

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF SONNING PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING  
COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 17 AUGUST 2020 AT 6.00PM AT VARIOUS  
LOCATIONS IN SONNING VIA SKYPE.

PRESENT: Mr A E Farnese (Chairman), Mr T Fisher, Mr P Morrison. 1 Visitor.  
Mrs L Bates (Clerk).

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Mrs J Harvey.  
The Chairman welcomed Mrs Fielder for stepping in at the last minute and Mrs Harvey.

**AGENDA**

- a) Present.
- b) Apologies for Absence
- c) Declaration of Interest
- d) Minutes of the Previous meeting (20 July 2020)
- e) Updates
- f) Land South of Old Bath Road (201833). Outline application with Appearance and landscaping reserved for the proposed 57 dwellings suitable for older persons accommodation (Use Class C3) with consideration of means of access, layout and scale to be determined. Following demolition of existing dwellings. 20/08/20
- g) New Government Guidelines for Planning
- h) Neighbourhood Plan – Any update.
- i) Any matters considered urgent by the Chairman
- j) Date of the Next Meeting.

1425. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no Declarations of Interest.

1426. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

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

1427. UPDATES.

The Chairman said that following applications had been approved. Sonning Golf Club (200951). :The Atrium (201262): Sonning Dene Pearson Road (201363): Sonning Dene (201417): Little Barn Holme Park Farm Lane Woodley (201207). Application Sonning Court Thames St (201358) had been withdrawn.

1428: LAND SOUTH OF OLD BATH ROAD (201833)

The Chairman said that application was to build 57, 1- and 2-bedroom, luxury, retirement flats, in 3 blocks and demolishing the existing large detached dwellings. Other similar flats in the surrounding parishes remained unsold several months after they had been marketed. There were concerns as to the need for such flats and the possibility of selling off to young people was another concern. The site, next to Sunrise, was some distance from facilities, Sonning was a Limited development Area as it had no basis facilities, no shops, doctors and no post office. The position was totally unsuitable, surrounded by large detached dwelling in large, well screened form each other by high hedges and mature trees. The access onto the A4 was already a problem both in accessing into the fast-flowing traffic and for pedestrians crossing to access the village. Mr Fisher

said that there would be a lot of CIL money available but that did not compensate for the impact such a large development would have on local facilities and the infrastructure. AS the Chairman had mentioned, many flats in the McCarthy and Stone development in Twyford remained unsold. Although identified as for those over 60 their partners could be younger and even 60 year olds were still working so it was unreasonable to say that the residents would be unlikely to want to leave or return to the development during peak times and have less impact on the community than younger ones. To have 57 dwelling in place of 3 could only have a negative impact on the area, particularly as there were no doctors in Sonning. The existing dwellings were surrounded by trees, some of which were to be felled, and dense hedging, also to be removed. Mr Morrison said that there were a lot of objections on the website and the local MP' had made a strong case against the proposal. Mr Halliday said that everyone knew the existing traffic problems, far too many vehicles in a small area. Following discussion, it was agreed to object strongly to the proposal.

1429: NEW GOVERNMENT PLANNING GUIDELINES.

The Chairman said this would need to be looked at in some details and the Clerk agreed to put it on the agenda for 1 September.

1430: NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN.

The Clerk said that Mr Gilmore was proposing to hold a meeting immediately following the next planning meeting on 1 September.

1431: MATTERS CONSIDERED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN.

There were no urgent matters..

1432. DATE OF THE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next scheduled planning meeting would be held on Monday 1 September in the Pavilion Pound lane at 6.00pm .

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