

Sonning Common Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting for the
Village Centre and Environment Committee held on
Monday 26th July 2021 at 19.30 hrs in the Village Hall.

Present: Mr Howe; Ms Boorman; Mr Bidgood; Ms Diwell Mr Cann; Mr Stoves; Mr Hargreaves (Stantec); Mr Collings (Clerk); Mrs Underwood (Finance Assistant). Mr Rawlins joined the meeting at 8.30pm.

VCEC 21/018 Apologies for absence: Mr Giles.

VCEC 21/019 Declarations of pecuniary interest: Mr Hargreaves who has been co-opted by the committee to offer advice on the Village Centre declared that he has an interest in Stantec.

VCEC 21/020 Public Question Time: No members of the public attended the meeting.

VECE 21/021 Village Centre Funding Preparations: Mr Hargreaves informed the committee that the estimated cost of the Village Centre project would be £2 million. He advised that the Parish Council will have to match fund some of the works – at least 10% and that it needs to raise its profile within OCC and put forward a proposal for an Active Travel Bid to OCC. It was resolved that a letter will be drafted by Ms Boorman to David Bartholomew in Mr Howe's name to raise awareness of this plan. Mr Howe agreed to follow up with David Bartholomew

VCEC 21/022 Mr Bidgood presented his vision for a cycle path on the B481 which involves using land from the Phillimore Estate, Abbey Rugby Club and Palmers Riding Stables. Mr Bidgood informed the Committee that this could be funded through the Government cycle lane scheme. Mr Hargreaves informed the Committee that this vision could also be included in the Active Travel Bid to OCC. It was resolved that Mr Bidgood convene a working party to continue discussions with landowners and other Councils.

VCEC 21/024 Mr Bidgood shared a presentation on Ben Hamilton Baillie's Placemaking vision for Sonning Common and requested that this document be used as a forward planning document for planning and to be included in the NDP. It was discussed amongst the Councillors that whilst this document has value to the future of the village it should be used as a valuable reference document and not a definitive plan for the way forward. Mr Bidgood proposed that the Ben Hamilton Baillie Placemaking vision be formally adopted. This was not agreed by the committee.

Mr Rawlins joined the meeting at 8.30pm

VCEC 21/025 Barrier Crossing at Widmore Pond Triangle/Peppard Road. Mr Bidgood and Ms Boorman presented their report and investigations after a resident complained to David Bartholomew about residents making use of the dirt track to access the private drive to and from Widmore Lane. The Committee discussed putting gravel or wood chipping down to improve the surface whilst putting in posts to slow down progress/warn of the danger of the main road, mimicking the existing County Highway posts. The Committee also discussed the flooding issue in the private road and agreed that this was an issue for OCC. It was agreed by the Committee that David Bartholomew would be sent a copy of Mr Bidgood and Ms Boorman's report for any action to be taken forward.

Standing items:

- VCEC 21/026 **Youth Club:** Mr Collings provided overview of the youth club.
- VCEC 21/027 **Village Halls:** Mr Collings provided and overview of the halls.
- VCEC 21/028 **Village Centre:** Mr Howe said that this item had been covered earlier in the meeting.
- VCEC 21/029 **Allotments:** Mr Stoves provided an update on the allotments. Mr Collings expressed that he would recommend that the allotment holders set up their own committee.
- VCEC 21/030 **Widmore Pond:** Mr Collings and Mr Cann updated the Committee on the on-going discussions concerning Widmore Lane and the pond.
- VCEC 21/031 **Traffic Management:** The committee agreed that this was covered earlier in meeting under Village Centre funding.
- VCEC 21/032 **Budget/Finance:** Mr Cann informed the Committee that he has taken responsibility for the Risk Register and will be working on it so that each Committee will have a budget to work to.
- VVCEC 21/033 **Environmental Matters:** Ms Boorman updated that Committee that she will present an Environmental Summary strategy at the next meeting.

Meeting Closed: 9.05pm

Date of next meeting: Monday 23rd August at 19.30

Signed (Chairman):

Date: