

Minutes of the Planning, Highways and Transport Committee held on Thursday 13th March 2014 in the Council Chamber, Alnwick at 6.00pm

Present: Cllrs R Roberts (Chairman), P Allcroft, P Broom, D Farrar, M Harrington, P Holt, J Humphries, G Mavin, K Moore, and A Symmonds.

In attendance: A Shilton, W Batey, Town Clerk, J Pibworth, Administration Assistant

P54/13 Apologies

Councillor Gridale.

P55/13 Declarations of Interest

None.

P56/13 Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 13th February 2014 were approved and they were duly signed by the Committee Chairman.

P57/13 Matters Arising

Councillor Holt expressed concern regarding the wording Northumberland County Council are using to reflect the feedback given by Alnwick Town Council about planning applications. This was as a result of the way the Town Council's comments regarding the proposed housing estate at Greensfield had been reported at the NCC Planning Meeting.

The Town Clerk explained that the comments sent to NCC were exactly as recorded in the Planning Committee minutes and these comments had been used by NCC, although they did interpret the comments as being against the application.

The Committee felt that in future the comments submitted to NCC needed to identify whether Alnwick Town Council supported, objected or were neutral on each planning application.

Councillor Harrington gave feedback on his site visit to the proposed Greensfield housing development. There was little to report, the site visit had pointed out the proposed development and its position in relation to other buildings and facilities in the area.

The Chairman gave updates on the outcomes of previous planning applications:

Bog Mill: planning permission - granted

Corn Exchange: Listed Building Consent (LBC) + planning permission - granted

4 Clive Terrace: LBC + planning permission - refused

Councillor Broom asked if the approval for Wetherspoon's had included the conditions the Town Council had suggested. It was confirmed that it did.

P58/13 To minute responses made since last meeting

Since the last meeting there had been 3 responses sent by email to NCC:

14/00381/FUL Land East of Belvedere Terrace, Erection of painted estate fence and matching gate - no objection

Resubmission of 13/03015/FUL, Land East of Belvedere Terrace, Erection of timber framed clad garden shed and erection of steel painted estate fence and matching gates - no objection

14/00476/LBC, 1 Percy Villas, Percy Terrace, Listed Building Consent for proposed sun lounge - no objection

P59/13 Appeal Against Decision - Former Arriva Bus Depot, Lisburn Terrace

The original application for a Residential Care Home had been rejected by Alnwick Town Council, recommended for approval by the NCC Planning Officer but refused by the NCC Planning Committee. An appeal had been made to the Secretary of State and the Town Council were being asked if they wished to amend their comments.

After discussions the Committee agreed that they had no reason to change their opinion and that their original comments should stand.

RESOLVED: There be no change to the Committee's original comments regarding the Former Arriva Bus Depot, Lisburn Terrace.

P60/13 Planning Applications

The following applications were discussed and comments were made as listed:

14/00309/FUL 111 Windsor Gardens, single storey extension to the rear, side and front elevations - **No objections**

14/00533/LBC 1 Clayport Street, LBC for new reinforced cast stone lintel to entrance porch as well as rebuilding the existing upper wall in new sandstone - **No objections**

14/00655/COU 143 Bondgate Within, Change of Use of Ground floor from A1(retail) to class A2 (financial and professional services). The majority of the Committee felt that as this is a prime retail site it should be kept as such - **The Town Council objects to the application as it feels that the premises should be retained as a prime retail site.**

P61/13 Any Other Urgent Business

Councillor Moore asked if anything can be done to get rid of the Closing Down signs in the window of Collectables on Bondgate Within. **ACTION:** Town Clerk to contact Collectables administrators and enquire.

Councillor Broom gave details of a couple of requests he had had from the public. The first was about Pickwick Lane where there is ceiling debris on the floor. Councillor Moore explained that he has sent an email / photo to NCC. The second was about Lindisfarne Road and the amount of vehicles dumped by parents when schools were coming out. **ACTION:** Town Clerk to contact NCC and pass on the comment that we have had complaints from residents about parking in Lindisfarne Road.

Councillor Farrar asked if a parking review will be part of this committee's remit. The Town Clerk explained that it would be.

Councillor Farrar said the procedure needed to be determined regarding Alnwick Town Council's speaking on Alnwick planning applications at North Area Planning meetings. Councillor Harrington commented that he felt that anyone going to NCC planning meetings should adhere to the comments agreed at the Town Council Planning Committee Meetings. Councillor Holt reiterated that it was important that the Town Council's views were communicated at meetings. Councillor Humphries felt it was important that someone verbally reiterates the written comments sent through to NCC at the appropriate meetings. **ACTION:** Town Clerk to draft a document for the next Planning Committee meeting about the procedure for Alnwick Town Council to participate in public speaking at North Area Planning meetings.

Councillor Moore commented that there is still an issue with Mr Hopper parking vehicles outside and to rear of Alnwick Youth Hostel on Green Batt. He was also now allegedly parking pickups around the town. **ACTION:** Town Clerk to notify NCC and pass on this comment.

Councillor Mavin felt that there was also an issue with cars parking at the top of The Peth. **ACTION:** Town Clerk to contact NCC and ask for the road at the top of The Peth to be made a no parking area.

The meeting closed at 6.58 pm.