

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

**Held in the St. Sarik Room at 8pm**

**Wednesday 20 April 2005**

1. PRESENT: Chris Clarke (CC), Dennis Mason (DM), John Edmonds (JE), Carole Barnett (CB), Diana Coulter (DC), Brian O'Callaghan (BOC), Lynette Padfield (LP), Nick Marks (NM) and Penny Feathers (PF). Pat Doyle was also present.

APOLOGIES: Sally Hughes (SH)

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: Initials for Brian O'Callaghan would be BOC.

3. TRAFFIC PANEL: The panel would meet a week on Wednesday the following week.

4. PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT PANEL: **Old Walls.** JE reported that the appeal had been upheld, and costs had not been allowed. Mr. Griffiths had come to see several alternatives, and an application would now be put in for a smaller house.

**Pound Lane South.** The District Council had refused the application.

**Lafarge.** It was agreed that to call it Caversham Quarry was misleading. NM said Lafarge was calling it Caversham Quarry and Sonning Works. However, this had nothing to do with the development of a small triangle of land. Rather it was about gaining approval to find minerals, which if granted, would open up other sites from Sonning to Shiplake.

**South-East Plan.** JE said the consultation moves on, and several people attended workshops. So far, nothing exciting had occurred.

JE also said that he had personally joined the Listed Properties Trust. The next meeting of the Panel would be on 30<sup>th</sup> April.

5. EDUCATION PANEL: DC said she was working on the next newsletter and hoped to drop it off to members over the May Bank holiday weekend.

**Summer Event.** This had run into difficulties with dates, venues etc., and as a result would not be going ahead. She also said that due to her heavy workload, it would be useful to form a Social Events Committee, and suggested this was considered at the next meeting.

**Woodyer in Sonning: Heritage Open Day.** DC had written to the occupants of Woodyer properties, i.e. Blue Coat, Chris Clarke, John Edmonds, Masters and the Old Vicarage. She had already received positive responses from the Brookers and JE. Hopefully, car parks could be provided at Blue Coat and/or The Mill. St. Georges Field could not be used because of cricket. Suggested date 11<sup>th</sup> September from 12 noon to 5p.m. DC said she had to write to inform the Civic Trust by 29 April.

CC said that would not be a problem, and the Bell Ringers would probably be prepared to show visitors round the tower. CB offered to organise teas. It was agreed to go ahead and organise a steering group involving those whose properties were involved.

**Next year's programme.**

Walks: Lesley Runnalls in the Autumn: 20 people on 2<sup>nd</sup> October. If necessary, a re-run could take place on 30<sup>th</sup> October. Spring: The Thames, Alastair Driver and possibly Bruce Selwood.

Talks: Archaeological Excavations at the Bull. Possibly ask Nick Siney to give a talk about bricks.

Other suggestions were Adrian Vaughan who lectures on Brunel, and whose first job was in the Woodley Signal Box. Geoff Harvey – Three Men in a Boat.

DC also reported that she had joined the Berkshire Local History Society and written to them.

6. MEMBERSHIP OF CIVIC TRUST: JE reported that S&SE S's application to join the Civic Trust had been accepted.
7. ATTENDANCE AT PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS: 10<sup>th</sup> May – CC, 14<sup>th</sup> June – CB, 12<sup>th</sup> July – Pat Doyle and Lynn Padfield.

**PC Meeting 12.4.05:** A long and heated discussion had taken place regarding the Charvil Lane footpath. Pat Doyle said many people felt that a path would make life easier for vandals coming from outside Sonning. NM asked if S&SE S could email members laying out the arguments from both sides to give them an opportunity to understand the issue. CC said he would ask Mary Chapman for her views.

**AGM 11 May 2005 – 7:30 for 8p.m.** Pat Doyle said as many as possible should go to the meeting, and this was agreed.

8. PARISH NOTICE BOARD at the BULL: DM would see if the Brewery would be prepared to fund this. He and CC would liaise about the size and location.
9. VILLAGE SPRING CLEAN: It was agreed that Spring Lane was not a suitable location for Society members to work. DC would contact Robert Drew to tell him.
10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS: JE was concerned about the Sonning Net Message Board on the web. This was nothing to do with S&SE S, and he was worried that people might be misled into thinking it was connected. Stephen Humphries would take care of this and check what was on it carefully. CC said we would see what had happened between this and the next Executive meeting.

CB said that at the date of the meeting membership stood at 208.

DM reported that the Society had £1,500 in the bank.

LP said one resident had offered to pay for the installation of posts to continue past The French Horn.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 9:30p.m.

**The next meeting will held at 8p.m in the St. Sarik Room on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June. Please let PF have any agenda items by Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June.**