

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SONNING PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING  
COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2019 AT 6.00PM IN THE  
PAVILION, POUND LANE, SONNING.**

PRESENT: Mr A Farnese (Chairman), Mr T Fisher, Mr P Morrison. 2 Visitor. Mrs L Bates (Clerk).

APOLOGIES: There were apologies from Mrs Harvey (working) and Mr Morrison (holiday). The Chairman welcomed all those present.

**AGENDA**

- a) Present.
- b) Apologies for Absence
- c) Declaration of Interest
- d) Minutes of 18 September 2019 to approve.
- e) Updates
- f) RBCS (192293). Full application for the erection/construction of an electricity sub-station to serve approved grounds Maintenance & Activity Centre. 01/10/19
- g) Neighbourhood Plan – Update on meeting with WBC.
- h) Any matters considered urgent by the Chairman
- i) Date of the Next Meeting.

1334. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. There were none.

1335. MINUTES. The Minutes of the previous meeting, having been circulated were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

1336. UPDATES.

- a) The Chairman said that applications Sonning Golf Club (191164): TVP Building 1 Thames Valley Park Drive Earley (191243): RH&CC Sonning Lane (191555): 35 West Drive (191205): The Atrium (191808): 37 Glebe Lane (192191): 29 West Drive (191767), had all been approved. The appeal at 22 Pound lane had been dismissed. There were three new applications, Reading Blue Coat School (192293). Full application for the erection/construction of an electricity sub-station to serve approved grounds Maintenance & Activity Centre: South Meadow Cottage (192249). Full application for the proposed change of use of existing lower ground floor bedroom and en-suite WC (Use Class C3) to fitness training studio with associated WC (Use Class D2) and 11 South Drive (192182). Full application for proposed erection of one 5no. bedroom dwelling with associated landscaping and car parking, following the demolition of existing dwelling.

1337. RBCS (192293)

The Chairman said that this was for an additional onsite electricity sub-station to supply the new maintenance and activity centre (theatre). The theatre itself would require a three phase supply for the stage lighting. The Clerk had asked for details about the supply to the new sub-station but although there had been an automatic acknowledgement there had been no response. There were no objections to the sub-station itself, which was a simple utility building, however it was located close to the boundary with Inglewood Nursery School and there were concerns about the proximity of such high voltage facility to the nursery, serving such young children, the disruption to the area when excavating a trench for the new supply and general disruption to neighbours and the landscape. Following discussion it was agreed to advise WBC of the above concerns.

1338. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN.

The Clerk had done a short summary of the meeting held at Shute End that the Chairman, Mr Fisher, Mr Gilmore (Society) and the Clerk had attended. James McCabe had offered a meeting to discuss the way forward on a neighbourhood Plan for Sonning. Discussions included the following.

To include the Whole parish or part in the NP. It was agreed that it was simpler if the whole parish were included and not to include Sonning Eye. Working with Eye & Dunsden could be useful if information could be shared. Wayne Smith (Hurst Councillors) could assist but the main contact would be James McCabe (WBC). First step to apply to WBC to declare the Parish as a Neighbourhood Area. WBC would supply the map and LB would draft a form of words and submit to James McCabe once SPC had approved it.

Costs were an unknown as much depended on the size of parish how involved the proposals were, what professional help was required. Savings could be made if residents could offer expertise but £20,000 - £40,000 was possible.

How long. Larger parishes such as Shinfield took 5 years 20012-2017 (start to adoption). Average 3-4 years.

Grants. Up to a maximum of £9,000 for a basic grant could be claimed but to be spent within 12 months or by the year end of the financial year it is awarded in, whichever was the shortest. Additional grant funding of up to £8,000 could be available depending if the scheme met the criteria, such as allocating sites for housing, and was for technical support. A new pilot scheme being run during 2019/20 was available if the scheme included affordable housing forward, for up to £10000. The maximum of each type of grant may not be awarded initially but further claims, up to the maximum, could be made later. All subject to eligibility.

Keep in touch. It was important to keep in touch with WBC and arrange regular meeting. Important to get residents involved and consult them as soon as possible.

A short discussion about the WBC Local Plan had be undertaken. WBC would be consulting on their Draft in the autumn. WBC did not allocate housing on a share across parishes basis, other criteria were used such as where housing was needed, assessment of sites, land availability. SPC could submit comments on the additional sites if wished but would have an opportunity in the autumn as part of the consultation. Concerns expressed by SPC – infrastructure (the lack of it) and the effect on the community. Additional traffic generated by new housing.

The next stage would be for SPC and the Society to put ideas together that could be presented to residents at a public meeting in order to assess support.

1339: MATTERS CONSIDERED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN.

There were no urgent matters.

1340. DATE OF THE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next planning meeting would be held on Wednesday 16 October 2019 at 6.00pm in the Pavilion.

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

