

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SONNING PARISH COUNCIL  
PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16 MARCH 2016 AT  
6.30PM THE PAVILION, POUND LANE, SONNING.**

PRESENT: Mr A E Farnese (Chairman), Mr T Fisher, Mrs S Jacobs, Mr P Morrison. Mrs L Bates (Clerk), 4 Visitors.

APOLOGIES: Mr Runnalls had sent his apologies (holiday). The Chairman welcomed everyone.

**AGENDA**

- a) Present.
- b) Apologies for Absence
- c) Declaration of Interest
- d) Minutes of 29 February 2016 to approve.
- e) Updates.
- f) Pavilion, Holme Park Sports Ground (amendment to planning permission F/2014/2196 to approved sports and physiotherapy clinic building involving reorientation, redesign, improved landscaping and parking provision.) (Amended plans). To agree comments. Deadline 17/03/16).
- g) 51 Pound Lane (160376) Erection of a single storey front extension to form porch. To agree comments. (Deadline 14/03/16).
- h) The Great House (F/2015/0823). Extension and re-modelling of ground floor event and function rooms (amended plans (2)). To agree comments. (Deadline 01/03/16).
- i) Conservation Area Assessment a) Any Update.
- j) Any matters considered urgent by the Chairman.
- k) Date of the Next Meeting.

1578. DECLARATION OF INTEREST/DISPENSATIONS.

There were no declarations of interest.

1579. MINUTES.

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

1580. UPDATES.

The Chairman said that that there were no updates.

1581. THE PAVILION HOLME PARK SPORTS - REVISED PLANS.

The Chairman said that this was on a good sized plot where it might be expected to see a large detached house and he was worried about it being a commercial project incorporating a medical facility, which required special approval. Mr Fisher said that he had seen the original application, prior to the amendments. Having considered the amendments, Mr Fisher was still of the opinion that the proposal was for the wrong facility, more suitable for a built up area, not in the countryside. Mr O'Donnell said that he was a consultant specialising in setting up hyperbaric and physiotherapy clinics. He appreciated the neighbour's concerns but they were emotive, the chambers could not explode. The chambers were filled with air, not oxygen. Dr Jones said that there were 60 chambers across the country and in forty years not one of them had exploded. There was air in the chamber and air did not explode. Oxygen was drawn in when patients breathed it in and there was a valve to prevent the oxygen flowing in unaided. Mr Fisher reminded everyone about Apollo 1. Dr Jones said that each chamber was tested 16 times and there had been no problems with the chamber at Reading University. Mr Fisher said that it had been stated at the appeal that the physiotherapy clinic would attract local sports-men and asked what percentage of patients

would be local. Dr Jones said that the clinic would be open to anyone who needed to use it and the chamber was just one element, it was difficult to say what percentage. It was a facility that could attract elite athletes. Mr Fisher said that it was understood that there was a chamber in Reading and Dr Jones said that one was for the treatment of MS sufferers. Mr Fisher suggested that only a small percentage of users would be local and Dr Jones said that the expectation was for patients to be local but there would be other users, it was important for injuries to be treated as soon as possible. Mr Fisher said there was concern about the amount of traffic generated by the clinic but Dr Jones said it would not be dozens of vehicles. Mr Morrison said that the facility had to be well used in order to repay the investment and that, in order to obtain financial backing, there had to be a business plan, including the projected numbers of users, were these figures available. Mr O'Donnell agreed there was a plan but he could not provide the details as it was confidential. Mr Thorpe said that the original application had been for six treatment rooms but the latest proposal only had five plus the hyperbaric chamber, a consulting room and a waiting room. The hyperbaric chamber represented less than one third of the area. Mr Fisher said that the Inspector had only agreed to the building being used for physiotherapy and the hyperbaric chamber represented a large percentage of the use and could not be considered to be an 'ancillary' use. The Chairman asked why the facility at Reading University had closed and Dr Jones said he had cancelled the lease in the expectation of moving the facility to the National Sporting Centre at Bisham Abbey but this had not materialised. Mr Thorpe said that the Park and Ride facility at RRFC had been discontinued so this should have reduced the amount of traffic. Mr Bell, said that he lived at the top of Sonning Lane and the traffic was no better and the junction with the A4 was very dangerous. People often took chances, when exiting from Sonning Lane onto the A4, and there had been several accidents recently. The Chairman said that traffic was spoiling Sonning and the drains were very poor, dating back to Victorian times. They were often and silted up and under pressure, any additional facility would have a detrimental effect. While the facility itself might be of some benefit it was what went with it that was cause for concern, The application was just one of a number of proposals, which affected residents and with no third bridge in sight and the extension of the Lafarge gravel extraction the whole area was under pressure. He appreciated the input from everyone but, having discussed the proposal thoroughly, proposed objecting to the application and this was unanimously agreed.

The Chairman asked Mr Bell what the Society's view was. Mr Bell said that the proposal was in the wrong place, not in line with the appeal decision and that the hyperbaric chamber had no connection with a physiotherapy clinic.

1582: 51 POUND LANE (160376).

Following discussion it was agreed to say no comment.

1583. THE GREAT HOUSE (F/2015/0823).

Following discussion it was agreed to say no comment.

1584. CONSERVATION AREA ASSESSMENT.

There were no updates.

1585: MATTERS CONSIDERED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN.

There were no urgent matters.

1586: DATE OF THE OF THE NEXT MEETING. The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 5 April at 6.30pm.

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

