asking for his views on the matter constituted bullying; how with his previous work on the parish council he could be described as out of touch; whether the cost of the Henley Standard boundary advertisement was an appropriate use of funds and the use of the reprinted letters inserted in the SC Magazine. It was agreed that parish council would respond to him by writing an open letter¹.

15/074 Police Report previously circulated - approved. Request to be made to find out how many parking tickets have actually been issued around the Co-op.

15/075 Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 10 September 2014 were presented and ratified.

15/076 Minutes of previous meetings:

076.01 Planning Committees held on 15 and 22 September 2014 were presented and approved.

076.02 Parish Council meeting held on 15 September 2014 were presented and approved.

For convenience, the next two items were actually taken immediately after Public Question Time.

15/077 County Councillor's Report: Cllr Bartholomew reported on budget pressures for 2015/16; on the Mobile Library consultation; on success in Fire & Rescue achieving objectives early and in Waste Disposal and on providing advice to older people. Locally he reported on a possible bollard on Wood Lane; repairs but not renewal of footpaths in Crowsley way; as above, on Pages Orchard and on grants from the community fund.

15/078 District Councillor's Report: Cllr Harrison advised of the new line of in SODC's Cabinet; on the availability of funds in the Community Capital Fund and on the need for the parish council to nominate areas for the next 'big clean up'.

15/079 Parish Clerk's Report - noted.

15/080 It was resolved to reappoint P Hood of Arrow Accounting as Internal Auditor.

¹ Letter now available for inspection in the Parish Office.

- 15/081 It was resolved to accept the Finance Committee recommendation to award a grant of £350 to FISH to support their work in the village.
- 15/082 Parking problems in Pages Orchard and Ashford Avenue – see minute 15/073.1.
- 15/083 Neighbourhood Development Plan progress. Mr Greenwood advised that the plan writing is in progress; that with residents around SONs 1-3 have been invited to meetings on 6 and 7 November; that there will be public briefings about the draft plan on 14/15 and 16 November; that a special meeting of the council will be called to seek approval of the draft plan.
- 15/084 Skatepark project: Mrs Lewis reported that it is now expected that construction will begin early in 2015.
- 15/085 Matters for future consideration.
- A paper about Play Area Inspection needs was circulated and the matter will be on the next agenda.
- Mr Rawlins asked that SODC be requested to call for SHMA sites across the whole settlement area.

Meeting closed at 21.10.

Next meeting: Monday 17 November 2014 at 20.00.

Chairman: Dated: