

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SONNING PARISH COUNCIL
PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 5 OCTOBER 2015 AT
7.00PM THE PAVILION, POUND LANE, SONNING.**

PRESENT: Ian Runnalls (Chairman), Anthony Farnese, Trefor Fisher. Lesley Bates (Clerk).

APOLOGIES: Apologies had been received from Mr Morrison who was abroad.

AGENDA

- a) Present.
- b) Apologies for Absence
- c) Declaration of Interest
- d) Minutes of 21 September 2015 to approve.
- e) Updates.
- f) The Great House (152294). Consent to display one fascia sign to be externally illuminated, one hanging sign to be externally illuminated, one externally illuminated footpath sign and one set of non-illuminated flat cut letters to replace existing. To agree comments. (Deadline 16/10/15).
- g) Sonning Cutting Bridge (152297). Raise the height of bridge parapets to comply with electrification regulations. To agree comments. (Deadline 15/10/15).
- h) Conservation Area Assessment a) Any Update.
- i) Any matters considered urgent by the Chairman.
- j) Date of the Next Meeting.

1508. DECLARATION OF INTEREST/DISPENSATIONS.

There were no declarations.

1509. MINUTES.

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

1510. UPDATES.

There were no updates.

1511. THE GREAT HOUSE (152294).

The Chairman said that the application was retrospective, the signs had already been installed.

Sign on Thames Street. This was effectively two signs, with The Great House underneath the COPPA sign. Historically the main sign would have been the top sign i.e. The Great House and the reversal represented the loss of identity, especially as the sign now appeared to be in two parts. It was agreed to object to this sign for these reasons.

Roof Sign. The large COPPA sign, already on the building, was in close proximity to Sonning Bridge, a listed building, and was an advertisement for a chain of clubs. In a Conservation Area lettering should be no more than 0.3 metres in height and the top of the letters should be no more than 3.6 metres above ground level. The sign should not have its highest part above the level of the bottom of the first-floor window in the wall where the advertisement is. The proposed sign was 4.85 metres above ground level. The sign was illuminated and this was not permitted in a Conservation Area. It was agreed to object to this sign for these reasons.

Sign in Garden By Sonning Bridge. The sign was within a short distance of the listed Sonning Bridge and was essentially two signs COPPA and The Great House. It was agreed that the result was the loss of identity of the Hotel and preferably the top sign should say The Great House.

The historic name of the Ferryman's Bar reflected the long history of the Hotel and referred to the Hotel being built on the site of Elias the Ferryman's (1100 AD) cottage. The renaming of the bar represented a further loss of the historic identity of the building.

1512. SONNING CUTTING BRIDGE (152297).

This was for essential work to raise the parapet as a safety measure required in order to comply with electrification regulations. Following discussion it was agreed to say no comment.

1513: CONSERVATION AREA ASSESSMENT

The Conservation Officer had sent an update. The main phases were 1. The Strategic Environmental Assessment Consultation: 2. Draft CAA formatted and photos/maps / diagrams complete: 3. Public Consultation: 4. Review Responses: 5. Executive for Adoption. WBC hoped to be in a position to go out to consultation in December, this would take 6 weeks but could take longer as it included the Christmas period. Depending on a number of issues the final stage, Executive for Adoption might not be until June 2016. Mr Bell said that WBC were proposing to remove the list of Heritage assets, the Society had no objection. The Clerk said that these had been included as a matter of interest, at the suggestion of the Director of the Association of Small Towns. They would only be necessary if Sonning decided to produce a costly Neighbourhood Plan.

1514. MATTERS CONSIDERED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN.

The Chairman said that he had observed a flagpole on the Great House.

1515. DATE OF THE OF THE NEXT MEETING. The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 21 October at 7.00pm.

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