

Minutes of the meeting of Sonning Common Parish Council held on Monday 20 April 2015 in the Village Hall

Present: Mr Kedge (Chairman); Mrs Diwell; Mr Fort; Mr Greenwood; Miss Hunt; Mrs Lewis; Mrs Phillips-Tilbury; Ms Noble; Mr Rawlins; Mr Reynolds; Mr Stoves and Mr Collings (Parish Clerk) and Mrs Varnes (Deputy Clerk).

Also present: Four representatives from Rotherfield United Football Club; County Councillor Bartholomew for 16/006; District Councillor Harrison for 16/007; Mr C McLoughlin Henley Standard.

Before opening the meeting, Mr Kedge paid tribute to the two members who are standing down at the election:

Regarding Gail Noble, he reminded members about how, soon after joining the Council, she had taken the Chair of our Planning Committee where she rapidly got to grips with the issues it faces and the task of being an effective and respected Chairperson whose contributions will be much missed.

About Jo Hunt, who has served on the Parish Council for 27 years, he pointed out that she had begun attending meetings at the age of thirteen and then took on responsible positions as soon as she was able to. Jo Hunt has held every leading post on the Council as well as a spell as one of our District Councillors and also represented the Council on many external bodies. Mr Kedge said how invaluable her knowledge of village matters and events has been to all since and how well and willingly that knowledge has been made available to all other members. Jo will also be much missed.

Mr Kedge also announced that the Parish Council won the Youth Community Partnership for its continuing support to Club SC. The nomination was made by Carol Viney and the award was collected by Mr Reynolds.

The meeting then opened.

- 16/001 Apologies for absence: Mr Jones. No declarations.
- 16/002 Public Question Time under Section 30 of Standing Orders. No questions raised.
- 16/003 Police Report. PCSO Boyes spoke about the sad events leading up to the death of Francisco Moreira and the efforts of people to help him to no avail. He went on to describe the challenges of enforcing parking restrictions with fixed penalty notices and formal cautions. He reminded members of the fact that the village has 68 active Neighbourhood Watchers and there are only three roads without a watcher.
- 16/004 Minutes of the Finance Committee held on 4 March 2015 were presented and approved.
- 16/005 Minutes of previous meetings:
 - 005.01 Planning Committee on 2, 16 and 30 March 2015 were presented and approved.
 - 005.02 Parish Council meeting on 16 March 2015 were presented and approved.
- 16/006 County Councillor's Report: Councillor Bartholomew reported that OCC has been successful in bidding for £12.9m of Government money to improve street lighting, road drainage and carriageway condition in the county; that about 91% of Oxfordshire children due to start secondary school this year have been allocated a place at their first-preference school; that more than 40,000 homes and businesses across the county are now able to access faster fibre broadband as part of the multi-million pound 'Better Broadband for Oxfordshire' programme; that he is liaising with the Cabinet Member regarding issues around planning application P14/S3995/O - land adjacent to 54 Woodlands Road and that, regarding Peppard Road/Sedgewell Road flooding, the Drainage Team discovered tree roots growing in the drains which require removal - the work is to go ahead shortly.
- 16/007 District Councillor's Report: Councillor Harrison reported that SODC has acquired new premises; that SIODC is market testing corporate services; that the renting of homes has increased significantly; that £1.5 million is available to boost the rural economy.

- 16/008 Parish Clerk's Report – noted, with special reference to the cost of removing rats from the site. The Clerk also made this statement regarding the Skatepark: 'As you all know work has begun successfully on the Skatepark site about which Mrs Lewis will speak later. There is an ongoing discussion about the precise layout of the Skatepark in relation to the Rotherfield United Football Club pitches and we expect to reach an amicable agreement very shortly.'
- 16/009 Presentation by Rotherfield United Football Club (RUFC). Mr Andy Tidswell, the Club Chairman gave a presentation about the work of the club of whose members 45% live in Sonning Common. He outlined their plans and the challenges in meeting them – in particular meeting their operating costs. A discussion involving other RUFC officials followed before Mr Tidswell was thanked for his informative contribution.
- 16/010 Skatepark project: Mrs Lewis reported that concrete was to be poured the next day and that she would liaise with RUFC and others to organise an opening event. The design of the mini-wheels track was reviewed and it was resolved that it should be built in the Lea Road Play Area.
- 16/011 Neighbourhood Development Plan progress. Mr Greenwood reported that in the pre-submission consultation there had been 241 responses from local residents and other interested parties plus 11 from the formal, statutory consultees. The overall closing date for consultation has been extended to allow for views on the Environmental Report. The meeting congratulated the NDP team for reaching this important milestone.
- 16/012 Item deferred.
- 16/013 Matters for future consideration. The meeting was reminded of the Annual Parish Meeting being held on 20 May. It was agreed to compile and circulate a list of possible new street names to be used as developments take place.

Meeting closed at 21.45.

Next meeting: Monday 18 May 2015 AMPC at 19.30 with normal agenda at 20.00.

Chairman: Dated: