

**MINUTES OF THE SONNING & SONNING EYE SOCIETY  
EXECUTIVE MEETING  
held in the St. Sarik Room at 8p.m  
on  
Tuesday 4 August 2009**

1. **PRESENT:** Bob Hine (BH), Alan Furness (AF), John Edmonds (JE), Carole Barnett (CB), Gary Robinson (GR), Ken Henderson (KH), Diana Coulter (DC), Brian O'Callaghan (BOC), Mark Green (MG), Anabella Marks (AM) and Penny Feathers (PF).

**APOLOGIES:** Lynette Padfield (LP) AND Pam Byrnes (PB).

Chairman Bob Hine opened the meeting by welcoming Gary Robinson to his first Executive Meeting. GR had been involved with the work of the Traffic and Planning panels.

2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.** These were approved and signed by the chairman with the following corrections:
  - a) The website address for South Oxfordshire Parishes Transport Innovation Group is [www.sotig.org](http://www.sotig.org).
  - b) JE said the last sentence of paragraph 5 should read "He also pointed out that according to literature received from CPRE, the planning rules have been reduced to 12 weeks for making appeals."

3. **MATTERS ARISING.** PB had retired from the Parish Council and tendered her resignation from the Executive. BH had spoken to her and she was considering her position regarding the latter. In the meantime, congratulations were given to MG for his appointment to the PC, meaning he was now a member of both S&SE S Executive and the PC.

4. **TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT PANEL.** KH reported that the most important Traffic and Transport event in our area continues to be Reading Borough Council's efforts to secure approximately £3 million of government funding from the Transport Innovation Fund (TIF). The date for completion of the application had slipped to December. The Government had insisted that the radical increase in the overall infrastructure of Greater Reading must include 'Demand Management' systems which could be used to control traffic flows and, where possible, bring in revenues. Examples of initiatives being considered could be bridge tolls, congestion charges, park & ride and low emission zones. As the application was unlikely to succeed without the approval of its neighbours, RBC has been obliged to negotiate with Wokingham, Oxford, South Oxford and West Berkshire. The results of these negotiations are not yet known. Seven of South Oxfordshire's parishes had banded together to form SOTIG (see website above), created their own website and in June issued a questionnaire to 3500 households aimed at giving residents the chance to comment on Reading's intentions. It was believed that SPC would update residents in their next newsletter. AM said that Eye and Dunsden residents had not been approached though they were concerned about the Park & Ride System at Play Hatch. David Woodward was chairman of SOTIG and felt strongly about the lack of consultation.

5. **PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT PANEL.** BOC said Ian Runnells (who was working with Pat Doyle) had also been elected to the PC. Currently there was an application to demolish Keepers Cottage in Duffield Lane. This is a timber framed structure and Ian would talk to English Heritage to enlist their views. The deadline for comments was 26 August. MG said that there was a perception on the PC that the Society wasn't interested in planning outside of the Conservation Area, but he had told them that this was not correct.

**6. JOINT PANEL INITIATIVE.** BH said that following two constructive meetings of the Traffic & Transport and Planning & Environment Panels it was proposed to combine them. Gary Robinson had agreed to chair the Planning and Traffic Panel. BH pointed out the changes which had been made to the guidelines for the combined panel. Para 1 remained the same with the addition of a note. The final sentence of Para 2 now read "It should be guided by the purposes set out in the Constitution, particularly "to promote high standards of planning and architecture" and "to secure the preservation, protection, development, and improvement of features of historic, natural or public interest." Only the final sentence in Para 3 had been changed to read "The Panel should normally have not less than four and not more than ten members." Para 4 remained the same with the addition of Para 5 reading "The Panel shall meet as and when deemed necessary by the Chairman." These changes were all agreed. BH said he hoped the experience of members of both panels could be retained.

GR said he was pleased to get more involved with the Society. The first job of the new panel would be to carry out a survey of street signs with a view to identify unnecessary and redundant signs. DC suggested seeking advice from ROSPAR. BH said both PCs had agreed time for a Society presentation on the results of the survey at their September meetings.

**7. EDUCATION PANEL.** DC reported that the panel had met on 28 July and discussed progress on the Oral History Project.

#### Events

10-13 September Heritage Open Days Weekend. Village Voices project and guided walks ending at exhibition available Friday – Sunday. The exhibition would be set up on 10 September. AF and DC were resolving insurance issues with change of "ownership".

Saturday 26 October – Village Show

Saturday 24 October – Ali's Pond clear-up (possible). Social Committee to provide refreshments and soup in Beech Lodge.

Feelers had been put out for future talks, but nothing firm to report.

Spring 2010: Possible visit to BBONT nature reserve at Bix.

#### Bridge

Special eight-page special anniversary edition in the making. The usual 4-page format would be resumed from Winter 2009.

AM reporting on the Oral History Project said all readings had been done and the team were in the process of getting artifacts together. Theresa May would open the exhibition on Friday 11 September between 10:30 and 12 noon. It was estimated that between 60 – 80 people would attend. Lesley Green would bring children from the school and others would visit throughout the school day. AM said many people had been involved but Mary Chapman had driven the project forward. BH said the Society would like to show its appreciation at the AGM and it was agreed that DC would order an artistic piece of coloured glass to present to MC.

**8. TREASURER'S REPORT.** AF distributed his report which included in detail the income from donations and expenditure to date for the Village Voices project. Mary Chapman had asked when we would receive the balance promised by the Fire Brigade Trust and JE suggested speaking to either John Russell or Malcolm Stansfield.

AF said that following his enquiry about the possibility of opening a tax efficient high interest account, he had received a letter from HMRC confirming the Society had been accepted for charity status for interest.

9. VE DAY 65<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY – 9 MAY 2010. BH said Revd. Jamie Taylor was taking soundings from village organisations to find out if there would be interest in holding a street party. It was agreed that the Society would be interested in taking part.

10. SOCIAL COMMITTEE. PF said there was little new to report. Members of the committee would organise and serve wine and soft drinks at the official opening of the Village Voices exhibition and serve tea/coffee and biscuits throughout opening hours. They would also help to man the Society's stand at the Village Show.

11. MEMBERSHIP. CB said there was nothing new. GR said it would be helpful to have some legal experience and asked if an existing member would be able to provide this. It was suggested that KH might be able to help. KH offered to introduce his neighbour to GR.

12. AGM. It was agreed that the same format as previous years would be followed. Time: 7p.m for 7:15p.m. Ticket cost: £10 each to include a glass of wine on arrival. AF agreed to the purchase of a Cosco card to assist with the cost of food required for this and other events.

13. OTHER ORGANISATIONS AND SOCIETIES. PF had attended the Berkshire Gardens Trust first AGM and Launch at Englefield House on 23 July. The DL of Berkshire, Dr. Christina Hill Williams was elected as the first Chairman. The aims of the Trust are compatible with those of the Society and it was felt that we should continue our corporate membership. (If anybody would like to read it, PF has a bound copy of the Chairman's report plus the genesis of the Trust.) JE said he had a book about the Deanery Garden which could be of interest to the Trust.

14. CHRISTMAS CARD. There was quite a lot of discussion about this including some suggestions for subject. In the end it was decided that perhaps more time was needed to investigate the possibility of offering a card for sale.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

- JE said that GR should be co-opted to the Executive. This was agreed and the vote in favour was unanimous.
- BH thanked both KH and BOC for chairing the Traffic & Transport and Planning and Environment Panels respectively.
- AF recommended that those interested in obtaining more local information look at the University of Portsmouth website "Vision of Britain" which asks you to put in your post code and produces all kinds of interesting information relative to that area.

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

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October at 8p.m. in the St. Sarik Room.