

Minutes of the meeting of Sonning Common Parish Council on Monday 16 October 2017 in the Village Hall.

Present: Mrs Lewis (Chairman); Mr Fort; Mr Howe; Mr Greenwood; Mr Kedge; Mrs Phillips-Tilbury; Mr Rawlins; Mr Rinta-Suksi; Mr Rust and Mr Stoves. Also: Mr Collings (Parish Clerk) and Mrs Varnes (Deputy Parish Clerk).

Also present: Cllr D Bartholomew, Cllr P Harrison and Mr C McLoughlin Henley Standard

18/076 Apologies for absence: Mrs Diwell, Mr Jones. No declarations of interests.

18/077 Public Question Time: No questions.

18/078 Police Report – in addition to the emailed TVP report, the Clerk reported that TVP had reported that there had been no further progress with skatepark enquiries and that a reward is not recommended. TVP also said that the Grove Rd yellow lines are proving effective.

18/079 Minutes of previous meetings:

079.01 Finance Committee held on 4 October 2017 were presented and approved.

079.02 Planning Committee held on 4 Sept and 2 October 2017 were presented and approved.

079.03 Parish Council meeting held on 18 September 2017 were presented and approved.

18/080 County Councillor's Report - In addition to his emailed report Cllr Bartholomew reported that the east side of the B481 alongside Lea Meadow is to be remediated; that regarding Chiltern Edge School officers have recommended that a proposal for a closure notice should not be issued for now. A review of improvement progress is to be undertaken by an outside body towards the end of this month. Hopes are high as the summer exam results were better than expected. On the 3rd Bridge it is clear that its supporters are driving it forward whilst others in Oxfordshire are not being heard and should lobby to be consulted.

18/081 District Councillor's Report Cllr Harrison reported on a number of matters as shown in Appendix A.

18/082 Parish Clerk's Report - noted.

18/083 Memorial Hall Field Working Party (MHFWP) update - the Parish Clerk reported that the land transfer is expected to be completed in the next couple of weeks.

18/084 Village Centre Working Party (VCWP) - Mr Howe reported that Ben Hamilton-Baillie's report has been delayed due to his workload and that he is being chased up to get it done.

18/085 Neighbourhood Plan updating. It was resolved to instigate a formal review of the extant NP to update it in line with the emerging Local Plan 2033. Volunteers to be sought to augment the existing team with an inaugural meeting as soon as possible to determine Working Party organisation and work plan.

18/086 Environment Working Party. Mr Rust confirmed that that the inaugural meeting would be on 19 October.

18/087 Club SC. After discussion it was resolved to accept the proposal outlined in Appendix B and that Mr Rinta-Suksi should chair the ClubSC Working Party including the Youth Leaders.

18/088 Audit matters:

088.01 It was resolved to certify approval and acceptance of the BDO certification of the 2016/17 Annual Return.

088.02. It was resolved to re-appoint Arrow Accounting as Internal Auditor for the 2017/18 Financial Year.

18/089 Play areas works. Deferred to next meeting..

18/090 Bench installation. It was resolved to accept Mr Kedge's proposal to purchase and install a two-seater bench on Crowsley Way - estimated cost £600 plus installation cost.

18/091 Matters for future agendas: Budget/Precept; Resourcing; Crossing for Wood Lane; Position on 3rd Bridge; Play area works.

Meeting closed at 21.36. Next meeting: Monday 20 November 2017 at 20.00.

Chairman: Dated:

Appendix A. District Councillor's Report October 2017

Returning to Crowmarsh:

A press announcement had now been made that we are returning to our old home in 2 years' time. This will coincide with the contract with Milton Park expiring and for us in the south this is good news as we won't have to fight the way through traffic in Didcot to get to Planning Committee meetings and it will be easier to get to see officers during the day.

Meeting the challenge of delivering new homes:

We have published a draft joint housing delivery strategy and have launched a public consultation. If adopted, this will help to ensure the thousands of new homes set to be built across our districts to meet the needs of our communities. You can view and comment on the proposed strategy on our website. The public consultation closes at midnight on Monday 23 October.

Local Plan:

Our local plan part two has progressed through Scrutiny Cabinet and Full Council. We have also recently held a briefing session for our town and parish councils. We are creating a factsheet and a short video clip to explain the next stage of the plan and how to submit comments. These will also be available on our website from 11 October. Following approval at full council, we will launch our six week publicity period on the Local Plan 2033 on 11 October. This period runs out on the 22nd November. To coincide with the launch we will publish a video and fact sheet on our website to explain how to comment effectively.

Disqualifying individuals from elections consultation:

The government has published proposals to update the criteria for disqualifying individuals from being elected, holding office as a local authority member or directly elected mayor.

If you have any views that you'd like included in the consultation or have any general queries, please email the monitoring officer. The consultation closes at 5pm on 8 December.

Annual Canvass - reminder yellow letters:

We have started to contact households and send out reminder yellow letters for the annual electoral register canvass campaign. We've had a great response so far with over 70 per cent of residents in both South and Vale completing their forms online or by post. However, we still need to hear back from over 30,000 households and are using local media and social media to help spread the message that our residents are required to respond to our correspondence and telephone canvassing.

Councillor grants - applications needed:

We've started receiving applications for councillor grants and have made our first three decisions with payments now on their way. Each councillor has a budget of £5,000 so as I have 5 parishes that's £1,000 per parish. My fellow councillor Will Hall also has a budget of £5,000. I've been told we cannot combine these but there is no issue with both of us part funding an application but it will require two separate applications to each of us. To apply for an application, go onto the website www.southoxon.gov.uk/grants and select individual councillor's grants. The deadline for groups to apply is 20 December - only 11 weeks away!

Government funding for homelessness:

The funding we receive from government has increased significantly to help prevent homelessness. Our council is successful in preventing homelessness and has been awarded more money to continue our good work. We know the risk of people becoming homeless is increasing each year and, with the extra funding, we are able to allocate more money on prevention. For more information please contact Phil Ealey.

Get ready for autumn with extra garden waste collections:

Residents across southern Oxfordshire who are signed up for brown bin collections can put out twice as much garden waste during one week this month. SODC council is giving those who are part of the paid-for service the opportunity to put out the equivalent of one extra bin's worth of garden waste (around three large bin bags) during week commencing 23 October

Residents should leave their extra garden waste out in bin liners or sacks beside their brown bins on their usual collection day during these weeks. Trade waste bags cannot be accepted.

Waste Collection Issues:

One of the unusual issues we have experienced is due to a change in the way household waste is collected. We now have 2 vehicles and not the 1 we had in the past. One to collect the main waste and a second to collect the food waste. Expect both main waste and food waste to be collected weekly on the same date but not at the same time.

Pumpkin recycling:

With Halloween nearly upon us we are encouraging everyone to recycle their pumpkins after the 31 October. You can simply cut them up and put in the food waste bin or leave them out whole for the crew to pick up on your usual collection day.

New community lottery:

We're setting up a new online lottery for our residents to help raise funds for local community groups and charities. Residents can enter a £1 weekly online draw and be in with a chance of winning prizes ranging from free prize draw tickets right up to the £25,000 jackpot. Each £1 ticket bought has a 1 in 56 chance of winning a prize and nearly 60p of each ticket price will go to a local good cause. We are working with Aylesbury Vale District Council to set up our scheme and website and will use an external lottery manager to run it on our behalf.

Appendix B. SONNING COMMON PARISH COUNCIL The future management of ClubSC

BACKGROUND:

ClubSC has operated as a Community Youth Club for seven years under the direction of a voluntary steering committee led by Beverly Dobson and Carol Viney. It has no legal or corporate status. Its main funding (90%) is through an annual grant, now £10K, from SCPC. The grant is paid monthly and is primarily used for the salaries of paid staff.

Since Beverly Dobson and Angela Angell (Document Secretary) retired Carol Viney has struggled with the finance and administration whilst under domestic pressure. Two Youth Leaders, Sunny Smithers and Ruth Elwell, are currently employed and sessions have a healthy attendance. Thus whilst the youth activities are in safe hands the ongoing finance and administration give cause for concern. Discussions with the existing committee showed a strong wish for an alternative approach which is suggested herein.

PROPOSAL:

That from a date to be agreed ClubSC should become an ongoing activity in the SCPC portfolio and to nominate member(s) to ClubSC-WP.

Administration: SCPC would take over such funds as are held at that date and put in place processes to:

- Pay and account for staff using existing HMRC Basic PAYE Tools system;
- Collect and account for revenues from subscriptions, tuck sales, grants and other funds;
- Pay and account for expenditures incurred for stock, trips, equipment etc.
- Report on the above to both SCPC and Working Party (q.v.)

Direction: SCPC would set up an official Working Party (ClubSC-WP) to be chaired by a member of the council with the remit to guide, oversee and develop ClubSC into the future.

Membership of this ClubSC-WP must include the Youth Leaders and any other appropriate professionals and it should seek to recruit lay members such as parents and members of other youth bodies such as Scouts and Guides.

Specifically the ClubSC-WP must:

- Ensure that ClubSC has the appropriate safeguarding and training policies documented, in place and being observed;
- Develop and endorse a forward activity plan and budget;
- Promote ClubSC by all appropriate means;
- Provide a quarterly report to SCPC.