

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SONNING PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 6 APRIL 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 29 March 2021 to approve.
- e) Updates.
- f) Berkshire County Sports Club (210694). Full application for the proposed extension of existing Berkshire County Sports Club car park adjacent to Sonning Lane with associated erection of new floodlighting. 10/04/21.
- g) Weir House (210925). Householder application for the proposed erection of a single storey side and rear extension to existing dwelling following demolition of existing side and rear conservatories, plus erection of first floor balcony to rear and changes to fenestration. 16/04/21
- h) Bank Cottage Holme Park Far, (210826). Full application for the proposed erection of 1no. detached dwelling with associated garaging, following demolition of existing dwelling and outbuildings. 17/04/21
- i) 35 West Drive (210919). Application to vary condition 2 of planning consent 191205 for the Full planning application for the replacement dwelling with integral garage following demolition of existing dwelling, garage and outbuildings. Condition 2 refers to Approved details and the variation is to substitute the approved plans. 17/04/21)
- j) Neighbourhood Plan – Update
- k) Any matters considered urgent by the Chairman.
- l) Date of the Next Meeting.

1500. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no Declarations of Interest.

1501. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

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

1502. UPDATES.

The Chairman said that the following applications had been approved: Little Barn Holme Park Farm Lane (210270), Sonning Church of England School (203230) and 26 Sonning Meadows (210379). The following new applications had been received:

1503: BERKSHIRE SPORTS (210694)

The Chairman said This was to extend the existing car park adjacent to Sonning Lane to accommodate 168 car park spaces and 10 coaches situated along the boundary with Sonning Lane. The car parking would reduce to approximately 120 car park spaces when the coaches were in use due to the need for wider turning circles. The plan also included the introduction of 12 additional

floodlights. RBCS were to use the car park during the day and Berkshire Sports in the evening. It was in association with the RBCS proposal to increase the pupil numbers from 825 to 1100. The grounds were owned by WBC but leased to Berkshire Sports and WBC should not be encouraging additional car use due to the increase in traffic and pollution in Sonning. The increase in parking spaces would only increase the number of vehicles on Sonning roads and further destroy the green spaces in Sonning, adding to the pollution in the area. Mr Fisher had spoken the RBCS headmaster and had mentioned the possibility of parking at Reading Rugby FC, where there was extensive car parking that was unused during the day. This would be a greener option. Mr Morrison said that he didn't know if there was a need for Berkshire Sports to extend their car park it seemed mainly for the RBCS. The Chairman said that the exit from Berkshire Sports was directly opposite the RBCS exit and onto a busy road, making this a very difficult junction to negotiate at times. When the football season started footballers parked in Holmemoor Drive and crossed the busy and dangerous A4 in preference to parking in the club car park to avoid queuing to get into the car park and out. Any increase in Club membership would exacerbate these difficulties. Mr Halliday agreed that the area was impossible to negotiate at times due to the queues of traffic. Following discussion, it was agreed to object to the proposal for the above reasons.

1504: WEIR HOUSE (210925).

The Chairman said that this was a well-known house in a prominent position next to the Lock Keepers house and he was aware that it flooded on occasion. Mr Morrison said the house was ripe for improvement and the proposal would be beneficial. The building was on plinths, which acted as a flood defence. Mr Fisher agreed that the proposal was an improvement and would tidy the area up. Following discussion, it was agreed to say that SPC had carefully considered the application but could find no reason to object.

1505: 35 WEST DRIVE (210919).

Mr Fisher said that this property already had planning permission and the work had begun, the building took up the whole width of the plot. The proposal was to substitute the approved details with, amongst other things a front portico, two rear balconies to two bedrooms and revisions to the driveway. Following discussion, it was agreed to say that SPC could find no reason to object.

1506: NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN.

Mr Morrison said that postage paid envelopes were to be included with the Questionnaire to encourage returns, Mr Fisher said that proposals to develop Readingensians and Holme Park Farm were now to be included in the Questionnaire, as it would be important to know what residents thought if these translated into planning applications. The decision by the WBC Planning Committee to approve the application at Land South of Old Bath Road (201833) for three blocks of 3 storey flats, was very unpopular. It was agreed that Mr Fisher's draft letter, objecting to the process at the planning meeting as undemocratic, and that the officers had provided uninformed answers about the location to questions from the committee should be sent to the WBC CEO, the Leader of WBC and the Executive member for Planning.

1507: MATTERS CONSIDERED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN.

There were no urgent matters.

1508. DATE OF THE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next planning meeting would be held on Monday 26 April at 6.00 pm via Skype.

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