

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SONNING PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING
COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 31 JANUARY 2011 AT 7.00PM IN THE
PAVILION, POUND LANE, SONNING.**

PRESENT: Pat Doyle (Chairman), Steve Chapman, Mark Green, Ian Runnalls. Lesley Bates (Clerk).

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Colin McCulloch (away), Anthony Farnese (delayed in Scotland), Vicky Reeve (recovering).

AGENDA

- a) Present.
- b) Apologies for Absence
- c) Declaration of Interest
- d) Minutes of 4 January 2011 to approve.
- e) Matters Arising/Updates.
- f) 30 Glebe Lane (F/2010/2841) Erection of first floor side extension, conversion of loft to habitable accommodation, insertion of rear dormer window plus erection of front porch extension. To agree comments. Deadline 01/02/11
- g) Model Farm Barn Enforcement Action – Planning Officers comments – to discuss.
- h) Conservation Area Assessment- Update
- i) Any matters considered urgent by the Chairman.
- j) Date of the Next Meeting.

683. DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

On planning application discussions, since Cllr. Chapman was a member of the Borough Council's Planning Committee, his views were expressed on the limited information before him only. He would reserve judgement and the independence to make up his own mind on each separate proposal as and when it came before the Borough's Planning Committee and heard all the relevant information. He would not in any way commit himself as to how he or others might vote when the committee came to consider a proposal.

684. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the last meeting, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

685. MATTERS ARISING.

The Chairman said that he had passed the Council's invitation, to attend the main February meeting with his landscape gardener, on to the owner of Bishops Close. Unfortunately the owner was not now available and it was agreed that the Chairman would extend the invitation for the March meeting. The Chairman said that the application at School Cottage had been approved. Conditions included the use of matching materials and the Chairman recommended that Councillors should read the officers report, which referred to the

building as a cart store. The Chairman said that the owner of Model Farm Barn was happy to meet him to explain the position. The WBC Planning Committee had made a site visit to 103a Pound Lane and the application was now on the WBC Planning agenda for discussion on 2 February. The Clerk would inform WBC that the Chairman would speak against the application. There was no news on the Birchley appeal. A new application for 1 Garde Road had been received. Country Cottage in the High Street had been sold at auction. A copy of a letter, which had been distributed to residents, had been received. The letter expressed concerns that that the principle of the Conservation Area was being undermined by recent planning applications. It was also being copied to the Sonning and Sonning Eye Society. It was agreed that this was probably a matter for consideration as part of the Conservation Area Assessment, where guidance on acceptable development could be set out.

686. 30 Glebe Lane. Following discussion it was agreed to say no comment.

687 Model Farm Barn Enforcement Action. The letter from Marcia Head was discussed in detail. Ms Head seemed particularly concerned that the owner's claim, that he was not aware that the property was subject to an enforcement order, would go in his favour in the event of a prosecution. Councillors failed to see the relevance of this, as it was a planning, rather than a civil matter. It was agreed that pressure should be put on WBC to set more robust time scales to prevent the situation running on and on. Mr Green asked how many enforcement actions WBC had taken over the past two years. Mr Chapman said approximately 350 investigations. These fell into three categories: 1, where the situation was easily resolved: 2, where the owner submitted a planning application: 3. (2%) where the owner was taken to court and the building had to be taken down. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to Ms Head summarising events leading up to the present situation and addressing each of Ms Head's comments in turn. A copy would be sent to Mr Ross. Mr Doyle was to meet the owner on 3 February.

688. MATTERS CONSIDERED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN.

The Chairman said that he understood that the owner of 24 West Drive had submitted a planning application for the unauthorised additions to the dwelling.

689. DATE OF THE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 16 February. The following scheduled meeting was for Monday 28 February.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.55pm

Signed.....Dated.....