

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

Held in the St. Sarik Room at 8pm

Wednesday 19 October 2005

1. PRESENT: Chris Clarke (CC), John Edmonds (JE), Dennis Mason (DM), Sally Hughes (SH), Lynette Padfield (LP), Brian O'Callaghan (BOC), Diana Coutler (DC) and Penny Feathers (PF). Also present later Pat Doyle (PD).

APOLOGIES: Carole Barnett (CB).

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: These were agreed and signed by CC.

3. TRAFFIC PANEL: SH said that a letter would be written to Sonning Parish Council stating that their Traffic Working Group wasn't representing residents' views. Pam Glasspool supported this initiative. Lesley Bates had written to Carole Viney asking what the group's constitution was. CC had spoken to Theresa May who said that membership of the group was by invitation only and she would ring Carole Viney and Chairman of Wokingham District Council. CC said he thought things would change and advised leaving the issue for the time being. At the recent PC meeting Giles Cattermole had been voted off as chairman of the Traffic Working Group.

Carole Rose had unearthed information about the A4 turning onto Sonning Lane and pavement widening on High Street. It was agreed that something should be put in Bridge asking for members' comments.

**La Farge.** The project had been approved and would be going ahead. The problem for Sonning Eye would be short-term, but much longer for Shiplake.

The Traffic Panel would meet again on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October.

4. PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT PANEL. JE said there was nothing new on **De Ville**.

**Green Down.** A new application had been made.

**Dower House.** A new plan had been made. S&SE S is opposed.

**Russells Field.** The Parish Council had proposed 2 footpaths. It was a strange application i.e. to give people a place to walk dogs and had been signed by 'good people'. The Council had opposed the scheme.

**New Chairman for Planning & Environment Panel.** All members of the panel regretted JE's retirement but suggested Pat Doyle succeeds him. The Executive agreed this with grateful thanks to JE and PD.

5. EDUCATION. DC reported.

**The Village Show.** The response was slow this year and perhaps there were too few S&SE helpers to promote the society properly. Improvements to next year could be that we have a stand independent from the Show Organisers and the PA system. Better signage was also needed.

**Woodyer Day.** The day was promoted in the Twyford Times and Reading Chronicle. Approximately 140 people signed the Visitors Book. Setting the booklet aside, the

Society had spent £280.00 and raised £129.00, so there was currently a deficit of £151.00 from this project.

The cost of producing the booklet was £318.00 and by the end of the weekend sales of £155.00 had been made giving the Society a deficit of £163.00, which was decreasing as time passed. **(Please note, that since the AGM, the booklet has broken even.)**

Diana completed her report on the Woodyer Day by thanking the Executive and property owners for their support. The Steering Group had said "No" to appearing as parts of HODs next year, but BOC & DC had suggested the Society consider giving guided walks to maintain visibility.

**Stones of Sonning.** A small group of 15 attended (which in terms of negotiating Thames Street proved just right). It was hoped that Bruce Sellwood might be persuaded to repeat this fascinating talk again in the future. Thanks go to The Bull for providing an excellent tea.

**Press Officer.** Bart (on) Guthrie had agreed to take on this role, once domestic events permitted. In the meantime, we would continue as at present. Maybe Bart should be co-opted onto the Executive once he took up this position.

**Oral History Project & Guiding.** A different angle was evolving with the C of E primary school children, which would start late spring/early summer, tapping into the post WW2 children still resident in the village and their leisure time. The second Guides meeting was rained off. DC & BOC will get everyone together again soon.

**Bridge.** Copy deadline for autumn issue had passed, but most material had been collected. The deadline for the winter issue was 15 January 2006. DC will give a reminder at the December 2005 meeting.

CC and JE both thanked DC for all her hard work, which had played a great part in making the Society's first year so successful.

6. AGM. PF said the DC had included the previous year's AGM minutes and reports from each of the panels in the bulletin which would be distributed to all members. Also included would be a booking form and nomination forms for the Executive Committee.

It was agreed that a seating plan would be produced this year. PF and CB would do this during the week preceding the AGM. CC anticipated that the Chairmen of each panel would give a brief report and the whole meeting would last approximately 45 minutes, after which there would be supper followed by the speaker, David Penny. A note was made to give a gift to the speaker.

CB had provided a note giving details of the menu and cost plus those working on the different aspects of the evening's organisation. Help would be needed with setting up the hall, which would be available from 5p.m.

PF would ring Wendy Williams and ask her to put a reminder notice in the weekly notice sheet.

7. MEMBERSHIP. This currently stood at approximately 120.

8. SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND IDEAS FOR FORTHCOMING EVENTS. DC suggested a Post Card and wine & Cheese Evening. PF said Lynette Padfield had agreed in principle to having a lunch in her garden in near year – probably June.

9. TREASURER'S REPORT. DM distributed his report. As of August 2005, the Society had £1,038.00 in the bank. He suggested it might be time to consider opening a deposit account.

**Liability insurance.** DM said the cost of insurance had risen from £150.00 to £250.00. This would need to be renewed in time for the AGM. It was suggested that enquires be made at the Civic Trust who are able to offer favourable insurance terms to members. DM was going on leave at the end of the week, so PF agreed to follow this up if he was unable to do so before leaving. In his absence, JE would hold the chequebook.

10. CIVIC TRUST – SOUTH EAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE. JE said that a cheque had been sent for 3 members to attend. Unfortunately, this had had to be cancelled. However, on Saturday 12 November there would be another conference in Farnham. This would cost £10 for each attendee and included lunch. Those wishing to go should contact JE.

11. PARISH COUNCIL. CC reported that Pam Glasspool had suggested 'Welcome packs' for new residents, and had rung CC to see if this could be done through S&SE S. However, this had not yet been formally requested so it was suggested that no action be taken on this at the present.

12. NOTICE BOARD AT THE BULL. CC had submitted an application to Wokingham DC.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS. CC WELCOMED Pat Doyle to the meeting and thanked him for agreeing to take the Chair of the Planning & Environment Panel.

CC said he thought that each Panel should draw up a TOR. The Executive Committee should do the same.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 9:15p.m.

**Please note the date of the next Executive Committee meeting has been confirmed as Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 8p.m.**