

Members are summoned to the meeting of Sonning Common Parish Council

On Monday 20 January 2014 at 20.00 hrs in the Village Hall Wood Lane Sonning Common.

Public and Press are welcome to attend

AGENDA

- 14/114 Apologies for absence and declarations of interests: To receive any apologies for absence and any declarations of pecuniary interest and/or requests for dispensations from Members regarding any item on this agenda.
- 14/115 Public Question Time under Section 30 of Standing Orders.
- 14/116 To review the Police Report previously circulated.
- 14/117 To ratify Minutes of Finance Committee meeting held on 8 January 2014.
- 14/118 To approve the Minutes of previous meetings:
118.01 Planning Committees held on 16 December 2013.
118.02 Parish Council meeting held on 16 December 2013.
- 14/119 To receive the County Councillor's Report
- 14/120 To receive the District Councillor's Report
- 14/121 To receive the Parish Clerk's Report - Appendix A attached
- 14/122 Dog mess: Due to the rising number of complaints about fouling of pavements and other areas Mrs Lewis will open a discussion on what action(s) might be taken.
- 14/123 Community Governance Review (Parish boundaries): Mr Stoves will propose a response to the initial suggestions put forward by SODC.
- 14/124 Neighbourhood Development Plan progress: Mr Greenwood will inform of the present situation
- 14/125 Snow Team and Salting requests: Mr Jones will update the meeting on issues being raised.
- 14/126 Margaret Allwright Way Hedge. The Parish Clerk will summarise the current plan and seek approval.
- 14/127 Skatepark: Mrs Lewis will advise on progress and funding matters
- 14/128 Administration matters:
128.1 Ros Varnes has completed her probationary period and her appointment requires formal confirmation.
128.2 It is proposed that in order to improve service to residents the Parish Office's formal opening hours should be extended to include 14.00 to 18.00 every Tuesday.
- 14/129 Matters for future consideration.

Next meeting: Monday 17 February 2014 at 20.00.



Philip Collings
Parish Clerk

Appendix A SONNING COMMON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk's Report to the meeting on 20 January 2014

This report is circulated to assist in the effective use of Councillors' time by informing Members of matters by type:

- A. Progress with tasks specifically assigned to the Clerk;
- B. Progress with tasks being overseen by Members;
- C. Matters affecting the day-to-day running of the Council's business;
- D. Regulatory and legislative changes anticipated.

	Summary	Source	Resp.	Status
A	Abandoned car in car park– obtaining details from DVLA to require owner to remove as it is trespassing.	Clerk	Clerk	OPEN
A	Car park flooding. Co-operative eventually organised clearance but longer term solution now to be pursued with them.	Clerk	Clerk	OPEN
A	Land behind PO – Planning to approach owners to enquire if it could be made available for parking.	Clerk	Clerk	OPEN
A	2A Grove Rd site. Suggestion for development received for discussion. No progress yet.	Clerk	Clerk	OPEN
A	Freedom of Information Act 2008. Work continuing to ensure full compliance with publications scheme. Incomplete.	12/16a	Clerk	OPEN
A	Hedges – work being authorised for PC hedges to be cut.	13/070	Clerk	OPEN
A	Bank between Red House Drive and B481 cleared. Proposing to weedkill and seed with Annual mix to flower through summer.	Clerk	Clerk	OPEN
A	Corner of Wood Lane and Green Lane – liaising with owners to agree use of red phone box site and to seek repairs to paving. This may become more complex.	Clerk	Clerk	OPEN
A	Margaret Allwright Way recommendation ready - see agenda item.	Clerk	Clerk	OPEN
B	CCTV has now been used to confirm accidental damage.	Clerk	Mr Jones	OPEN
B	Private hedges – way forward agreed with OCC Highways to require overhanging hedge to be cut back. Process to be finalised.	Chairman + Clerk	Clerk	OPEN
B	Village Hall insulation and acoustics. Way forward agreed with SCVHMC.	Clerk	Clerk	OPEN
B	Register of Interests – Individuals must maintain own information.	12/46	Cllrs.	OPEN
B	Brind's Copse – awaiting agreement on future use of the site. Work has been authorised to clear bushes and trees from rear of garage block.	Clerk	Clerk	OPEN
B	Skatepark – supporting fundraising and project activity.	SPWP	Clerk	OPEN
C	Neighbourhood Development Plan. Support work continuing for next phase.	Clerk	Clerk	OPEN
C	Document standards. Work being done to standardise and index properly as part of developing an operational manual.	Clerk	Clerk	OPEN
C	Data Protection Act and individual Councillors. Please discuss with the Clerk individually.	Clerk	Clerk	OPEN
D	Boundary review – ongoing issue to watch.	Clerk	Clerk	OPEN



Philip Collings
Parish Clerk

SONNING COMMON PARISH COUNCIL
Proposed letter to Chief Executive SODC
For resolution on 20 January 2014 Agenda item 14/123

Dear Mr Buckle

Community Governance Review

We are responding to your three letters of 19 December 2013 and that of 14 January 2014.

On the three boundary matters our views are:

1. The recommended boundary with Kidmore End – we are content.
2. The southern boundary at the junction of Kennylands Road and Peppard Road. We are very disappointed with the suggestion that this will not be changed. All that is required is a very small excision from Eye & Dunsden to put the whole triangle into our parish. Given that the other two matters require a new boundary line to be drawn we cannot understand why this should be costly and ask that it be reconsidered.
3. The recommended boundary with Rotherfield Peppard. Our final submission took careful account of your criteria which, although not numbered, we assumed were in priority order. First in your list is: ‘natural or man-made boundaries that help to define clearly one community from another’. On that basis our views are that:
 - a. Our proposed north-eastern boundary line was put forward because it follows both a hedge and a ridge line that combine to provide a clear natural boundary to this settlement. The working group proposal on that edge seems to focus primarily on a man-made boundary of minor roads that we find perplexing and we suggest that it be re-considered.
 - b. We readily accept the proposal following Gallowstree Road on the north-west as there is no obvious natural boundary there.

Regarding councillor numbers we are extremely disappointed by your view that our request for 15 is unreasonable. There are many reasons why we wish to have more members from May 2015 including, inter alia:

- A. Sonning Common is a key district centre as is indicated by the 8,400 patients registered at its Health Centre. Collectively the population of ‘Greater Sonning Common’ (including Rotherfield Peppard and Kidmore End) was 6,735 at the March 2011 Census. Sonning Common is unusual in having such populous other settlements so close to and dependent on it. We are actually servicing needs arising from well beyond our actual or putative boundary.
- B. The parish of Sonning common had 1,595 dwellings in March 2011 but as SODC Planning has determined we are actually a “larger village” settlement that has 1,916 dwellings (including 321 from Rotherfield Peppard) for the purposes of allocating new homes under the Core Strategy. The proposed boundary change will transfer many of those dwellings and more electors to us adding to the work of the council, its committees and its working parties.
- C. The number of parish councillors has no bearing on any costs as they are all volunteers and in many cases retired. As we are currently inhibited from doing things we want to do because of a shortage of members then surely it should be up to SCPC to decide how many councillors it actually needs. The public are being denied the opportunity to participate in local democracy and gets things done.

D. We are faced with the likely retirement of some experienced and very hard working members in 2015. With more members we may be able to spread the workload more evenly to help new members to gain experience by gentle rather than total immersion. Also, with some more councillors we can get into and stay in top gear which will be even more necessary when the boundary changes take effect.

We therefore ask that the working group consider an increase in our number if 15 happens to be unacceptable to them. Please ask them to note that our present 12 were all elected in a contested election so there is strong local interest in serving the community.

Signed

SCPC