

Minutes of the meeting of Sonning Common Parish Council held on Monday 21 September 2015 in the Village Hall

Present: Mr Kedge (Chairman); Mrs Diwell; Mr Fort; Mr Greenwood; Mr Jones; Mrs Lewis; Mrs Phillips-Tilbury; Mr Rawlins; Mr Reynolds; Mr Richens; Mr Rust; Mr Stoves and Mr Collings (Parish Clerk) and Mrs Varnes (Deputy Clerk) and Mr McLoughlin, Henley Standard and three members of the public.

Also present for 16/057 Councillor D Bartholomew and for 16/058 Councillor P Harrison.

- 16/052 Apologies for absence: Mrs Diwell; Mrs Phillips-Tilbury and Mr Reynolds.
No declarations of interests:
- 16/053 Public Question Time under Section 30 of Standing Orders. Ms Gale of Pages Orchard asked if there was yet any news about being able to create extra parking spaces in Pages Orchard. It was explained that it had still not been possible to obtain a minimum cost specification from OCC Highways and Cllr Bartholomew agreed to push for assistance. Ms Gale also complained about the lack of enforcement of double yellow lines in the village centre and it was agreed to pass this on to PCSO Boyes.
- 16/054 Police Report previously circulated - noted.
- 16/055 Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 8 July and 5 August 2015 were presented and approved.
- 16/056 Minutes of previous meetings:
056.01 Planning Committees held on 20 July 2015 were presented and approved.
056.02 Parish Council meeting held on 20 July 2015 were presented and approved.
- 16/057 County Councillor's Report: Councillor Bartholomew described the immense challenge presented to OCC's budget by the fact that nearly half of the Council's budget goes on Social Care. By and large, the Council's responsibilities are statutory meaning that for the most part budget cuts fall in other areas. At any one time, just 2% of the population account for all of these Social Care costs. He asked members and the council as a body to ensure that they had responded to the OCC Household Waste Recycling Centre Strategy consultation. He described savings expected from the merger of back-office support with Hampshire CC and the improved A level and GCSE results. He advised that surface dressing of Kennylands Road will take place in 2016.
- 16/058 District Councillor's Report: Councillor Harrison noted that the new recycling service went live on 7 September; that there is to be a By-election on 22 October; that the report on SODC's draft CIL schedule is expected after October and on concerns that the Oakley Wood recycling facility might be closed.
- 16/059 Parish Clerk's Report – noted.
- 16/060 Finalisation of the External Auditors Report it was resolved to approve and accept the Annual Return and Report.
- 16/061 Outstanding matters regarding the Skatepark in regard to emergency access and the completion of legal matters. Mrs Lewis led a discussion on the report that had been circulated. Strong views were expressed about both problems. The meeting agreed that talks with RUFC should continue until an acceptable resolution has been reached.
- 16/062 Littering in the Village Centre Bus Shelter. This problem was discussed and various ideas were put forward. Apart from asking PCSO Boyes to keep a close eye on the situation no changes were agreed.
- 16/063 Proposed tree planting sites around the Village. A list of potential sites for trees to be planted at the expense of the developer of 2A Grove Road once planning permission has been granted was circulated and agreed. This is to be communicated to SODC.

- 16/064 Further response to the Household Waste Recycling centre strategy for Oxfordshire: A motion proposed under the 10 O'clock rule was discussed and it was resolved to notify the OCC Consultation that:
Sonning Common Parish Council deplores the draft proposal to close Oakley Wood – which is the only recycling centre in South Oxfordshire. This is because :-
· It will motivate increased fly-tipping in our countryside
· Cost a great deal to collect fly-tipped waste
· Transfer unreasonable costs to our District Council
Parish Clerk is to notify OCC f this view.
- 16/065 Neighbourhood Development Plan: Mr Greenwood update members on the successful public meetings, on the fact that reserve sites had now been agreed and that it is planned to begin the next and hopefully final round of consultation by 5 October.
- 16/066 Matters for future agendas: Community Information Network presentation to the October meeting. Draft budget for 2016/17 is to be reviewed at that meeting.

Meeting closed at 21.40

Next meeting: Monday 19 October 2015 at 20.00.

Chairman: Dated: