

**MINUTES OF SONNING & SONNING EYE SOCIETY
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Held in the St. Sarik Room at 8pm

Thursday 9 December 2004

PRESENT:

Chris Clarke, Carole Barnett, Sally Hughes, John Edmonds, Diana Coulter, Brian O'Callaghan and Penny Feathers. Stephen Humphreys was also present.

Chris said it was good to see the now elected members of the Executive Committee.

APOLOGIES:

None

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

These were approved and there was nothing arising, which was not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

REVIEW OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: Chris said he'd like to record his humble thanks to Carole Barnett and her helpers for the excellent food. Malcolm Stansfield had spoken well, and everyone had enjoyed his talk. He asked if there was anything people felt should be changed. Diana said there had been a waiting list of seven. Next year's business meeting would need to be longer. Looking ahead, she had asked Sally if it might be possible to hold the AGM at the Mill and what the cost would be. Sally said it would have to be in October and the Mill hosted a similar event for Bomber Command for £15 per head. John said if it were just an AGM, and not also a social event requiring tables, numbers would not be a problem in Pearson Hall; over the years, numbers would decrease. Diana said she had already booked the hall for Saturday 12 November.

TRAFFIC: Sally said that Jane Gascoine and Steve Chapman had attended the meeting in Wokingham on 30 November. There was £60,000 to spend on the Reading computer study, the result of which would come through by July 2005. Nothing had been said about applying for planning permission.

PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT: John said that Allan Williams, Carole Rose and Alastair Driver had all made important contributions, which had been fed into the Local Plan.

He had looked for someone else to take on the role of Chairman of the Planning & Environment Panel without success, and was prepared to continue until someone could be found.

Sally said that the boundary line in the Local Plan was somewhat confusing and Brian agreed that there different ways of looking at it. John said the Society took a more measured view than that expressed in Rusty Atkins letter, and felt that the railway line formed a natural boundary. He read his response to Rusty's letter.

Planning Application for school. Chris asked John to let him know if the Panel had any views on this, and he would explain what was planned.

VILLAGE HISTORY

John recalled Robert Baldwin's suggestion at the AGM. The Society should speak to people like Judy Baldwin, Bill Wright, Roly Hunt and Armine about their memories and archives. Diana and Brian intended to invite the Baldwins to discuss this. She said she had tried to make a note of what Malcolm Stansfield had said in his talk at the AGM, and thought if Malcolm were willing, it could be used for a "Sonning Voices" section in the newsletter. Chris felt that Malcolm would like to assist. Brian has a colleague whose sub-speciality is Rural History and said he would speak to him about how to go about this.

Action: All

EDUCATION:

Newsletter

- Copy to Diana by 15 January so newsletter can be circulated in February.
- With Sally's permission, possible visit to the Mill (history of local buildings).
- Website has the 1st newsletter.
- Design by David Woodward's students as a project.

Website

- Penny and Stephen to liaise and put minutes of AGM and committee meetings on website.
- Perhaps John's letter to Rusty Atkins could be put on the Environment page?

The possibility of putting maps and other information on the website was raised. John said the Civic Trust had a map of Sonning on the website. Allan Williams had the Parish Design Statement electronically. Both were large, but it was not beyond the bounds of possibility to include them. He and Stephen would see what could be done.

Action: Penny, Stephen, John

Other publications:

- News of S&SE S in "Roundabout"?
- Penny to ask Jon Hunt to add her name and contact details as secretary to list of organisations in Parish Magazine.

Action: Penny

FUTURE PROGRAM:

- It was suggested that maybe a summer lunch in the garden/cellar of the Baldwins' could be considered.
- Friday 28 January – Green Room, Reading Blue Coat School. Illustrated talk about Henry Woodyer. Tony Swell would organise the wine.
- Biodiversity – to be included in the newsletter.
- Village Show – September.
- Diana would speak to Sally about a possible Heritage weekend at the Mill, possibly 2nd weekend in September.

Proposals for the coming year to be discussed early in the New Year.

Action: All

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Chris said there were 2 places available on the Executive Committee and thought it would be good to have someone from Sonning Eye. John agreed to sound out Nick Marks to see if he would be willing to do it.

Note: Since the meeting, John has confirmed that Nick is willing to join the committee as a co-opted member.

John said we had reached the stage of “getting down to work”, and said it was important to develop relationships with local authorities i.e. Wokingham, South Oxfordshire and the Parish Council. He felt membership of the Civic Trust could be very useful as this would give access to maps, a quarterly newsletter, help-desk, library, advice on funding and special liability insurance plus invitations to Heritage Open days and other events. Membership is free the first year, then approximately £75 per annum, depending on the size of the Society’s membership. It was agreed to make this an agenda item at the next meeting.

Action: Penny

Carole said to date there were 198 members. Carole Rose had brought the matter of database protection to her notice, and she believed something should be added to the membership application form regarding this. It was agreed she would email the wording to Stephen.

Action: Carole B and Stephen

Brian said that at the present time the Society had a lot of money. Was it worth considering subsidising the cost of the next AGM? Chris said it was difficult at this stage to know what the running costs would be during the coming year, but it was something which could be considered.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 9:10p.m.

Committee Meeting Dates 2005
All meetings will be held in the St. Sarik Room at 8p.m.

Wednesday 23 February
Wednesday 20 April
Wednesday 15 June
Wednesday 17 August
Wednesday 19 October

AGM – Pearson Hall
Saturday 12 November