

**Minutes of the Planning, Highways and Transport Committee held on Thursday 10th July 2014 in the Council Chamber, Alnwick at 6.00pm**

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

**In attendance:** W Batey, Town Clerk, J Pibworth, Administration Assistant.

**P14/10 Apologies**

Cllr Grisdale.

**P14/11 Declarations of Interest**

None.

**P14/12 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 12th June 2014 were approved and they were duly signed by the Committee Chairman.

**P14/13 Matters Arising**

**P14/06 Responses since last meeting**

**14/01354/VARYCO** Former Cinema Corn Exchange (Proposed Weatherspoon's) Councillor Holt reported that there was an article in The Gazette about delays to the Weatherspoon development and asked if the committee knew anything about this. Councillor Farrar felt the delay was probably due to conditions Northumberland County Council (NCC) had put on the planning permission. Councillor Holt said she would like clarification from NCC. The Town Clerk will ask NCC for clarification.

**P14/08 Planning Applications**

**14/01136/LBC** The Valuation Office, Wagonway House - Councillor Farrar asked if there had been any update on our request for clarification on affordable housing. The Town Clerk said our comments had been included in our response but there was no update from NCC.

**P14/14 To Minute responses made since last meeting**

**14/01708/PRUTPO** 17 Fullers Walk. TPO removal of epicormic growth by 10%, pruning of branches heading towards house by 15% and dead wooding by 5% to one Oak tree - **NO OBJECTIONS AS LONG AS IT DOES NOT DAMAGE THE LONG TERM HEALTH OF THE TREE**

**14/01710/LBC** Oscars, 34 Narrowgate. LBC rebuilding of partially collapsed gable wall and internal structure - **NO OBJECTIONS**

**14/01709/LBC** 5 Prudhoe Street. LBC for proposed extension to link existing offshoot extension at rear of property. Various internal alterations. External works to reposition stone garden wall and renew yard - **NO OBJECTIONS**

## **P14/15 Planning Applications**

The following applications were discussed and comments made as listed:

### **14/01762/VARYCO Alnwick RC St Johns Aided School, Lisburn Street.**

#### **Application for extension of time limit to application A/2009/0034**

(Demolition of school, development of 29 residential dwellings) - Councillor Moore confirmed Alnwick Town Council had not objected to the original planning application so could see no reason not to grant the extension. Councillor Humphries asked why no work had started. The Town Clerk explained this was a Northumberland Estates application and they had probably been busy on other sites - **NO OBJECTIONS**

### **14/01882/CCD 3 Thornbrae Children's Home, Alnmouth Road.**

Change of Use from Children's home (Class C2) to residential dwelling (Class C3) - Councillor Broom asked if this had a covenant on it, as he understood it had been gifted by someone in the past for use as a children's home. Councillor Roberts said that covenants are not a planning issue but they are a legal one - **NO OBJECTIONS BUT WOULD LIKE NCC TO NOTE COMMENT ABOUT COVENANT**

**14/01897/FUL 62 Swansfield Park Road.** Single storey kitchen/sunroom extension to rear - **NO OBJECTIONS**

**14/01925/FUL 20 Oaky Balks.** Conversion of garage into Utility / Shower room and 4th bedroom. Works will require movement forward of front wall of garage and slight raising of flat garage roof - **NO OBJECTIONS**

## **P14/16 Parking Issues and free parking feedback**

The Town Clerk confirmed that NCC were logging all verbal feedback and feedback from Enforcement Officers. No feedback so far from the public only retailers about the lack of parking in Greenwell Lane. He confirmed that NCC are happy with the High School helping with surveys. NCC are organising a meeting with each of the four main market towns (including Alnwick) to review free parking.

**GREENWELL LANE** - Councillor Moore had received comments from a couple of residents about Greenwell Lane parking. The Town Clerk confirmed that there used to be short and long stay in Greenwell but it is now all day free. Councillor Broom felt that that workers were certainly parking closer to their workplaces. Councillor Humphries stated that NCC employees are using Greenwell car parks. Councillor Roberts felt it may have always been an issue.

**BAILIFFGATE / THE PETH** - Councillor Holt felt that parking was still a real safety issue. The Town Clerk confirmed that the issue had been raised with NCC and they have asked the Town Council to include this in their Local Transport Plan priorities for 2014/15.

**FENKLE STREET** - Councillor Harrington had received a letter from a retailer in Fenkle Street, and signed by a number of other businesses in the town, about the duration of parking in Fenkle Street. The Town Clerk said the two hour limit was put in place to get a turnover of cars. Councillor Moore asked if we could feed this into NCC. Councillor Symmonds thought the issue might actually be Greenwell Lane where they used to park all day. The Town Clerk confirmed he would write to the business owner who had written the letter explaining that the Town Council will refer their concern to NCC. Councillor Holt felt that as a lot of businesses had put their name to the letter the Town Council should refer their concerns.

**MARKET PLACE** - Councillor Broom reported that traders felt 1/2 hour parking was not long enough and that some customers had received parking tickets. Councillor Symmonds felt that 1/2 hour was sufficient and that the Town Council had received specific request for 1/2 hour parking in the town. Councillor Broom also reported that loading and unloading was a problem in the Market Place. A delivery van had been unable to park in the designated loading/unloading bays as they had been occupied by cars. Councillor Shilton felt that NCC vans needed reminding of the parking restrictions.

**LISBURN STREET** - Councillor Moore felt that parking was very limited for the size of the proposed development in Lisburn Street. The Town Clerk suggested raising the matter at the meeting with NCC asking them to consider the council's concerns about parking.

**GENERAL COMMENTS** - Councillor Roberts felt that the Town Council should collect and collate information about parking.

Councillor Harrington asked if information was available from Berwick about free parking? The Town Clerk confirmed the Town Council would take their issues to the meeting with NCC and get feedback from other locations / towns.

Councillor Farrar thought the Town Council should get some data about parking across the town by running a surveys including counting spaces in each car park.

Councillor Harrington thought maps would be useful showing where parking is available and the duration. He asked if this could be available on Alnwick Town Council's website. The Town Clerk confirmed that maps are fixed to each parking meter in the town but could also be put onto the council's website.

Councillor Symmonds reported on a parking system from Spain where the lampposts have bands around them denoting different parking zones.

Councillor Humphries asked if there was any provision for motor homes? Town Clerk confirmed Alnwick is the only town that has spaces for motor homes.

Councillor Roberts felt a sub group to look at parking issues should be set up.

Councillor Farrar felt a survey in August, when the town was busy, would be useful.

**RESOLVED a) To set up a meeting with NCC and Chamber of Trade  
b) organise a survey once meeting has been held**

**P14/17 Section 106 and future applications**

Councillor Farrar felt a letter to NCC was needed about Alnwick Town Council's involvement in S106 Applications. As there are projects around the town the Town Council would want to be involved in, he suggested a draft letter be sent to councillors to review before the next planning meeting in August. The Town Clerk confirmed he would go back to NCC to ask that the Town Council are involved at the pre planning application stage.

**P14/18 Any Other Urgent Business**

None

The meeting closed at 7.00 p.m.