

MINUTES OF A VIRTUAL EXTRA MEETING OF STOTFOLD TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER 2020, AT 7PM

Committee Members present:

A Cooper - Chairman, S Buck, Mrs A Clarey, B Collier, Mrs M Cooper, S Dhaliwal, S Hayes, Mrs J Hyde, D Matthews, C Phelps, J Talbot

Also present:

Town Clerk – Mrs K Elliott-Turner

103/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs Bundock, H Pickering, G Russell and B Saunders.

104/20 DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS INTERESTS ON MATTERS CONTAINED IN THE AGENDA

Nothing to declare. Members were reminded that if at any time during the meeting they feel they have an interest in an item being discussed, they should declare it at that point.

105/20 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & RESPONSES

None present.

106/20 MHCLG'S PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE WHITE PAPER AUGUST 2020 CONSULTATION

Deadlines for this consultation: MHCLG 29th October 2020, NALC 15th October 2020 (to help inform their response).

Members considered making a response to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's consultation on the Planning For the Future White Paper. Copy of the Paper previously provided to members, together with summary proposals and questions extracted from the document. These should be read in conjunction with the full Paper.

RESOLVED that the agreed comments to the Planning for the Future White Paper consultation (available on file) are to be forwarded to MHCLG and NALC before the deadlines given.

107/20 CHANGES TO THE PLANNING SYSTEM CONSULTATION

Deadlines for this consultation: MHCLG 1st October 2020, NALC 17th September 2020 (to help inform their response).

The Government is consulting on shorter-term changes to planning policy and regulations in England. These are in addition to the wider reform to the planning system as set out in the Planning White Paper 'Planning for the Future'. Many of the proposals are technical in nature; the four main proposals that will be of interest to local councils are:

- Changes to the standard method for assessing local housing need, which as well as being a proposal to change guidance in the short term, has relevance to

- proposals for land supply reforms set out in Planning for the Future
- Securing of first homes, sold at a discount to market price for first time buyers, including key workers, through developer contributions in the short term until the transition to a new system
 - Temporarily lifting the small sites threshold below which developers do not need to contribute to affordable housing, to up to 40 or 50 units to support SME builders as the economy recovers from the impact of Covid-19
 - Extend the current Permission in Principle to major development so landowners and developers now have a fast route to secure the principle of development for housing on sites without having to work up detailed plans first

Members considered making a response to the Changes to the Planning System consultation.

RESOLVED that the agreed comments to the Changes to the Planning System consultation (available on file) are to be forwarded to MHCLG and NALC before the deadlines given.

108/20 QUESTIONS FROM ELECTORS ON ITEMS ARISING FROM THE MEETING

There were none present.

109/20 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

There were none.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.00pm

MINUTES APPROVED (date):

SIGNED BY CHAIRMAN: