



## **Minutes of the Planning, Highways and Transport Committee held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2016 in St James Church Rooms, Pottergate, Alnwick at 6.00pm**

**Present:** Cllrs G Mavin (Vice Chair), P Broom, P Edge, M Harrington, P Holt, J Humphries, K Moore, A Shilton and A Symmonds.

**In attendance:** W Batey, Town Clerk; J Pibworth, Assistant to the Town Clerk; T Kirton, Project & Funding Officer.

### **P15/106 Apologies**

Cllr W Grisdale.

### **P15/107 Declarations of Interest**

None.

### **P15/108 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 14th April 2016 were approved and they were duly signed by the Committee Chairman.

### **P15/109 Matters Arising**

P15/103 Sustainable Transport Working group recommendations on safe routes to the new High School

The Town Clerk advised councillors that the report from the Working Group had been forwarded to NCC.

P15/105 Any Other Urgent Business

Yellow signs - Councillor Broom advised that the yellow signs in the Market Place were still an issue. He felt that the signs were becoming a permanent feature with no clarification as to which parking spaces they applied to.

Councillor Swinbank advised that Local Living had requested to use the parking spaces as part of the market whilst the scaffolding was in place. The Town Clerk said he would check with NCC.

The Maltings Development - Update on 'The Maltings' development – The Assistant to the Town Clerk advised that she had contacted the developers raising the concerns from councillors and advising them of the difficulty with deliveries to the site.

Illegal signs - The Assistant to the Town Clerk advised that she had contacted Graham Bucknall, NCC Highways Manager (Northern), who was aware of the issue with illegal signs around Alnwick and that they are a source of irritation to many. He had advised that NCC did not currently have a policy although one was being considered. The issue was the sheer number of signs and the resources it would take to police it and had to prioritise staff time which was mainly being spent dealing with the significant number of potholes and roads in a poor state. Currently only signs that cause an actual obstruction to the highway would be removed.

Councillor Symmonds advised that he had spoken to NCC to report a sign, which had been reported to him by a resident, and which was causing an obstruction to pedestrians. The sign had been removed. He felt that the Town Council could send images of all the signs to NCC.

Councillor Edge asked if the Town Handyman could remove the signs. The Town Clerk advised that they were not on Town Council land so could not be removed.

Councillor Humphries felt that the yellow signs used by developers were almost on every lamppost. Councillor Harrington said that there was a standard format for the yellow signs and that the developer signs were in that format.

Councillor G Mavin felt that A boards were still causing a nuisance on the town.

Councillor Harrington asked if the Town Council could develop their own policy.

The following decision notices had been received:

**16/00687/LBC Northumberland Hall, Alnwick NE66 1SS** Listed Building Consent: Replacement of first floor windows, ground floor fire exit and external repairs – **GRANTED.**

**16/00823/VARYCO Land North of Alnwick Motorway Services, Hawfinch Drive, Cawledge Business Park, Alnwick NE66 2BF** Variation of condition 7 pursuant to planning application 15/01372/VARYCO to extend time allowed for development of highways right turn – **GRANTED.**

**16/00468/LBC 7 Howick Street, Alnwick NE66 1UY** Internal alterations, general repairs & removal of garage at rear – **WITHDRAWN.**

**16/00801/ADE New Pets at Home Store, Willowburn Retail Park, Alnwick NE66 2JH** New retail signage comprising of 5 x internally illuminated fascia signs & 5 x non illuminated signs – **GRANTED.**

**16/00879/FELTPO Thornbrae Children's Home, Alnmouth Road, Alnwick NE66 2PS** Tree Preservation Order: Fell 1no. Holly and 1no Leyland Cypress to provide more space for remaining trees. Fell 1no. Willow due to concerns to neighbouring property in high winds - **GRANTED.**

#### **P15/110 To minute responses made since last meeting**

**16/00148/PREAPP** Lidl Food Store South Road Alnwick Northumberland NE66 2QL. Pre application for proposed extension to and minor amendments to car park – **NO OBJECTIONS** but Alnwick Town Council is mindful of the loss of this wildlife habitat but understand this would be inevitable. Furthermore, they would like NCC to investigate the possibility of protecting the mature trees at the top of the bank via a preservation order on those which are healthy and of good amenity value.

#### **P15/111 Planning Applications**

The following applications were discussed and comments to be submitted were:

**16/01305/FUL Camphill Cottage, Alnwick NE66 2AB** Erection of single storey timber framed conservatory - **NO OBJECTIONS.**

**16/01306/LBC Camphill Cottage, Alnwick NE66 2AB** Listed Building Consent: Erection of single storey timber framed conservatory - **NO OBJECTIONS.**

**16/00729/LBC Alnwick Working Men's Club, 23 Clayport Street, Alnwick NE66 1LA** Listed Building Consent to replace 7no. windows on top floor – **NO OBJECTIONS as long as NCC ensure that windows are made of wood.**

#### **P15/112 Planning Appeals**

The following appeals were discussed:

**15/02778/FUL Land North of Wingrove House, Rugley Road, Alnwick** Change of use from builder's yard/stable to residential (C3) by erecting one no. dwelling house (part conversion) – **NO FURTHER COMMENTS.**

**15/00345/FUL Thomas Percy RC Middle School, Blakelaw Road, Alnwick NE66 1AZ** Construction of 15no. dwellings consisting of 3 & 4 bed properties and associated garages and landscaping – The appeal was against the conditions given in the planning approval.

Councillor Swinbank asked who the owner was. The Town Clerk advised that the playing fields belong to NCC.

Councillor Harrington felt that councillors should have a look at the site as a lot of ground has been moved during the building works.

**Alnwick Town Council support the original planning conditions given by NCC as part of the planning approval.**

#### **P15/113 Northumberland draft Walking and Cycling strategy consultation**

Councillor Swinbank felt it was a very good document. He added that the working group had made some specific comments about the Delivery Plan.

The Town Clerk advised that the deadline for comments to NCC was May 20<sup>th</sup> and that councillor should send their comments to him by May 18<sup>th</sup>.

Councillor G Mavin felt it was a document that was well worth supporting.

Councillor Humphries said he had comments from parents and wondered why there had been a change in the plans.

Councillor Swinbank advised that the effort was only being put into Alnwick. He added that the Government have walking and cycling strategies.

**RESOLVED: To send comments to the Town Clerk for submission to NCC by May 20<sup>th</sup>.**

#### **P15/114 Feedback from Planning Training**

Councillor Holt informed councillors that the Planning Training she had attended had been more useful than the previous sessions two year ago. She felt that there seemed to be a coming together of issues within Town and Parish Councils. She felt that there was definitely a change happening in planning and felt the training would benefit other councillors.

**P15/115 Any Other Urgent Business**

Councillor Moore informed the committee that the site under the A1 flyover on the left hand side was disgraceful. The Town Clerk advised that he would report this to NCC.

Councillor Humphries reported that there was an issue with parking at the back of Greenwell Lane caused by Alnwick Garden employees parking there. He thought they had parking provide the other side of Denwick lane. Councillor Edge confirmed that parking was provided for Garden employees.

The Town Clerk advised that this issue had been confirmed by Enforcement Officers.

Councillor G Mavin asked if the Town Council could write to the Garden and Castle about this. Councillor Edge confirmed the Town Council should write to Mark Brassell.

Councillor Humphries felt there should be double yellow lines at either side of St Paul's Church in Percy Street.

Councillor Edge felt that there had been several cars parked in Greenwell Lane for several days.

Councillor Broom felt that, as the car park behind the Playhouse would become very busy when NCC moved into the Playhouse, he felt that 12-hour parking limits could be set in All Day car parks.

Councillor Humphries reported that some mobile homes were also parking overnight.

The Town Clerk advised that he would enquire about setting time limits on the Car Park behind the Playhouse.

The meeting closed at 6.45 p.m.