

**MINUTES OF THE SONNING & SONNING & SONNING EYE SOCIETY
EXECUTIVE MEETING
Held in the St. Sarik Room
on Wednesday 14 October 2009**

1.PRESENT: Bob Hine (BH), John Edmonds (JE), Mark Green (MG), Ken Henderson (KH), Alan Furness (AF), Carole Barnett (CB), Gary Robinson (GR), Brian O'Callaghan (BOC), Diana Coulter (DC), Annabella Marks (AM) and Penny Feathers (PF)
SITTING IN: Andy Bell (AB) and Mike Hart (MH).
APOLOGIES: Lynette Padfield

Chairman Bob Hine opened the meeting by welcoming Andy Bell who had expressed a willingness to stand for election as Honorary Secretary, and Mike Hart who was willing to be elected to the Executive with particular interest in Traffic & Transport.

2.MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING. These were approved and signed by the Chairman. JE said that minutes of the Eye & Dunsden Parish Council meeting had been circulated and asked if those of the Sonning PC would also be made available. BH said they would.

3.MATTERS ARISING. KH said he had spoken to a neighbour who was willing to talk to GR, solely as a neighbour. BOC asked if, in view of MG's comment in the previous minutes the Society should be more pro-active. MG said that things were changing and Sonning P.C wanted to invite 2 members of Sonning & Sonning Eye Society Executive onto the Highways Committee. BOC said she was still concerned, but MG felt that ties would be strengthened as he was now a member of both the PC and S&SE S. BH said the Society was not a mirror image of the P.C which was what made the village strong. JE commented that he thought there was only one person on the P.C who misunderstood the society's intention.

4.PLANNING & TRAFFIC PANEL. GR said the membership of the panel had a good geographical spread, although representation from Sonning Eye was not good and unfortunately AM was too busy to commit herself at the moment. GR said that unless an issue was contemptuous, he was proposing to communicate with members of the Panel by email and telephone. Trevor Ottlewski may agree to sit on the Panel. During the previous month there had been three applications. He was in support of the High Street development.

School House, next to Masters. The development would mean changes to the roof line which would look wrong as it would be out of proportion. This was something to keep an eye on.

Planning – gravel extraction. The proposal was to have access for landfill and extraction off the Sonning Eye roundabout. The work would continue for 14 years. AM said there would be a public exhibition and we should have strong representation. She hadn't heard when this would be, but it could be within the next 2/3 weeks. GR said that vibration could cause a problem. JE was concerned about traffic. BH said that maybe Ali Driver could help. AM suggested asking Barry Steel for advice as he had led the original successful protest from Sonning Eye residents. It was agreed that she would approach him. BOC asked what would be a good outcome. AM said she thought the project would go ahead, but access should be from a roundabout off Spring Lane. BH said the Society may need to be involved with the exhibition.

Third Bridge. The main contention to getting money was the congestion charge. The main difference is in the Oxfordshire thinking, as the majority were against the bridge. MG said there were three options for Wokingham to vote on. Some people wouldn't vote for a congestion charge and there would be a lot of tactical voting involved.

Signs. John Argent's presentation on notices and traffic signs had been well received by both PCs. BH displayed a print of pictures associated with the survey. There were 23 signs relating to speed in Sonning Lane alone. As a result of the presentation two members of the Society had been co-opted onto Sonning P.C's Highways Committee. The P.C was working on a vision for the future. Eye & Dunsden P.C was much smaller, but very supportive. A county councillor who was present was also interested. Both P.Cs would like closer collaboration with the Society. Sonning P.C has one committee and several working groups. The Committee can make decisions. MG said that the SPC was working with S. Oxfordshire Trading Standards on HGV surveys. They would do the prosecuting with evidence supplied by the Highways Group. BH thanked everyone involved.

DC said that comments on PPS 15 had to be in by the deadline of 30 October.

5. EDUCATION PANEL. DC reported on the following:

Events

The Village Voices exhibition had been a resounding success. Mary Chapman thought there had been about 1,000 visitors, including some who went more than once. The article in the Parish Magazine distilled some of the comments in the Visitor's Book. Steve Chapman deserved a special mention at the AGM as he spent two nights sleeping in the Pearson Hall in the interests of security. Malcolm Stansfield had agreed to do a review for Bridge and include the fact that the exhibition will be moving to MERL in January. PF would draft a letter of thanks to all the Village Voices team, including Jeremy Gilmore.

Heritage Open Days Weekend. More than 80 people had attended the walks which were also praised.

24 October – Ali's Pond Clear up. Eight people had expressed interest and Ali was prepared to go ahead

January – April 2010. DC was thinking of organising 2 visits to see the Village Voices exhibition at MERL, possibly inviting people from other societies. AM said the exhibition had also given great pleasure to the contributors.

Bridge.

The deadline would be Sunday 22 November. There would be a slight change in format. Rather than a formal report from the new Panel, it might be helpful to have short paragraphs on news items, such as the street signage survey. A new distributor was needed, and CB said she thought she knew someone who would help.

Village Show. Hopefully the Society stand will be relocated in future and have a place closer to the 1st car park. The desirability of this was agreed.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT. AF had circulated the accounts. He pointed out that the deficit expenditure in the General Fund was due to the Village Voices expenditure. DC said this would be offset by the sale of DVDs which would also be available at MERL. Both JE and BH thanked AF for his clear reporting.

7. SOCIAL COMMITTEE. PF said members of the Committee had provided refreshments during the Village Voices Exhibition and helped to staff the Society stand at the Village Show. Plans for the AGM Supper were underway. Hopefully, it would be possible to have a Summer Luncheon in 2010. BH had spoken to the new owners of Sonningdene who were willing to have the event in their garden though it might be necessary to use Pearson Hall kitchen. PF/CB would speak to them and suggest 20 June 2010. Other dates to be aware of are VE Day (possible street party) 9th May. Scarecrows 30/31 May.

8.MEMBERSHIP. CB said there were 4 prospective new members. AF said membership had increased by 6% which was very positive.

9.AGM

New Secretary. BH said he was delighted that Any Bell had agreed to be nominated as the Society's new Honorary Secretary.

Treasurer. Under the terms of the Constitution, AF's term of office should end at the AGM after a three year term. However, he was prepared to continue and BH said he didn't want to lose him. Therefore, there was an opportunity to change the Constitution at the AGM, bringing the Treasurer's term of office up to 5 years together with those of the Chairman and Honorary Secretary. This was agreed and PF would draft an amendment and send it to BH for approval. This would then be included in the AGM papers and distributed to the membership no later than 24 October, giving 28 days notice of the change.

Other members of the Executive Committee. These were agreed.

Notice of the AGM was agreed.

Annual Report. DC said short reports would be needed from BH, Treasurer and Panel Chairmen, and where relevant include a list of panel members. The deadline was 7 November.

10.OTHER ORGANISATIONS AND SOCIETIES

DC had attended the Civic Trust recent meeting on behalf of the Society and had sent an excellent report to members of the Committee. She said there was a need to nurture a younger membership for the Trust and our Society.

11.CHRISTMAS CARDS

It was agreed not to pursue this at the present time, but to review the possibility in 2010.

12.ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) GR said it wasn't possible to do the Ipod walking/talking tour. BOC said he thought it might be, and would look into it. Ali Driver was also interested in a similar pod-casted walk along the towpath
- b) MG said the SPC were organising a tree planting event in King George's Field on 5 December and asked if the Society would like to purchase and plant a tree. After some discussion, it was decided not to take up this option.
- c) DC asked if the Society could promote the use of cycling and walking instead of driving. BH said he would give this some thought.
- d) Date of the next Executive meeting following the AGM. It was agreed that Wednesday 9 December would suit most members. PF would book the St. Sarik Room.
- e) MH asked that it be noted that he is away for the first two weeks of March, June, September and December so he would be unable to attend meetings scheduled during these periods.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 9:40p.m.

The AGM will be held in Pearson Hall at 7p.m for 7:15p.m on Saturday 21 November.

The next Executive Committee Meeting will be held in the St. Sarik Room at 8p.m on Wednesday 9 December.