

Minutes of the Meeting of Sonning Common Parish Council held on Monday 14 May 2018 in the Village Hall Wood. This meeting followed the Annual Meeting and commenced at 19.45.

Present: Mrs Lewis (Chairman); Mrs Diwell; Mr Greenwood; Mr Howe; Mr Jones; Mr Kedge; Mrs Phillips-Tilbury; Mr Rawlins; Mr Rinta-Suksi; Mr Rust and Mr Stoves.

Also Mr Collings (Parish Clerk) and Mr C McLoughlin Henley Standard.

- 19/018 Apologies for absence Mr Fort. No declarations.
- 19/019 Public Question Time under Section 30 of Standing Orders - none.
- 19/020 Police Matters: The follow up to TVP's suggested Forum was discussed and it was agreed that discontent remains with a clear need for better policing. The role that could be played by a better website and/or Facebook has to be considered.
- 19/021 Minutes of previous meetings:
021.01 Finance Committee held on 2 May were presented and approved.
021.02 Planning Committees – not applicable.
021.03 Parish Council meeting held on 16 April 2018 were presented and approved.
- 19/022 County Councillor's Report – in addition to his report circulated by email Cllr Bartholomew confirmed that he has £5k available for Sonning Common to match-fund Highways projects; that the proposal to place an underground soakaway just inside the allotment car park has been agreed by officers and the allotment trustees and that he spoke on 2nd May at the planning inquiry held at Henley Rugby Club with a focus primarily on the potential erosion of the distinctive urban-to-rural county boundary and cross-border administrative complexities.
- 19/023 District Councillor's Report – Cllr Harrison's report is attached as Appendix A.
- 19/024 Parish Clerk's Report – members asked that Becky Jenkins be thanked for her excellent start in obtaining grant funding.
- 19/025 The Annual Governance Statement 2017/18 (Audit) was reviewed and approved unanimously.
- 19/026 Memorial Hall Field Working Party (MHFWP) update – the meeting was advised that the S106 agreement between Linden Homes and SODC had been signed and that details of the land transfer date were awaited.
- 19/027 Village Centre Working Party (VCWP) – Mr Howe advised that for medical reasons Ben Hamilton-Baillie will not be able to present his ideas until the autumn but the plan to hold a public exhibition on 16 June will go ahead.
- 19/028 Village clean-up –Mrs Emma Lawrence reported on how successful the day had been and how the success had been achieved. It was resolved to hold another day in March 2019 and there was a vote of thanks to Geoff Davis and Emma Lawrence and other organisers for their excellent work.
- 19/029 Environment Working Party - Mr Rust reported that the trees and bushes planted are thriving and that there may be some significant costs looming up for work needed to address issues raised by J Morris's report on the new woodland but grants will be sought wherever possible.
- 19/030 Widmore Pond Wall update - the Parish Clerk advised that he is continuing to liaise with OCC Highways about how much they can or will do for us. Drainage covers to be lifted and checked.
- 19/031 SON6 Appeal update and report on CAGE appeal – it was noted that the hearing is adjourned to the end of August. Mr Rawlins was formally thanked for his huge efforts in this matter.
- 19/032 Risk Assessment and Asset Register – documents as finalised were approved.
- 19/033 Mrs Lewis previewed the Annual Parish meeting on 21 May.
- 19/034 Matters for future agendas. Noticeboard responsibilities. Re-siting board from St Michael' church to where? GDPR effects.

Meeting closed at 21.10. Next meeting: Monday 18 June 2018 at 20.00.

Chairman:

Dated:

Appendix A

District Councillor's Report May 2018

Change of Leader at SODC

Jane Murphy is now the leader of the council and her cabinet team consists of: -

Felix Bloomfield: Deputy Leader and Planning
Anna Badcock: Legal and Democratic
Kevin Bulmer: Corporate Services
David Dodds: Finance
Paul Harrison: Development and Regeneration
Lynn Lloyd: Community Services
Caroline Newton: Housing and Environment
Bill Service: Partnership and Insight

By-election: Richard Pullin has resigned as a District Councillor for the Benson and Crowmarsh Ward. A by-election will be held on Thursday 7th June.

Council Meeting: We have 2 council meetings this week. On Tuesday we have a special council meeting to consider the local plan. Then on Thursday we have the Annual Council Meeting.

Five Year Housing Land Supply: Good news, both councils are now meeting the five-year housing land supply required by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

All local planning authorities should have an up-to-date deliverable five-year supply. Without this there is a 'presumption in favour of sustainable development' meaning there's a much greater chance that developments that are unsuitable for an area end up getting planning permission.

In our case the recent assessment shows we have 5.4 years land supply. This will no doubt be challenged by developers both now and in the future. We will await and see what the response from appeals will be over the next few months. Gladman's are bound to challenge the figures on their appeal for housing on the border of Emmer Green.

Neighbourhood Planning workshop: The next workshop for neighbourhood planning groups takes place from 10am to 3pm on Tuesday 15 May. This session will help groups prepare, carry out and analyse surveys, as well ensuring they are aware of data protection and confidentiality issues. To book a place Neighbourhood Planning Groups should call 01235 422620 or email Jessica Wilmshurst.

Cooking oil collected We are now collecting cooking oil alongside food waste. Residents just need to empty the oil into a plastic bottle (no bigger than 1 litre) then put it in inside their food waste caddy when they leave it out for collection. We will only collect from plastic bottles and will not accept oil in glass bottles/jars or any other container. We'll be promoting this new service to residents over the coming months.

Thames Water consultation response With demand for water expected to increase Thames Water has just carried out a consultation on a new Water Resource Management Plan to 2100. The plan considers a range of water supply options, including a new reservoir near Abingdon and the potential transfer of water from the River Severn to the River Thames at Culham.

Following agreement with the cabinet member for planning, we have submitted our response stating our support for the new reservoir, which could create new opportunities for sport and leisure, and asking for more information and engagement on the water transfer at Culham, should that proposal be taken forward.

First community lottery draw More than 800 tickets were sold prior to the first So Charitable Lottery draw last weekend. The first draw saw 15 people win three free tickets each and raised £430 for local good causes and supporting the voluntary sector.