

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SONNING PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 1 MARCH 2021 AT 6.00PM VIA SKYPE IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN SONNING**

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

APOLOGIES: There were no apologies. The Chairman welcomed all those present.

**AGENDA**

- a) Present.
- b) Apologies for Absence
- c) Declaration of Interest
- d) Minutes of 17 February 2020 to approve.
- e) Updates.
- f) Microsoft Campus Building 5 (210377), Full application for the proposed erection of a replacement front entrance canopy, reconfiguration of basement and provision of new external stairs and steps to basement level. 10/03/21
- g) Microsoft Campus Building 5 (210435), Application to remove condition 4 of planning consent VAR/2007/1716 for the Proposed variation to condition 9 of consent RM/2000/2543 for the use of part of the undercroft as a gymnasium. Condition 4 refers to the fitness centre and the variation is to widen the use of the gym. 09/03/21
- h) Reading Golf Club Application (210018). 257 New Dwellings on part of Golf Club
- i) Neighbourhood Plan – Update
- j) Any matters considered urgent by the Chairman
- k) Date of the Next Meeting.

1473. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no Declarations of Interest.

1474. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Mr Fisher said that SPC's contribution to the Pavilion was £120.00 not £130,00. The minutes, having been amended and previously circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

1475. UPDATES.

The Chairman said that there were a lot of applications for tree works.

1476: MICROSOFT (210377)

The Chairman said that there he had the usual concerns about the effect increasing the use of the site would have on traffic, drainage etc and the work had already started. Mr Halliday said he had no objections in principle as most things were already catered for. Mr Morrison said that he had no objection if most traffic came from Woodley but there would probably be a small amount for the Sonning area. Mr Fisher thought the existing link from the A329 would be used. Following discussion, it was agreed that the main entrance was an improvement and to support the application.

1477. MICROSOFT (2104377)

The Chairman said that he thought that opening the gym up to the public would intensify the use of the site and attract additional traffic. Mr Halliday said that he knew the site and thought the gym would be used mostly by the staff in the surrounding buildings. The building was currently empty and empty building were likely to attract unwelcome attention. Following discussion, it was agreed to say that SPC could find no reason to object.

1479. READING GOLF CLUB

The Chairman said that he knew the site and it in a beautiful location with lovely views across the surrounding area. It was a shame to see the Golf Clubs demise. Mr Morrison said that the main issue was the effect 270 houses would have on the traffic in Sonning. It was agreed that it definitely would. Mr Fisher said that the site would potentially produce 500 car movements, a third bridge would make a difference but that was unlikely to be built in the near future. Following discussion it was agreed to object to the proposal and to put it on the agenda for discussion at the Min meeting due to the timescale.

1480: NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN.

Mr Fisher said that Mr Gilmore was still working on the questionnaire and in particular which of the site WBC had consulted on previously should be included. Readingensians had now been mentioned on the WBC website and there was a feeling that resident's opinions should be sought on all the sites. No deadline had been set for delivery of the questionnaire. Mr Morrison said there were discussions about the options for paying the printers.

1481: MATTERS CONSIDERED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN.

The Chairman said he was grateful to Mr Fisher for surveying the street lights.

1482. DATE OF THE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next scheduled planning meeting would be held on Wednesday 17 March at 6.00 pm via Skype.

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