

Minutes of the Meeting of Sonning Common Parish Council held on Monday 19 April 2021 at 20.00 hrs by video conference.

Present: Mrs Lewis (Chairman); Ms Boorman; Mr Cann; Mr Fort; Mr Giles; Mr Howe; Mr Rawlins and Mr Stoves with Mr Collings (Parish Clerk), Mrs Varnes and Mrs Jenkins (Deputy Clerks), Cllr D Bartholomew, Ms Harland (Henley Standard).

- 22/001 Apologies for absence: Mrs Diwell; no declarations.
- 22/002 Public Question Time – no questions.
- 22/003 County Councillor's Report. In addition to his report circulated by email, Cllr Bartholomew advised of actions taken regarding MHF access and the highway boundary in Hazel Gardens.
- 22/004 Mr K Settle introduced himself and described his interests and experience as they related to his application to be co-opted on to the Council after which he answered questions from members.
- 22/005 Minutes of the following meeting were presented and approved:
005.01 Finance Committee on 10 and 31 March 2021.
005.02 Planning Committee on 15 March 2021.
005.03 Parish Council meeting on 15 March 2021.
- 22/006 Mr J Bidgood introduced himself and described his interests and experience as they related to his application to be co-opted on to the Council after which he answered questions from members.
- 22/007 District Councillor's Report – as circulated by email.
- 22/008 Mr Grant Beverly introduced himself and described his interests and experience as they related to his application to be co-opted on to the Council after which he answered questions from members.
- 22/009 After some discussion a vote was held that resulted in the co-option of Mr Settle and Mr Bidgood.
- 22/010 Parish Clerk's Report – noted.
- 22/011 Village Centre Working Party (VCWP) – Mr Howe described how, in order to obtain serious funding for proposed redesign activities, it is essential to have a formal business case to present and that Stantec, the incumbent advisers, would prepare same for a fee of £12.5K. It was resolved to authorise this expenditure.
- 22/012 Environment Working Party – nothing to report.
- 22/013 Plastic Free Communities WP – Ms Boorman reported that individual litter collection teams are going out regularly and are grateful for facilitation and equipment provided by the council.
- 22/014 Memorial Hall Field plans update. Mr Cann advised that weekly review meetings take place; that the forward cost impact on council finances is being developed for approval; that it is not expected to be open for public use until at least the spring of 2022.
- 22/015 NDP II preparation and Inspired Villages appeal. Mr Fort advised that life is being dominated by the IV appeal starting in the week of 26 April with strong speakers from the village to put forward the objections.
- 22/016 The proposed new arrangements for grass cutting were described and the suggestion that an interim trial period costing up to £4k to evaluate the contractor's work was approved.
- 22/017 It was resolved to approve a proposal that the parish council obtain a flagpole of substance, to be mounted on or near the village hall to enable flying our national flag, or others, on appropriate occasions at a cost under £900.

22/018 Review of the latest updates to the Asset Register and Risk Assessment were deferred until the May meeting. Documents to be emailed to members in advance.

22/019 Matters for future agendas – only the May meeting plans.

Meeting closed at 21.45.

Next meeting: The Annual Meeting on Monday 17 May at 19.30.

Chairman: Dated: