

## Minutes of the meeting of Sonning Common Parish Council held in The Village Hall at 20.00 on Monday 21 November 2011 hrs.

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

Also present: County Councillor Viney, District Councillor Harrison, PCSO Forrest, Mr P Simms and Mrs A Symons.

12/100 Apologies for absence: None

12/101 Declarations of Interests by Members on Agenda Items: None

12/102 Public Question Time under Section 30 of Standing Orders: Mrs Symons asked if it was known when the pile of tree cutting debris would be removed from behind the gym. The Clerk advised that there had been communication with the owners but as it is on private property the Parish Council can only cajole.

12/103 Minutes of the Finance Committee held on 2 November 2011 were approved and ratified.

12/104 Minutes of previous meetings:

104.01 Planning Committees held on 17 October and 7 November 2011 - Approved

104.02 Parish Council held on 17 October 2011 - Approved

12/105 Police Report: PCSO Forrest advised of changes to the team. He advised people to be particularly vigilant about domestic security in the run up to Christmas whilst reminding that the village is generally quiet in terms of crime. He was thanked for the work done with the Parish Council to improve play area security in Lea Meadow and Churchill Crescent.

12/106 County Councillor's Report: Councillor Viney reported: on work underway to restore a Thames Valley-wide approach to Fire Service Control; on the success of the Youth Club team in obtaining the Big Society Grant and the critical role in that decision of the Parish Council's commitment to underwrite costs if need be; on the forthcoming change in the leadership of the County Council.

12/107 District Councillor's Report: Councillor Harrison reported that: the Localism Act became law on 15 November with major implications for all councils; Whitchurch Bridge is closing for nine months of rebuilding with consequent effects on traffic in the area; garden waste collections will be suspended for two weeks after Christmas to allow extra routine collections; OCC are reviewing the supported bus service in the Henley area; the number of SODC Councillors is to reduce from 48 to 30; there does not seem to be a Council-led solution available for the empty property in Peppard Road. He was asked if Planning Policy could be used to reduce the number of bungalows being lost to full house conversions to the detriment of older residents and advised that there is no policy on this matter at present.

12/108 Parish Clerk's Report: This was noted.

12/109 Internal Audit: It was resolved to reappoint Arrow Accounting (Mr P Hood) as Internal Auditor for the current financial year.

12/110 Snow plans. Mr Jones summarised the plans made and showed some of the equipment obtained. He reminded all of the call for volunteers. It was resolved that the Parish Council set aside £100 to provide prizes for young snowman builders. Mr Kedge proposed a formal motion of thanks to Mr Jones for all his work on this matter which received unanimous support.

12/111 Road Crossing Petition. Mr Jones described why 448 people, 2/3 of them cyclists, had signed a petition requesting that the safety aspects of the B481 crossing by the 'Bird in Hand' public house be investigated by the Highway authorities to propose actions to create a 'Safe Crossing Zone'. It was resolved that Mr Jones should liaise with the Parish Clerk to make a suitable request.

12/112 Neighbourhood Plan: Mr Rooke asked that Mr Greenwood take on the chairmanship of this Working Party of which he will remain a member. Mr Greenwood reported that now that more is understood of what is involved and of how important the Neighbourhood Plan will be for the next 20-25 years, several things have become very clear. First, that getting professional help and advice will be essential for the Plan to withstand external scrutiny. Second, that the Working Party must be more broadly based by both the variety of backgrounds and the ages of those volunteering to work on it. The Henley Standard was requested to publicise this need for more participants of all ages. Third, that this is not going to be a short task - it is likely to take at least 12 months and the cost will

certainly exceed the initial budget allocation of £1,000 by a factor of at least 10. In support of this view the Parish Clerk will circulate to the Working Party the estimates already to hand. The matter of cost has to be addressed in the budget/precept discussions of the Finance Committee who will have to take a view on the staging of the costs. It was suggested that neighbouring Parishes Councils should be approached to see if they would consider joining the Working Party and possibly sharing appropriate costs. This will be an ongoing agenda item for some time to come.

12/113 Allotments: The Parish Clerk’s paper on the management of the Allotments was considered. It was resolved to: a) Purchase the Allotment management package offered by our accounting system providers at a cost of £449 in year one and £104 p.a. thereafter. b) Work to get a new Allotment Holders Society initiated as a Working Party led by Mr Stoves. The council will facilitate its birth by hosting a get together for the tenants. c) To give formally delegated authority for the day to day management of the whole site and its administration to the Parish Clerk.

12/114 Car Parking: This item was withdrawn pending legal advice.

12/115 Rehabilitation of offenders: Mr Reynolds updated members on progress with this project noting that there is a minimum 28 day lead time to get a project approved by the Prison authorities.

12/116 Budgets and precept for 2012/13. Miss Hunt informed the council that the Precept meeting will be early in January (now set as 5 January).

Motion under the ‘Ten O’Clock rule’ – Mrs Phillips-Tilbury asked the Parish Council to approve and fund a Christmas tree to be put up outside the Village Hall. Power for lights is already available. It was resolved that if suitable arrangements can be made for the tree and security a contribution of up to £100 will be made available for decorations etc.

12/117 Matters for future consideration:

Car parking: Mr Stoves and Ms Noble to lead.

Notice Boards: A decision is needed to resolve this matter.

The next Meeting will be on Monday 19 December 2011 at 20.00 hrs.

Chairman .....

Dated .....