

## Minutes of the Meeting of Sonning Common Parish Council held on Monday 27 September 2021 in the Village Hall.

Present: Mr Cann (Chairman), Mr Bidgood, Ms Boorman, Mrs Diwell, Mr Howe, Mr Rawlins, and Mr Stoves with Mr Collings (Parish Clerk), Mrs Jenkins & Mrs Varnes (Deputy Clerks), Cllr D Bartholomew, Ms Harland (Henley Standard) and Mrs D Pearman.

- 22/061 Apologies for absence: Mr Giles, Mr Jones, Mrs Lewis and Mr Settle. No declarations.
- 22/062 Public Question Time under Section 30 of Standing Orders. Mr D Kedge spoke of his concerns that to approve the motion at 069.2 would take the council into areas of politics that are well beyond the remit of a Parish Council and bring political differences into a hitherto unpolitical body. He pointed out that the agenda item as originally posted incorrectly indicated Government support for the CEE Bill and that the amendment to it had not been posted properly.
- 22/063 Co-option of new member. Mrs Pearman, as the only applicant, was questioned about her application and then approved unanimously. After signing her Declaration of Acceptance of Office she took her seat as a member.
- 22/064 Minutes of the following meetings were presented and approved:
- 064.01 Finance Committee held on 14 July, 11 August and 15 September 2021.
  - 064.02 Planning Committees held on 5 and 19 July, 16 August and 6 September 2021.
  - 064.03 Parish Council meeting held on 19 July 2021.
  - 064.04 Parks & Recreation Committee held on 17 June, 12 July & 13 September 2021.
  - 064.05 Village Centre & Environment Committee held on 15 June, 26 July, 23 August and 20 September 2021.
- 22/065 County Councillor's Report – Cllr Bartholomew commented on his emailed report and mentioned his support for the cycleway project.
- 22/066 District Councillor's Report – Cllr Rawlins commented on his emailed report.
- 22/067 Parish Clerk's Report – provided a brief verbal update on current issues.
- 22/068 Parks & Recreation Committee. The three recommendations below were discussed and then endorsed to proceed:
- 068.1 That the committee explores the creation of a new woodland on the brownfield former war-time site west of Old Copse.
  - 068.2 That views be sought from the Memorial Park Working Party on priorities for grant-funding with applications to be pursued by the Parish Office.
  - 068.3 That the plan for Memorial Park to be opened in Spring 2022 is adhered to.
- 22/069 Village Centre and Environment Committee. The three recommendations below were discussed individually with decisions as shown:
- 069.1 It was agreed that Ms Boorman should set up a working party to create an Environmental Strategy for Council.
  - 069.2 After strong discussion and having heard Mr Kedge's concerns it was resolved by 5 votes to 3 to support the Climate and Ecological Emergency (CEE) Private Members Bill.
  - 069.3 It was agreed that Mrs Diwell should explore the viability of creating a walking route between the Council's allotments and Old Copse.

- 22/070 NDP and Inspired Villages – Mr Cann advised that the NP update is proceeding despite the risks posed by the Inspired Villages situation.
- 22/071 Cycleway project and SCPC logo. Mr Bidgood reported on good progress in getting a cycleway team together and in contacting key landowners. To update on logo next time.
- 22/072 It was noted that Ros Varnes has taken over as the Parish Office manager for all matters to do with the Memorial Park. Mrs Pearman will update the meeting on MPWP matters.
- 22/073 It was noted that Becky Jenkins is the Parish Office manager for all matters to do with Play Areas. Mrs Jenkins advised of good progress on the new play area project.
- 22/074 HM The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee in June 2022 – it was agreed that planning should begin and that a steering committee should be established after enquiries to seek suitable members.
- 22/075 Matters for future agendas.
- 22/076 Confidential session without Press or Public to discuss two matters.
- Next meeting: Monday 18 October 2021 at 20.00.