

Minutes of the meeting of Sonning Common Parish Council held on Monday 16 February 2015 in the Village Hall

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

Also present: One member of the public; County Councillor Bartholomew for 15/132; District Councillor Harrison for 15/133; Miss H Patchett Henley Standard.

Before opening the meeting Mr Kedge announced that Mrs Phillips-Tilbury is to receive the High Sherriff of Oxfordshire's Award for her contribution to the community. This is well deserved recognition for the multitude of areas in which over many years she has made her contributions. The award, which will be presented formally later in the month, was warmly applauded by all members present.

- 15/127 Apologies for absence: Miss Hunt and Mr Jones. No declarations.
- 15/128 Public Question Time under Section 30 of Standing Orders. Ms Katie Robertson of Pages Orchard asked if she could be of assistance in any matters to do with resolving the parking problems in Pages Orchard which she warned are causing ever increasing local dissonance. The Parish Clerk will take up her offer as soon as practicable.
- 15/129 Police Report previously circulated. The Council agreed that the rapid response of the local police to the Council's concerns about illegal parking was commendable and a strong indication of the excellent working relationship that exists between the police and the parish.
- 15/130 Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting on 7 January 2015 were presented and ratified.
- 15/131 Minutes of previous meetings:
131.01 Planning Committee held on 5 and 19 January 2015 were presented and approved.
131.02 Parish Council meeting held on 19 January 2015 were presented and approved.
- 15/132 County Councillor's Report: Councillor Bartholomew reported that management changes at OCC could reduce costs by over £250K per annum; that the possibility of a unitary authority are being discussed; that a £108.6m investment into Oxfordshire has been given the go-ahead with Minister Greg Clark MP signing a Local Growth Deal that will create 6000 jobs and 4000 homes across the county by 2021; that the Local Transport Plan has been approved and will now be sent out to further consultation between February and April; and that drains are to be cleared around the junction of Sedgewell and Peppard Roads.
- 15/133 District Councillor's Report: Councillor Harrison reported that SODC is recovering from the fire damage; that the SODC element of Council Tax will be reduced by 3%; that postal voting is being encouraged and that SODC is opposing the OCC proposals for a unitary authority.
- 15/134 Parish Clerk's Report - noted.
- 15/135 Neighbourhood Development Plan progress. Mr Greenwood reported that the public meetings on 6 and 7 February had attracted 319 attendees and there will be another meeting on 5 March. The Draft plan has now gone out for consultation prior to formal submission to SODC. Council agreed that congratulations are due to the NDP Working Party for a tremendous job done to date.
- 15/136 Skatepark project: Mrs Lewis reported that all is looking good for a start in March.
- 15/137 Matters for future consideration – On Your Bike is seeking volunteer marshals for this year's event in April.
- 15/138 Confidential matter requiring exclusion of press and public.
- Meeting closed at 21.15. Next meeting: Monday March 2015 at 20.00.

Chairman: Dated: