

Minutes of the Meeting of
Sonning Common Parish Council

On Monday 12 February 2024 in the Village Hall Sonning Common

Present: Mr Stoves (Chairman), Mr Bidgood, Ms Boorman, Mrs Diwell, Mr James, Mrs McLellan, Mrs Pearman, Mr Rawlins, Mr Scannell, Mr Collings (Parish Clerk), Ms Dodds (Henley Standard), Cllr Bartholmew, Cllr Giles.

- 24/136 Apologies for absence: Mr Howe and Mr Robinson. No declarations.
- 24/137 Public Question Time – none present.
- 24/138 Shedquarters - Mr Clive Mills and Ms Viv Binder gave a comprehensive overview of progress to date and future plans for the venture.
- 24/139 Minutes of the following meetings were approved:
 - 139.01 Parish Council held on 15 January 2024.
 - 139.02 Finance Committee held on 10 January 2024.
- 24/140 County Councillor’s Report – Cllr Bartholmew reviewed his report for February highlighting the increased costs of childcare.
- 24/141 District Councillor’s Report – Cllrs Rawlins & Giles reviewed matters from their report.
- 24/142 Parish Clerk’s Report – noted with comment on need to advertise vacant allotments.
- 24/143 IV proposals for works around Widmore Pond – the meeting supported Mrs Diwell’s published views about what needs to be done and what avoided.
- 24/144 The External Audit Report and Certificate of 29 January 2024 was accepted with concern expressed about the suggestion that reserves should amount to six months of expenditure rather than three as agreed here.
- 24/145 Memorial Park WP update – Mrs Pearman advised that work on repairing the play area and mound is proceeding.
- 24/146 Cycleway project update – Mr Bidgood advised that a meeting had been held with Reading Borough Council to appraise them of the project and its need for funds.
- 24/147 Village Centre & Transport WP – progress being made with the phone box project.
- 24/148 SC Youth Club meeting was advised that our Youth Club Leader, Sunny Smithers, has succeeded in a grant application to the National Lottery to fund a range of holiday activities for which we will receive £13,568. Meeting congratulated her.
- 24/149 AONB Extension update on Joint Parishes Action Group (JPAG). Mr Bidgood advised of progress, and it was resolved to endorse the proposals made.
- 24/159 Matters for future agendas - Mr James will progress the Emergency Plan.
- 24/160 Confidential meeting re Personnel matters without Press & Public present.

Next meeting: 11 March 2024.

Chairman: Dated: