

# Minutes of the meeting of Sonning Common Parish Council held in the Village Hall at 20.00 hrs on 18 July 2011.

Present: Mr Fort; Mr Greenwood; Miss Hunt; Mrs Lewis; Ms Noble; Mr Stoves; Mrs Phillips-Tilbury; Mr Reynolds and Mrs Diwell.

Also present: County Councillor Viney, District Councillor Harrison, one member of the public, one journalist.

- 12/48 Apologies for absence: Parish Clerk advised that Mr Rooke had been delayed, that Mr Kedge was away on holiday and that Mr Jones had sent his apologies due to a conflict of meetings. Mr Greenwood was proposed as Chairman by Miss Hunt seconded by Mrs Phillips-Tilbury and approved by all. Mr Greenwood took the chair.
- 12/49 Declarations of Interests by Members on Agenda Items: None
- 12/56 To receive the Police Report: (Item brought forward to allow the PCSOs to return to duties). PCSO Boyes reported: That the speed survey in Kennylands Road is ongoing. That there have been a number of burglaries of sheds in a wide area from Goring to Henley, including Sonning Common. That extra patrols are in place as a result and because of problems with graffiti and noise after 01.00 in the Lea Road play area. That they are protecting the school forest summer camp. Mrs Phillips-Tilbury asked when yellow lines are to be painted. Clerk and Cllr Viney to enquire.
- 12/50 Public Question Time under Section 30 of Standing Orders: None
- 12/51 To ratify the Minutes of the Finance Committee held on 6 July 2011: Approved and ratified.
- 12/52 To receive and approve the Minutes of previous meetings:
- 52.01 Planning Committees held on 20 June and 4 July 2011: Both approved.
- 52.02 Parish Council held on 20 June 2011: Approved.
- 12/53 Matters arising from those minutes: None.
- 12/54 To receive the County Councillor's Report: Noted, see Appendix A
- 12/55 To receive District Councillor's Report: Noted, see Appendix B.
- Mr Rooke arrived and took the chair.
- 12/57 Financial Regulations: Changes to limits as set out in Appendix A to the agenda were approved. New regulations to be posted on website.
- 12/58 Parish Clerk's Report: Noted.
- 12/59 Working Parties (Advisory Committees) reports:
- 59.01 Play area security: It was agreed to delegate to the Clerk and the Advisory Committee (Mr Kedge & Mrs Lewis) authority to award contracts up to a value of £5,500 for the work as soon as possible.
- 59.02 Footpath improvements: Based on the report from Ms Noble & Mr Stoves they were asked to prepare specification(s) that would enable the Clerk to seek formal quotations for September.
- 12/60 Widmore Pond: It was resolved that the Pond Committee situation and its finances should be brought within the Parish Council. Mr Fort & Mrs Diwell to work with the existing members to plan how this will be achieved and make their recommendations to the September meeting.
- 12/61 Delegation of Powers during August: Motion to delegate the Parish Council's powers to deal with urgent matters to the Finance Committee during August when there is no meeting was carried.
- 12/62 Chiltern Edge Youth Club Grant: After discussion it was agreed that an initial grant of £9,000 should be paid once the Youth Club's new banking arrangements are in place and that the Parish Council will budget for further payments of £4,500 in each of the next two financial years.
- 12/63 Public Meeting of Friends of Sonning Common Library: Public meeting on 12 September noted.
- 12/64 Confirm attendees for course on 12 October: Attendees will be Mr Greenwood, Mrs Lewis, Ms Noble, Mrs Phillips-Tilbury, Mr Kedge and Mr Stoves. Minibus to be arranged.
- 12/65 Matters for future consideration: Parking in the Village; Peppard Road bus stop seat.

The next Meeting will be on 19 September 2011 at 20.00 hrs.

(Please note that Mrs Lewis will be standing in for the Parish Clerk from 12.9.2011 to 14.10.2011)

Chairman..... Dated.....

## Appendix A County Councillor's Report

Councillor Viney reported that Oxfordshire County Council has been awarded £5 million pounds from the Local Sustainable Transport Fund, following a bid put forward by our Transport "experts". The format of the bid was TOTALLY dictated by the criteria set down by Department of Transport [DfT].

We may not be too keen on the projects mentioned and feel that our Division may not benefit greatly. But this is not true – we had some of the named Projects in our planned expenditure anyway, so the influx of £5M from DfT to cover these costs will release the same amount of cash to help in all our other areas.

## Appendix B District Councillor's Report

Councillor Harrison reported as follows:

### **Core Strategy**

Due to the intervention of Robin Pearce of Woodcote who got his numbers wrong the officers at SODC recalculated the 60% - 40% between town and rural communities and increased the number of new house from 1,066 to 1,154 for the Rural villages. There are 12 villages which could have new developments but as we scored highest in the range of facilities then I expect us to get the biggest increase in new housing.

The core strategy does allocate these houses in 9 years' time so hopefully that should reduce the current pressure we are facing.

### **Audit Committee**

Due to the District Council not sending me the correct committee papers in time (the papers only arrived on the day of the committee when I was at work) I attended the election of chairman and then refused to take part in the remainder of the meeting. This is not the first time officers have not sent me the papers in time and I feel if I'm expected to do my duty as a councillor I need time to fully read these papers. By their very nature Audit committee papers are verbose and so need to analysis.

### **Managing our Business Effectively**

In the last year we have achieved the following cost savings at no reduction in service to our community:-

- Reduced management and staffing costs by about £500,000 through shared working with the Vale.
- Delivered fit for the future savings of £1.3 million, through working more efficiently.
- Froze council tax for the second year running as a result of shared management savings and savings delivered through more efficient working, specifically the joint waste service.
- Slashed sundry debtor arrears by 65 per cent, from £700,000 to less than £250,000.

Then from the Weekly Information sheet I had two extra pieces:-

Exciting opportunity for young people. Are there any 16/17 year-olds in your area who would like to take part in a free National Citizen Service pilot programme in Oxfordshire over the summer?

They are recruiting 60 young people to this exciting and challenging six week programme that includes:

- a week in Wales, the New Forrest or Dorset doing things like archery, rock climbing, canoeing, team building etc
- a summer festival week when the young people will come together to form a community, write their own rules, create a street party and invite members of their own communities to come along
- a week planning social action projects in Oxford, Witney, Banbury and Abingdon
- carrying out their social action projects
- a final Celebration and Graduation event on 2nd September!

To find out more call or text Shelley Maxfield on 07775407557 or e-mail: [ncs@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:ncs@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Emergency community planning. Oxfordshire County Council has this week written to all parishes in the district to encourage them to develop community emergency plans. The county intends that these plans would identify key contacts within a parish or town that should be notified by emergency services in the event of an incident, as well as buildings that could be used if residents need to be evacuated. This information will also be shared with the district council.

The county is also holding a series of events for parish about emergency response and winter preparedness. The event for parishes in South and Vale will be held at the Vale on 4 October from 6.30-8.30pm. Any member interested in attending should contact John Backley ([john.backley@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:john.backley@southandvale.gov.uk)) for more information.