

Minutes of the meeting of Sonning Common Parish Council held on Monday 19 March 2018 in the Village Hall

Present: Mr Stoves (Chairman); Mr Greenwood; Mr Howe; Mr Kedge; Mrs Phillips-Tilbury; Mr Rawlins; Mr Rinta-Suksi and Mr Rust. Also: Mr Collings (Parish Clerk) and Mrs Varnes (Deputy Parish Clerk).
Also present: Cllr D Bartholomew; Mr C McLoughlin Henley Standard and three members of the public.

- 18/151 Apologies for absence: Mrs Diwell; Mr Fort; Mr Jones; Mrs Lewis and Cllr Harrison. No declarations of interests.
- 18/152 Public Question Time: Ms Bernice Ellis asked for further news on the bus stop by Brinds Close. A model of the extension agreed by the council was displayed and it was resolved to proceed with that design.
- 18/153 Police Report – circulated previously by email.
- 18/154 Minutes of previous meetings:
154.01 Finance Committee held on 7 March 2018 were presented and approved.
154.02 Planning Committees held on 5 and 19 February and 5 March 2018 were presented and approved.
154.03 Parish Council meeting held on 19 February 2018 were presented and approved.
- 18/155 County Councillor's Report - Cllr Bartholomew's main report was circulated by email. His SC Specific report is Attachment A.
- 18/156 District Councillor's Report – Cllr Harrison was unable to be present and his report was circulated by email. Parts relevant to SC are Attachment B.
- 18/157 Parish Clerk's Report - noted.
- 18/158 Memorial Hall Field Working Party (MHFWP) update – it was noted that the council has already agreed that it will accept ownership of the land when offered.
- 18/159 Village Centre Working Party (VCWP) – Mr Howe confirmed that Ben Hamilton-Baillie will give a public presentation on 7 June and this will be followed by an Open Day and Exhibition on 16 June.
- 18/160 Environment Working Party – Mr Rust reported the successful clearance of holly underbrush in the woods.
- 18/161 Village clean-up – Geoff Davis updated council on preparations for the day on 29 April. Final update will be on 16 April.
- 18/162 Widmore Pond Wall – the expert report will be available for discussion at the next meeting.
- 18/163 GDPR - General Data Protection Regulations – the Deputy Parish Clerk confirmed that 25 May is when the regulations come into effect and that before then we have to check that we will be compliant and resolve the resourcing of a Data Protection Officer.
- 18/164 SON6 Appeal update – it was confirmed that the enquiry on 10-13 April is to take place at Henley Rugby Club. The possibility of providing transport on the first day was raised but not resolved.
- 18/165 Matters for future agendas: Village clean-up; Bus stop; Trees; GDPR update; Year End documentation.

Meeting closed at 21.03

Next meeting: Monday 16 April 2018 at 20.00.

Chairman:

Dated:

Attachment A

SPECIFIC REPORT FOR SONNING COMMON FROM CLLR BARTHOLOMEW.

WOOD LANE REPAIRS FIXMYSTREET REF: 766719

I have received some notes of thanks in relation to these works, but also some queries regarding the standard of the finish in certain areas. I have explained that the work is not yet finished, but have arranged for officers to investigate a couple of specific points..

FLOODING ON HORSEPONDS ROAD, GALLOWSTREE COMMON FMS REF: 820017

At the last meeting, I advised that the proposal now is to place an underground soakaway just inside the allotment car park and that officers needed the provisional agreement of the Parish Council to proceed. The PC agreed and subsequent to the meeting the clerk followed up the matter with the allotment trustees, who also agreed with the proposal. I have chased officers for a date on which the works will commence.

CAGE MEETING

I will be attending the next meeting of CAGE tomorrow evening.

COUNCILLOR PRIORITY FUND

From the next financial year (starting next month), I will be able to allocate some monies from my Councillor Priorities Fund. In respect of these, I would be pleased to match-fund a Highways project up to £5000 and invite the parish council to consider this in the near future.

Attachment B

Edited report from Cllr Harrison

District Councillor's Report March 2018

Thames Farm: As you have already seen in the press. SODC have lost their request to take the decision of the Planning Inspector to approve the Thames Farm application to the Court of Appeal. That is effectively the end of the road as far as opposition to the application goes.

Countryfile: John Howell's was on last night's BBC Countryfile programme. Talking about Gladman's one of the so called "Land Promoters" our as I call then the "Land Pirates" who only increase the cost of property.

Grants: This year £811,000 is available for Capital Grants in the District are available from: -

- 15th March to 26th April (round one)
- 20th June to the 30th July (round two – budget permitting)
- 15th October to 30th November (potential round three – budget permitting)

Councillor Grants of £5,000 will also be available and are available from 30th May (estimated) to 3rd January 2019

Government's civil society strategy

The government has just launched an open consultation to ask how it can work better with local communities to improve things in their area.

It's called the 'Civil Society Strategy' and is looking into subjects like support for young people, public services, and making areas better places to live and work. To find out more visit the government's Civil Society page.

Awards for best voluntary groups

Voluntary groups who make a real difference to their communities could be up for a new award.

We are sponsoring the South and Vale categories for Best Voluntary and Community Group at the Oxfordshire Charity and Volunteer Awards and are looking for local groups to submit their nominations. Entries close at midday on Tuesday 10 April with the awards ceremony on Tuesday 5 June.

For more details visit the OCVA website.