

Sonning Common Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting for the
Village Centre and Environment Committee held on
Monday 22 November 2021 at 19.30 hrs in the Village Hall.

Present: Mr Howe; Ms Boorman; Mr Bidgood; Ms Diwell; Mr Stoves; Mr Rawlins; Mrs Pearman; Mr Hargreaves; Mrs Underwood (Finance and Office Administrator).

- VCEC 21/069 Apologies for absence: None.
- VCEC 21/070 Declarations of pecuniary interest: None received.
- VCEC 21/071 Minutes of the previous meeting were presented and approved.
- VCEC 21/072 Public Question Time: No members of the public attended.
- VCEC 21/073 Mr Bidgood proposed that: The Village Centre and Environment Committee fully support the new OCC Countywide 20 mph Policy and, under that scheme and acting on a mandate given to us in the SCNDP, request that the Parish Council seek a Village-wide change from 30 to 20 mph speed limit be adopted at the soonest possible date.
- After discussion, during which Mr Stoves raised a point that Cllr Bartholomew had made in an earlier context that lowering the speed limit helps developers obtain planning consent, Mr Howe proposed an amended resolution that: 'We ask the Parish Council to write to Cllr Bartholomew for his support to ask Oxfordshire County Council to investigate the adoption of the new Countywide 20mph policy and commit to undertake some informal consultation.' This was resolved with one abstention.
- VCEC 21/074 Mr Howe opened a discussion about OCC Parking Enforcement being implemented from 1st November 2021 and asked how we can get more support in the village as at the moment the Civil Parking Enforcement Officers seem to be concentrating on Henley, Wallingford and Didcot and we have not seen any enforcement officers here.
- VCEC 21/075 Mr Howe opened discussion of the email from Joe Kay at OCC regarding the village centre design and of phases and sub-modules of the village centre projects. Mr Howe also shared Joe Kay's response to the Active Travel Bid saying that Oxfordshire County Council do not have the money to support the Village Centre plans. Mr Hargreaves has been looking at other revenue streams and Mr Rawlins thinks we should break the project down into smaller modules.
- It was agreed that by enhancing the Active Travel bid OCC might consider it as a pipeline bid.
- VCEC 21/076 **Youth Club:** Mrs Underwood informed the Committee that Youth Club has had consistently high attendance and we have recruited new Youth Leaders to help support this.
- VCEC 21/077 **Village Halls:** Mrs Underwood updated the Committee that she has received one quote and awaiting one other. The contractor has informed us that the sub floor has cracked which will push up the cost of repair.
- VCEC 21/078 **Village Centre:** Covered in item VCEC 21/073
- VCEC 21/079 **Allotments:** Mrs Underwood informed the Committee that they have let one more plot. Ms Diwell confirmed that she has written to the Trustees of the Poor Land's Trust with regard to the footpath to the allotments and though she has not been met with any resistance they must deal with other issues first.

- VCEC 21/080 **Widmore Pond:** Mrs Underwood asked that the Committee readdress this matter as to whether to seek legal advice. Ms Diwell reiterated to the committee that during her research about registering the pond with the Land Registry she came across a document from the Chief Commons Commissioner who stated that under the Commons Registration Act 1965 the Parish Council remain the custodians of the pond. It was proposed and agreed that legal advice should be sort by the Parish Office on this matter.
- VCEC 21/081 **Traffic Management:** Mr Bidgood updated the Committee that the Cyclepath Working party had a face-to-face meeting with Abbey Rugby Club that went well. They are awaiting a response to the proposal.
- VCEC 21/082 **Budget/Finance:** Mrs Underwood informed the Committee that they had £68,000 in Earmarked Reserves.
- VCEC 21/083 **Environmental Matters:** Ms Boorman informed the Committee that she has met with Rob Butler, the Grounds Contractor for the Parish to discuss wildflower planting for next year.

Meeting Closed: 9.12pm

Date of next meeting: Monday 24th January 2022

Chairman: Dated: