

Minutes of the meeting of Sonning Common Parish Council held in The Village Hall at 20.00 on Monday 17 October 2011 hrs.

Present: Mr Rooke (Chairman); Mr Fort; Mr Greenwood; Mr Jones; Mr Kedge; Mrs Lewis; Ms Noble; Mrs Phillips-Tilbury; Mr Reynolds; Mr Stoves.

Also present: County Councillor Viney, District Councillor Harrison and Mr P Simms, journalist.

- 12/83 Apologies for absence: Miss Hunt unavoidably detained; Mrs Diwell delayed (arrived at 20.50).
- 12/84 Declarations of Interests by Members on Agenda Items: None.
- 12/85 Public Question Time under Section 30 of Standing Orders: No members of the public attended.
- 12/86 The Minutes of the Finance Committee held on 5 October 2011 were approved and ratified.
- 12/87 The Minutes of previous meetings:
- 87.01 Planning Committees held on 19 September and 3 October 2011 – Approved.
 - 87.02 Parish Council held on 19 September 2011 – Members requested the Clerk to make three small changes to improve accuracy and on the assurance that they would be made the minutes were approved.
- 12/88 Police Report – No police representative attended.
- 12/89 County Councillor's Report. Councillor Viney reported: that Council Tax rates have been frozen for the coming financial year; that OCC Highways are as fully prepared as they can be for a very cold winter, noting that Sonning Common is also well prepared; that the plan for a Thames Valley Joint Fire Control have collapsed after Buckinghamshire withdrew support but Berkshire and Oxfordshire are now planning for a shared control; that she would be speaking in support of funding for the Edge Youth Club on 18 October with the support of SCPC.
- 12/90 District Councillor's Report. Councillor Harrison recommended the Town and Parish Council Forum to be held on 22 November. He reported: that the forthcoming Local Government Boundary Commission review of the District is expected to reduce the number of District Councillors from 48 to 30; that OCC is holding further events on Winter Preparedness (it was noted that Mr Jones has attended already representing SCPC); that the annual canvass of the register of Electors has this far had only a 64% response and that non-responders are being followed up; that all private gravity sewers and lateral drains have now been transferred to the ownership of Thames Water; that SODC Officers will be holding group meetings to assist in understanding the Localism Bill; that Mr D Kedge (SCPC) and Mr D Hammond (RPPC) have both been appointed to the Standards Committee.
- 12/91 Parish Clerk's Report: This was noted. The Clerk elaborated on the plans for salt stocks and on progress with the legal title work.
- Motion under the 'Ten O'Clock rule' – Edge Youth Club Funding: Mr Kedge had requested this as he regarded it as essential that Councillor Viney be provided with a letter (attached) offering a financial guarantee in the unlikely event of the youth club not being able to obtain sufficient funding. Without that surety it might not be accepted for the Big Society grant being sought through OCC. It was resolved unanimously that the letter be sent as presented.
- 12/92 External Audit. The Council resolved unanimously to approve and accept the Annual Return for the Year to 31 March 2011. Mr Kedge moved to congratulate the Parish Clerk/RFO for achieving a clean audit with the new Finance System. Agreed unanimously.
- 12/93 Vacant property nuisance - Peppard Road. Mrs Phillips-Tilbury asked what could be done to remove the nuisance being caused by this property that has fallen into serious disrepair and is a blight on the area. Councillor Harrison advised that it is a very long standing concern at SODC with the condition arising from a family dispute. SODC options are very limited. He agreed to ask for the matter to be reopened.
- 12/94 Village Signboard. Mrs Phillips-Tilbury advised that the Sonning Common Society would like to erect a new village sign to be erected on the triangle at Wood Lane and Peppard Road. Members felt that there was insufficient information available to make a decision so the Clerk was told to ask SCS to come and make a proposal to a future meeting.
- 12/95 Neighbourhood Plan: Mr Rooke and Mr Greenwood report on the first meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party (notes attached). It was noted that the initial funding allocation of up to £1,000 is now felt likely to be much less than will be needed to obtain the

professional assistance that will be essential for plan credibility. Mr Rooke advised that no significant expenditure would be contemplated without consulting the full council.

- 12/96 Solar Panels: Mrs Phillips-Tilbury propose an investigation into the economics of installing solar panels on the village hall to generate income from the Feed in Tariff. Questions were asked as to whether this would be a capital cost proposal or one to lease roof space to a third party. Mrs Lewis outlined her positive experience of a capital investment. It was agreed that Mrs Phillips-Tilbury should obtain more detailed options information from potential providers and return the matter to another meeting.
- 12/97 Youth facilities: Mr Kedge summarised the significant progress that has been made in the three play areas which has attracted much positive comment. Work still has to be done to explore and agree signage regarding age of access and dog prevention and to find out how a bye-law can be obtained that will support the police efforts. Mr Jones suggested that this be extended to include banning alcohol consumption in specific areas. Mr Kedge and Mrs Lewis asked for support for the Working Party to be able to explore ways in which the Parish Council might provide a site and facilities in the village for young (12+) people. It was resolved to give the Working Party the full support of the council in its work including the ability to co-opt members as they see fit.
- 12/98 Rehabilitation of offenders: Mr Reynolds explained what is being done by Huntercombe Prison to rehabilitate soon to be discharged adult Category D prisoners by providing them with outdoor work opportunities outside the prison. He described the sorts of work that might be suitable and received strong and unanimous support for progressing to the next stage. Members suggested six possible projects for consideration. Mr Reynolds will advise as soon as he has firm proposals.
- 12/99 Matters for future consideration:
 - How parking problems might be alleviated.
 - Rehabilitation projects
 - Neighbourhood plan progress
 - Budgets and precept for 2012/13

The meeting closed at 21.15.

The next Meeting will be on 21 November 2011 at 20.00 hrs.

Chairman:.....

Dated:.....

**SONNING COMMON PARISH COUNCIL
SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE**

Parish Office

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Councillor Louise Chapman
Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
Oxfordshire County Council
County Hall
New Road
Oxford OX1 1ND

17 October 2011

Dear Councillor Chapman

The Edge Youth Club Sonning Common

I am instructed to advise you of the following:

1. This Parish Council regards the continuing provision of Youth Club facilities as vital to the wellbeing of the whole community. To that end it has already paid £9,000 towards the staffing costs for the last and this financial year and has committed to pay a further £4,500 per annum for the two financial years commencing in April 2012.
2. Being advised that there is a risk to the survival of the youth club if the bid for one off start-up costs from Oxfordshire County Council's Big Society Fund is not approved, due to concerns by the County Council that further donations being sought might not materialise, the Parish Council this evening resolved to act as guarantor for up to a further £5,500 per annum for at least the next two years.
3. These monies will be earmarked in our reserves and will not be available for any other purposes. The Parish Council has a representative on the newly formed Sonning Common Community Youth Club Management Committee and is committed to reviewing the provision annually to ensure the Club remains viable.

Yours sincerely

Philip Collings
Parish Clerk and RFO

Copy to:
Alexandra Bailey
Senior Policy Manager
Chief Executive's Office
Oxfordshire County Council

Neighbourhood Plan Working Party Notes 1.

Meeting 1 was held in the Parish Office at 18.30 on 11 October 2011.

Present Alan Rooke (AR) (Chairman), Barrie Greenwood (BG), Colin Reynolds (CR), Gail Noble (GN), Diana Pearman (DP) Tom Fort (TF) and Philip Collings (Parish Clerk).

1. An initial discussion took place to try to understand the form and structure that the plan would have to take. AR advised that it should look forward to 2027 and would have to fit in with the SODC Core strategy framework. It was agreed that it should begin by trying to define 'What Sonning Common would be like to live in by 2027' and then plan towards that.
2. The main areas to be addressed and by whom are:
 - a. Development Sites evaluation. All 14 possible sites are described in the SHLAA paper circulated and it was agreed the all members should view all the sites.
 - b. Future 'size and shape' of the village. DP will take forward this shaping of the plan with PC asked to assist in identifying essential data sources on matters such as population changes etc.
 - c. Housing needs and mix. CR will lead in framing the plan content dealing with this matter – in particular defining the appropriate mix between different types of units.
 - d. Transportation. BG will lead in reviewing the future transport needs of all descriptions.
 - e. Amenities and facilities. TF will investigate future needs for facilities such as schools, doctors/surgeries, dentists etc and how they will be affected or affect the plan.
 - f. Open spaces and recreation. GN will lead in reviewing the future requirements for all outdoor facilities – play areas, allotments, open spaces etc.
3. Specialist advice and support. It became clear to all that in order for the plan to stand up to scrutiny and challenge it would need specialist support in a number of areas such as traffic surveys, planning policies, housing options and so on. It was suggested that the cost could be more than £10k but less than £20K. Given that many of 8,500 English Parish Councils will be trying to plan at the same time it would be sensible to try to get ahead of the pack by indentifying potential experts and their likely costs now. PC to investigate.
4. Next meeting date will be determined post SCPC review on 17.10.2011

