

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

Held in the St. Sarik Room at 8p.m

Wednesday 23 February 2005

1. PRESENT: Chris Clarke (CC), Dennis Mason (DM), John Edmonds (JE), Carole Barnett (CB), Sally Hughes (SH), Diana Coulter (DC), Brian O'Callaghan (BO), Lynette Padfield (LP) and Penny Feathers (PF). Stephen Humphreys and Jenny Clement-Davies were also present.

APOLOGIES: Nick Marks.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: JE said it would be helpful if the items on the minutes could be numbered to follow those on the agenda.

3. CO-OPTION OF NICK MARKS TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: This was unanimously agreed, and Nick would provide another excellent link with Sonning Eye.

4. TRAFFIC: The TCGC meeting was held in Dunsden Parish Hall on 25/2/05. Sally had attended the last Parish Council Meeting during which the widening of pavements, including the one on the bridge was discussed. The S&SES would oppose this. LP agreed to join this panel.

5. PLANNING: JE reported that the panel had met on 21/12. There was no further news regarding the sailing club building. La Farge project – still awaiting further news regarding the gravel development. LP said the residents of Sonning Eye had written a letter in time for the 28.2.05 deadline for feedback. JE said it was important that residents had independence. JE, CC and SH asked if they could see the letter. The Society would support the residents.

An application for 33 residential units in Pound Lane close to the golf course had been made. The Society had weighed in with opposition due to the considerable density of population and traffic. JE had written to the P.C and Wokingham Council. CC, as Chairman of School, had also written in similar vein, but at Steve Chapman's request had said that if the development went ahead a flat should be reserved for a teacher.

The appeal for the development at Old Walls would be heard on 9 March in Wokingham. JE and BO would attend.

Jenny Clement-Davies said she was considering going back into practice and could possibly represent the Society. SH said this might be useful and would be noted.

DC asked how long the consultation on the boundary would be. JE said it was back with the Council and could go on for many months.

6. EDUCATION: DC reported that 100 tickets (including 20 to non-members) were sold for the Henry Woodyer lecture, which had generated good interest, although after the event, some were disappointed that there was not more about Sonning included in the presentation. The BBC had expressed interest.

At the time of the meeting only 20 tickets had been sold for the Biodiversity talk on 18 March. The Great House had agreed to provide tea after the Sonning Eye Walk on 30 April.

Village Show – Saturday 10 September. S&SES will have a stand. Help will be needed.

Woodyer Open day – Sunday 11 September. DC had prepared an outline for the event, which was circulated.

DC had prepared a document on refund policy if people who had purchased tickets for a Society event were unable to use them. This was discussed and agreed by those present. DC also said the benefits of corporate membership should be advertised and this was agreed.

DC said she thought it would be useful for S&SES to have a corporate membership of the Berkshire Local History Association. The cost was £14 and membership would enable the Society to get information into the Association's newsletter. JE was in favour and it was agreed this would be helpful.

Jenny Clement-Davies said she would be willing to give a talk on the area's Neolithic background, which was noted.

Stephen Humphreys said it was good to see there had been a surge of interest in the website which had increased from 258 in December to 388 to date in February. He anticipated the number would reach 476 by the end of the month.

7. INCREASE OF MEMBERSHIP: CB reported that membership had risen to 203, and suggested a flyer be delivered to every household during April. Alternatively, a newsletter could include a prompt to join. DC said the cost of the newsletter had increased and she would speak to Keith Nichols to see if he could help. **Items to be included should be sent to DC by 15 April.**

8. MEMBERSHIP OF CIVIC TRUST: JE said an application should be made before the end of May. He felt this would be useful and the Society would receive many benefits. The first year was free and S&SES would receive advice on many issues, including insurance. It was unanimously agreed. JE and PF would liase on letter of application.

9. ATTENDANCE AT PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS: It was agreed that representatives of the committee would try to attend the following:

8 March	-	CC
12 April	-	CB, PF and DM
10 May	-	CC
14 June	-	BO, PF
12 July	-	LP

(Meetings are usually held at 7:30p.m in the Pavilion, King George's Field)

Meetings of Sonning Eye in Dunsden Village Hall are usually on Thursday. LP would send dates to DO.

10. PARISH NOTICE BOARD: DM said he thought this would be a useful addition, which was generally agreed.

CC asked if the brewery would pay? DM said he would ask. The cost would be approximately £200, and he envisaged something about the size of a menu with the Society name. DM would speak to David Bates about design.

11. VILLAGE SPRING CLEAN: It was agreed that S&SES would support this initiative and put a notice on the website inviting members to support the event.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS: DM said he would try to ensure that the one at the Bull remained uncovered and visible.

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

The next meeting will be held at 8p.m in the St. Sarik Room on Wednesday 20 April. Please let PF have any agenda items by Sunday 10 April.