

Minutes of the meeting of Sonning Common Parish Council held on Monday 21 October 2013.

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

Councillor D Bartholomew; Mr I Jamaldeen and Ms K Lowe.

- 14/067 Apologies for absence and declarations of interests: Apology for absence: Miss Hunt.
- 14/068 Receipt of donation: Kirsten Lowe, Area Manager of OneStop and Irshad Jamaldeen Store manager presented a community award cheque for £200 to Carole Lewis, Chairman of the Skate Park Working Party, towards the skate park fund. This initial award from One Stop will be followed by a further review after Christmas. In addition, two counter collection boxes raised well over £100 for the fund. One Stop also made a generous contribution of wine for the recent Charity Lunch held in the village, which raised £550 for the skate park and £110 for the Village Gardeners. Mr Kedge stated that the Parish Council much appreciates One Stop's very positive involvement in the life of our community.
- 14/069 Public Question Time under Section 30 of Standing Orders. None.
- 14/069.01 Amendment to Standing Orders. Mr Kedge proposed the changes set out in Appendix A of the Agenda to allow for greater flexibility in this area. It was then proposed that the wording of the new section 1(e) should actually read: 'Subject to Standing Order 1(c) above and Standing Order 30, members of the public from the Parishes of Sonning Common, Rotherfield Peppard and Kidmore End are permitted to make representations and ask and answer questions during Public Participation Time on any matter within the remit of Sonning Common Parish Council or which affects the Parish.' With this amendment it was resolved unanimously to adopt the change forthwith.
- 14/070 Police Report: PCSO Boyes' report had been circulated earlier and he was not present. His efforts were again commended. Mr Kedge volunteered to represent the Parish Council on the new Neighbourhood Action Group and it was resolved to nominate him.
- 14/071 Minutes of Finance Committee meetings held on 11 September and 9 October 2013 were presented and ratified.
- 14/072 Minutes of previous meetings:
072.01 Planning Committees held on 16 September and 7 October 2013 were presented and approved.
072.02 Parish Council meeting held on 16 September 2013 were presented and approved.
- 14/073 County Councillor's Report: Councillor Bartholomew reported that OCC has to find another £60m of savings over the next four years. Public meeting dates on this matter have been published. Regarding Disabled Access in the village he confirmed that dropped crossings are being placed at the Westleigh Road and Grove Road ends of Lea Road. The damaged chevron sign is being repaired. In discussion on the savings target, the Parish Clerk suggested that, as with grass cutting now where the PC receives an annual grant and then takes full responsibility for the work, OCC could probably save serious money by similarly devolving its hedge cutting responsibility to Parishes accompanied by a suitable proportion of the OCC budget. It was felt that without the burden of OCC overheads parishes could be expected 'to do more with less' as well as using local firms to do the work. Cllr Bartholomew agreed to explore the possibility.
- 14/074 District Councillor's Report – apologies had been received from Councillor Rooke.
- 14/075 Parish Clerk's Report – The number of open ongoing activities and workload was noted.
- 14/076 Parish Council Christmas Tree: It was resolved to grant up to £250 for the purchase and erection of a tree outside the village hall and its subsequent disposal.
- 14/077 CCTV Installation: Mr Jones advised that 80% of the eventual full project is complete with the system working well and already used to evaluate a small incident. An enhanced camera will be proposed to cover the car park extension. Mr Jones was congratulated on a successful project.
- 14/078 SODC's Town and Parish Forum on 6 November 2013: It was agreed the Mr Rawlins and the Parish Clerk will take the two places on offer.

- 14/079 Neighbourhood Development Plan progress: Mr Greenwood reported on a very successful public meeting held on 11 October with all three presentations being well received. He proposed that the following be added to the list ratified on 17 June 2013 (Minute 14/035):
- SON 15a Proposal: This site has potential for housing development and should be included in the next design phase of our NDP.
- SON 15b Proposal: This site is to be set aside and not included in the next design stage of our NDP.
- These additions were approved unanimously
- 14/080 Skatepark progress: Mrs Lewis reported that over £1,600 has already been raised locally; that we are now confident of receiving at least one substantial grant which will be made public as soon as an embargo is lifted; that other applications are also being considered.
- 14/081 Widmore Pond: Mrs Diwell reported that the new Information Display Board has been completed and is now with Mr Fort who will arrange installation on site as soon as the weather permits. Mr Kedge noted that this is a suitable recognition of an important local landmark.
- 14/082 Margaret Allwright Way Hedge. There was a considerable discussion of options open with several new ideas put forward. The Parish Clerk was asked to take all these on board, make suitable investigations and bring forward a written proposal for consideration as soon as possible.
- 14/083 Appointment of Deputy Parish Clerk: The appointment of Mrs Ros Varnes to this post was ratified unanimously.
- 14/084 Matters for future consideration:
- Getting some progress on Brinds Copse;
 - Acquiring some external secure storage for equipment;
 - Budget and Precept.

Please note that numbering from 14/181 onwards differs from agenda due to an error therein.

Meeting closed at 21.08

Next meeting: Monday 18 November 2013 at 20.00.

Chairman: Dated: