

Minutes of the meeting of Sonning Common Parish Council held on Monday 15 June 2015 in the Village Hall.

Present: Mr Kedge (Chairman); Mrs Diwell; Mr Greenwood; Mr Jones; Mrs Phillips-Tilbury; Mr Rawlins; Mr Reynolds; Mr Rust; Mr Stoves and Mr Collings (Parish Clerk) and Mrs Varnes (Deputy Clerk).

Also present for 16/029 County Councillor Bartholomew and 16/030 District Councillor Harrison.

- 16/024 Apologies for absence: Mr Fort; Mrs Lewis and Mr Richens. No declarations.
- 16/025 Public Question Time under Section 30 of Standing Orders.
- 16/026 Police Report previously circulated. It was noted that only the general TVP report had been received whilst members highly value our PCSO reports.
- 16/027 Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 6 May 2015 were presented and approved.
- 16/028 Minutes of previous meetings:
028.01 Planning Committees held on 27 April and 5 May 2015 were presented and approved.
028.02 Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on 18 May 2015 were presented and approved.
028.03 Parish Council meeting held on 18 May 2015 were presented and approved.
- 16/029 County Councillor's Report: On County wide matters Councillor Bartholomew reported on the massive pressures on OCC finances from government cuts allied to spiralling adult and child social care costs; there may be further cuts from the spending review and the next Budget. He advised that OCC is working with Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire County Councils to promote 'England's Economic Heartland', which has a similar size to the Greater Manchester area, to ensure that Oxfordshire does not miss out on infrastructure-funding opportunities; that Fire and Rescue Service has this month called on local businesses to cut the fire risk from wheelie bins; that OCC is launching supported internships for young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND); that Oxfordshire residents are being urged to 'have a conversation' about fostering and to consider whether they could change a child's life by becoming a foster carer. On local matters, the delayed drainage work on Peppard Road will now take place in the week commencing 22 June.
- 16/030 District Councillor's Report: Councillor Harrison, who is now Vice-Chairman of SODC, responded to a question about SODC's financial reserves by pointing out that they are invested and the interest received is used for such as the Community Fund. He reported that a recent appeal hearing the planning inspector for the case suggested that SODC didn't have a five year land supply. This could mean planning applications have to be approved even if the sites aren't in the local plan. SODC disagrees and believes the position taken by the appeal inspector undermines our Core Strategy (which was approved by a separate inspector) and could potentially have an impact on future planning appeals. Two popular grants schemes are opening for applications on 22 June. One, the Communities Capital Grants scheme for funding between £15,000 and £100,000 is for big projects, like extending, improving or delivering community facilities such as village halls, sports pavilions or play areas etc. The other scheme is young achiever awards open to 11 – 18 year olds who've excelled in a chosen sport, art, or volunteer work. Both schemes are open for applications until 31 July.
- 16/031 Parish Clerk's Report – noted.
- 16/032 Skatepark project: Mrs Varnes reported for Mrs Lewis on the completion of both works and a few outstanding issues. Mr Kedge described the project as being the outstanding Council success of the last 40 years.

- 16/033 Neighbourhood Development Plan: Mr Greenwood reported that the consultation round has ended but there remains much to do to take in the comments received. The plan is at risk from developer pressures and resolving the issue of SODC's five-year land supply.
- 16/034 It was unanimously resolved to approve the Internal Audit carried out on 4 June, the Annual Return and the Annual Risk assessment.
- 16/035 Matters for future consideration: Mr Jones asked that the need for a Village Emergency Plan be considered at a future meeting.
- 16/036 After discussion it was resolved that the Parish Clerk should initiate the development and submission of a planning application for the Brinds Copse site.

The meeting closed at 21.35

Next meeting: Monday 20 July 2015 at 20.00.

Chairman: Dated: