

## Minutes of the meeting of Sonning Common Parish Council held on Monday 16 December 2013 in the Village Hall

Present: Mr Kedge (Chairman); Mr Fort; Mr Greenwood; Mr Jones; Mrs Lewis; Ms Noble; Mr Rawlins; Mr Reynolds and Mr Stoves. Mr D Robinson, Henley Standard. District Councillor P Harrison also present for part of the meeting.

- 14/100 Apologies for absence and declarations of interests: Apologies: Mrs Diwell; Miss Hunt; Mrs Phillips-Tilbury. No declarations.
- 14/101 Public Question Time under Section 30 of Standing Orders: No public present.
- 14/102 Police Report previously circulated – there were no questions. PCSO Boyes was thanked for his continuing good work.
- 14/103 Minutes of Finance Committee meeting held on 4 December 2013 were presented and ratified.
- 14/104 Minutes of previous meetings:  
104.01 Planning Committees held on 18 November and 2 December 2013 were presented and approved.  
104.02 Parish Council meeting held on 18 November 2013 were presented and approved.
- 14/105 County Councillor's Report: Cllr Bartholomew has sent his apologies and a written report for which he was thanked.
- 14/106 District Councillor's Report: Cllr Harrison advised that SODC is divesting of car parks but will assist if SCPC finds a site; that new advice has been issued about recycling; that the Community Investment Grant Fund will be re-launched as the Communities Capital Grant Scheme and that the Order confirming the results of the District Wards review has been laid before Parliament.
- 14/107 Parish Clerk's Report: Noted.
- 14/108 Neighbourhood Development Plan progress: Mr Greenwood reported that work continues on the Concept Design statements and thanked Ros Varnes for her work on the website.
- 14/109 Skatepark: Mrs Lewis advised of an application to the Community Investment Grant Fund.
- 14/110 The General Power of Competence (GPoC). It was unanimously resolved that Sonning Common Parish council satisfies both criteria (that at least two-thirds of the total number of members of the council have been declared to be elected and that the Clerk to the council holds the Certificate in Local Council Administration) specified by the Localism Act 2011 to use the GPoC. SCPC therefore now has 'power to do anything that individuals generally may do.'
- 14/111 Budget and Precept: The 2014/15 Budget and Precept Briefing December 2013 was reviewed and the proposed expenditure budget was approved section by section. The Income section was also reviewed and Mr Stoves then proposed acceptance of the budget and the £99,000 precept it included for 2014/15. It was resolved unanimously to approve the budget and the precept and to instruct the Parish Clerk to issue the precept demand to SODC. As a result it was agreed that the precept meeting scheduled for 6 January is cancelled.
- 14/112 Margaret Allwright Way Hedge: Information about the condition of different parts of the hedge was circulated prior to a discussion of various options. There was a consensus that the four different sections should be treated individually. The Parish Clerk will:
1. Advise the neighbours in Appletree Close that the section behind them will be lowered to 1.8 metres and cut back by up to 0.3 metres.
  2. Ask Southern Housing to erect a fence on the Smith Close side to make that section more secure.
  3. Obtain costs for clearing and replanting the damaged length beside 3 Smith Close.
  4. Liaise with 8 Baskerville Road to try to agree a plan for that section.
  5. Report back to the next meeting.
- 14/113 Matters for future consideration: Mr Kedge raised the matter of computer backup arrangements. It was agreed in discussion that a foolproof process must now be agreed.

Meeting closed at 21.10

Next meeting: Monday 20 January 2014 at 20.00.

Chairman: ..... Dated: .....