

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SONNING PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 16 DECEMBER 2020 AT 6.00PM VIA SKYPE IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN SONNING

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

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Mrs J Harvey and Mr J Halliday. The Chairman welcomed all those present

AGENDA

- a) Present.
- b) Apologies for Absence
- c) Declaration of Interest
- d) Minutes of 2 and 30 November 2020 to approve.
- e) Updates.
- f) Holme Park Sports Ground APPEAL APP/X0360/W/20/3260833. Full application for the erection of a single storey detached, dwelling to include 2No rooflights and 9No photovoltaic panels following the demolition of the existing buildings including sports club changing Facilities, club bar and external store. Comment to Planning Inspectorate by 21 Dec. '20 Details under 201409 on WBC website.
- g) Sonning Church of England School (203230). Full application for the proposed erection of a detached, single storey building to create a drama and music studio with associated facilities. 27/12/20
- h) 103 a Pound Lane (203293). Householder application for the proposed erection of a single storey outbuilding to form a swimming pool enclosure with decking to replace the existing retractable glass enclosure, plus a single storey plant room following the removal of existing shed. 31/12/20
- i) Neighbourhood Plan – Update
- j) Any matters considered urgent by the Chairman
- k) Date of the Next Meeting.

1458. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no Declarations of Interest.

1459. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

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

1460. UPDATES.

- a) The Chairman said that application 203230, Sonning School, had been invalidated by WBC and returned to the applicant to amend. A further consultation period would begin once the application had been amended and validated. No new application had been received.

1461: APPEAL HOLME PARK SPORTS GROUND APP/X0360/W/20/3260833

Mr Fisher said that the appellant tried to persuade that having a bungalow on the site was a bonus rather than a change of use, however the application was for full planning permission. There were other issues, they referred to the site as 'brownfield', when it was 'countryside' and that it was in-line with NPPF. This was incorrect as the NPPF -97 said 'existing open spaces should not be built

on unless it could be shown that they were no longer needed for sports'. WBC Landscape Architect, Brigitte Crafer, had said 'The site is located in the countryside within an area of moderate landscape character that benefits from a setting akin to parkland with a wide buffer of trees between it and Sonning Lane. Policy CP11 of the CS applies'. The appellants had now erected a fence around the site to give the impression that it was a building plot, whereas the sportsground had included a much larger area of land and a tennis court, which had been removed. Mr Morrison mentioned the seven sites in Sonning that WBC had had considered for development as part of the Local Plan and the Holme Park Sports ground had not even been considered. All seven sites had been ruled out as unsustainable. The Chairman said that it wasn't so long ago that he had played rugby at the Club and made use of the showers. Following discussion, it was agreed to submit further objections based on the above.

1462: 103 a POUND LANE (203293)

The Chairman, Mr Fisher and Mr Morrison were concerned about the size of the proposed building, which was significantly larger and higher than the existing building and the pool, it included an exceptionally large plant room. It wasn't the most attractive building and was out of keeping with the area. Following discussion, it was agreed to object for the above reasons and ask, if WBC were of a mind to approve the application, that a condition limiting the use to that of a residential swimming pool was imposed.

1463: NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN.

The Chairman said that he had waded through the document and given his views to his team leader (Mr Fisher). It wasn't clear if there would be an online document or just the hard copy delivered to every household. It was a weighty document, 27 pages long and he questioned if all residents would read the whole thing. The community was becoming more diverse, with different religions and ways of life. The Chairman did feel that Mr Gilmore had done an excellent job and was to be congratulated. There was the River to consider, there was no mention of managing it or ongoing dredging. Mr Morrison questioned if WBC would devolve some powers to parishes. Mr Fisher said there were some typos and parts were repetitive, which needed to be corrected. The next stage would be for the document to go back to the panel for comments. The Society sent a copy to Mrs May (MP) and then met her remotely. Mrs May had said the draft document was comprehensive and impressive. The next meeting would be on 21 December and in the meantime volunteers, such as Mrs Halliday, were reviewing and commenting on the draft document. It was hoped to deliver the completed document in the New Year.

1464: MATTERS CONSIDERED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN.

There were no urgent matters.

1465. DATE OF THE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next scheduled planning meeting would be held on Monday 4 January at 6.00 pm via Skype.

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