

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SONNING PARISH COUNCIL  
PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7 MAY 2014 AT  
6.30PM IN THE PEARSON HALL, PEARSON ROAD, SONNING.**

PRESENT: Pat Doyle (Chairman), Anthony Farnese, Sid Liddiard, Ian Runnalls.  
Lesley Bates (Clerk), 1 Visitor.

APOLOGIES: There were no apologies.

**AGENDA**

- a) Present.
- b) Apologies for Absence
- c) Declaration of Interest
- d) Minutes of 16 April 2014 to approve.
- e) Updates.
- f) 15 Pound Lane (F/2014/0720). Erection of a single storey rear extension to south east corner and single storey infill extension to rear north east corner. To agree comments. Deadline 13/05/14.
- g) Sonning Farm Charvil Lane (F/2014/0707). Erection of 3 double span poly tunnels plus erection of shed & 3 water storage tanks. To agree comments. Deadline 20/05/14.
- h) Sonning Golf Club (F/2014/0744). Erection of new entrance gates/boundary fence and hedge plus formation of new kitchen store (part retrospective). (Amendment to planning consent F/2011/1654.) To agree comments. Deadline 22/05/14
- i) Conservation Area Assessment a) Update.
- j) Neighbourhood Plan
- k) Any matters considered urgent by the Chairman.
- l) Date of the Next Meeting.

1286. DECLARATION OF INTEREST/DISPENSATIONS.

Mr Liddiard, as the immediate neighbour to 15 Pound Lane, would have a prejudicial interest.

1287. MINUTES.

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

1288. UPDATES.

The Chairman said that there had been a lot of publicity regarding the Church development, particularly in regard to the need to raise £400,000. The Chairman understood that the number of planning appeals had increased due to the vagaries of the new regulations in the National Planning Policy Framework. The MDD was good but was still vague on some issues. Without policies to pin their decision on Planning Inspectors had no option but to allow appeals. There was some movement at August Field and a new application could be in the offing.

1289. 15 POUND LANE (F/2014/0720).

Mr Runnalls said this was for two, small, single storey rear, side extensions. Both neighbours had been consulted and they had no objections. Following discussion it was agreed to say no comment

1290. SONNING FARM (F/2014/0707).

The Chairman said that this was for three, two bay, telescopic poly tunnels, each 30 metres long and 6.5 metres wide, where a study of experimental fruit would be undertaken. The application was very detailed with a comprehensive Visual Impact Assessment and Ecological Assessment. The proposal included extensive screening including a timber post/wire mesh stock proof fence and wind breaks created by the use of bushes. There was no indication of how long the study would last. Following discussion it was agreed that this use of the Farm was to be welcomed and to support the application.

1291: SONNING GOLF CLUB (F/2013/0744)

Mr Farnese said that most of the work had already been completed. Following discussion it was agreed to say no comment.

The Chairman said that the flags on the front hoarding to the old Fire Station had been removed but the owner would be putting in a retrospective planning application.

The Chairman would be speaking about bonfires at the APM. The Clerk would copy the email from Mr Mann regarding bonfires to everyone.

1292. CONSERVATION AREA ASSESSMENT

The Chairman said that the document would be completed by early June. Mr Driver had almost completed the ecological report.

1293: NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS

The Chairman said that Neighbourhood Plans were essentially about development, and there were few opportunities in Sonning. Mr Farnese said that the University farmland at Shinfield had been developed, fortunately the farmland at Sonning had not been identified for development. Mr Liddiard said there were other large areas of land that could be vulnerable such at the sports grounds at the top of Sonning Lane. The Chairman said that if there was a demand for self-build Councils would have to release land for this purpose. Mr Liddiard said that there were more favourable VAT deals for self-build. He had looked at Thame to see how they had coped with the required housing provision. Thame had split the requirement into lots of small sites rather than one or two large ones but it had still resulted, from memory, in an increase in the number of houses in Thame.

1294 MATTERS CONSIDERED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN.

The Chairman said that Oxfordshire were considering three options for repairing the Playhatch Road but there was no indication about when repairs might begin.

1295 DATE OF THE OF THE NEXT MEETING. The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 21 May at 7.00pm.

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