

Minutes of the meeting of Sonning Common Parish Council held on Monday 18 January 2016 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 Rust; Mr Stoves plus Mr Collings (Parish Clerk) and Mrs Varnes (Deputy PC).

Also present: Mr C McLoughlin, Henley Standard and four members of the public and for 16/112 Councillor D Bartholomew and for 16/113 Cllrs P Harrison and W Hall.

- 16/107 Apologies for absence: Mr Richens. No declarations of interests
- 16/108 Public Question Time: Mrs Whitehead of 47 Wood Lane asked what could be done about blocked gullies and the resulting puddles and Mr Fort echoed her concern. She was advised to report the problem using fixmystreet.com and it was agreed that council would also report the matter.
- 16/109 Tree planting proposal: Mr J Stone's proposals were discussed and it was agreed that it would be best to stagger planting so that trees could be properly watered in their early days. Mr Stone will now calculate the costs of his proposal for new trees and their planting and make a grant of that amount to the parish council who will set up a tree committee in February to oversee the purchase and planting.
- 16/110 Police Report. PCSO M Bell presented and circulated a paper proposing that a single yellow line and new give way markings be put in around the school. The cost would be around £4,300. The budget implications and availability of grants to be discussed at next meeting prior to a decision.
- 16/111 Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 6 January 2016 were presented and approved.
Minutes of previous meetings:
111.01 Planning Committees held on 14 December 2015 were presented and approved.
111.02 Parish Council meeting held on 14 December 2015 were presented and approved.
- 16/112 County Councillor's Report: Cllr Bartholomew reported that Oxfordshire County Council has now received details of future grant funding from central Government and the levels are even worse than feared. The council had been preparing for up to £50m of savings from 2016 to 2020. On the basis of figures provided by central Government last month, OCC will have to make £20m further savings on top of the £50m, bringing the total saving to £70m over the next four years.
The list of proposed savings for £50 million was already controversial, with many members of the public opposing them. To achieve the additional £20 million savings, no area of the council can be exempt other than those where there is a statutory obligation to provide for the most vulnerable in the county. This means other areas will suffer disproportionately, which will involve some very difficult and controversial decisions. By law, the Council has to pass a balanced budget with no revenue borrowing. The Cabinet recommendations will be published 18th January for decision 26th January, before the budget goes to Full Council on 16th February. On Grove Road yellow lining he advised the PC of the following costs: Legal: £2500; Lining: around £1300 if a 'one off' job, but around £300 if issued with other schemes and signing around £500. The legal charges are a fixed flat fee.
- 16/113 District Councillor's Report: Cllr Will Hall introduced himself as the new second member for the ward. Cllr Harrison advised that SODC has been rated the best in England for recycling and that the planning inspector has approved SODC's Community Infrastructure Levy schedule subject to a few minor amendments.
- 16/114 Parish Clerk's Report - noted
- 16/115 Skatepark: Mrs Lewis reported that work to get Team Skatepark set up is under way.

- 16/116 Neighbourhood Development Plan: Mr Greenwood reported that that the Submission Plan and all supporting documentation is now with SODC and the processes for examination and the referendum are therefore in train.
 - 16/117 Updated Risk Assessment for the Council – deferred to next meeting.
 - 16/118 Proposal to sell the Brinds Corner site for development. This was discussed at length and it was agreed that three proposals should be sought from agents who should be asked if they thought there would be merit in submitting plans for larger homes.
 - 16/119 Matters for future agendas – Grove Road lining; Brinds Corner; the OneStop area.
- The meeting closed at 21.38.
Next meeting: Monday 15 February 2016 at 20.00.

Chairman: Dated: