

## Minutes of the meeting of Sonning Common Parish Council held on Monday 16 September 2013 at 20.00 hrs in the Village Hall.

Present: Mr Kedge (Chairman); Mrs Diwell; Mr Fort; Mr Greenwood; Miss Hunt; Ms Noble;; Mr Rawlins and Mr Stoves. Mr D Robinson, Henley Standard.

Apologies for absence: Mr Jones; Mrs Lewis and Mr Reynolds.

District Councillors Paul Harrison and Alan Rooke, County Councillor D Bartholomew and Sergeant Graham Pink of Thames Valley Police were also present for parts of the meeting.

- 14/052    Declarations of Interests: None.
- 14/053    Public Question Time: No members of the public present.
- 14/054    Police Report: Mr Kedge reminded the meeting that an email report from PCSO Boyes had been circulated previously. Sergeant Pink was invited to explain plans for a Neighbourhood Action Group to bring together parish representatives regularly to address common issues, especially rural crime. After some discussion it was agreed that the council is interested in principle in taking part. Mr Kedge volunteered to be the representative unless anyone else wishes to take the role. Further details awaited.
- 14/055    Minutes of Finance Committee meetings of 10 July and 7 August 2013 were presented and ratified.
- 14/056    Minutes of previous meetings:  
          056.01    Planning Committee held on 19 August 2013 were presented and approved.  
          056.02    Parish Council meeting held on 15 July 2013 were presented and approved.
- 14/057    County Councillor's Report: Councillor Bartholomew reported on proposed changes to free school transport; the contract agreed with BT for faster broadband in the county – details on OCC website- and on Community Resilience planning for winter. He also advised of funds he has available for improving disabled access in Sonning Common. Mrs Phillips-Tilbury agreed to liaise with him regarding the choice of sites.
- 14/058    District Councillor's Report: Councillor Harrison advised of the Deep Clean work carried out last month; of Council Tax briefings for parishes on 16 or 23 October and of the receipt of the SCPC NDP resubmission. Councillor Rooke advised of the agreement to spend over £15 million on a new Didcot Leisure Centre. Regarding car parking Cllrs Harrison and Rooke agreed to provide dates when they could attend a meeting with SCPC. Questions were then asked about the Boundary Review and the work of the SODC sub-committee responsible. After discussion it was resolved that a briefing note should be sent to all residents who might be affected by the RPPC proposal and that the situation should be reported in the next edition of the SC Magazine.
- 14/059    Parish Clerk's Report - Noted
- 14/060    Annual Return (External Audit) 2012/13: It was resolved Council is formally to approve and accept this annual return with the external audit certificate and report stating that there are no matters giving cause for concern.
- 14/061    Neighbourhood Development Plan progress: Mr Greenwood advised that a formal recommendation regarding SON15 (Chiltern Edge School site) will be made at the next meeting. There is to be a meeting to finalise the Village Character section in the coming week and the next public meeting will be held on Friday 11 October.
- 14/062    Skatepark progress: A written report from Mrs Lewis was circulated and dates for events were noted. Members were asked to see if they could encourage draw ticket sales.
- 14/063    Margaret Allwright Way Hedge. The feeling of the meeting was in favour of removing this hedge and replacing it with a flower bed or low hedge. It was agreed that the Parish Clerk should write to all residents with boundaries behind the hedge to obtain their views or concerns prior to a firm decision being made. If approved, work would have to be carried out during the winter.
- 14/064    Brinds Copse: Possible uses for this land were discussed and it was agreed that options need to be tabled to a future meeting.

**14/065 Motions under the 10 o'clock rule:**

14/065.01 Mr Stoves reported that at its meeting on Wednesday 7 August the Finance Committee reviewed a request to make a donation towards the new FISH Bus and agreed to recommend to full council that a grant of £1,600 should be made for the cost of the tail lift for disabled and wheelchair passengers. This was approved.

14/065.02 Mrs Phillips Tilbury reported that at its meeting on Wednesday 11 September the Finance Committee reviewed a request for a donation of £750 towards the costs of the Village Gardeners and agreed to recommend it to full council. This was approved.

**14/065.2 Matters for future consideration:**

Getting hedges cut around the outside of Gardeners Copse.

Review progress at Widmore pond.

**14/066 Personnel matters:**

14/066.01 It was proposed and resolved that the revision to the Parish Clerk's present salary scale (SCP 26) agreed with the National Joint Council for Local Government Service to apply from 1 April 2013 should be applied to salary payments made to the Parish Clerk since that date.

14/066.02 It was proposed and resolved that because 'we have an outstanding Parish Clerk with a prodigious workload which he carries out with a great deal of patience, professionalism and good humour' that the Parish Clerk's salary scale should be raised by one point to SCP 27 with effect from 1 September 2013.

The meeting closed at 21.30.

Next meeting: Monday 21 October 2013 at 20.00.

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