

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 22nd MARCH 2017 AT 7.00PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GREENACRE CENTRE, STOTFOLD

Committee Members present: A Cooper (Chairman)

 B Collier Mrs M Cooper
 S Dhaliwal S Hayes
 D Matthews C Phelps
 J Talbot

Also present: Councillors Mrs S Bundock and the Assistant Clerk

34/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Emily Wearmouth.

35/17 DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS INTERESTS ON MATTERS CONTAINED IN THE AGENDA

Councillor Colin Phelps – item 4 as area is opposite his house, but not directly. 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.

36/17 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & RESPONSES

None present.

37/17 CLERK’S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION

Correspondence – Members noted the appeal by Gladman Developments Ltd – CB/16/03344/OUT, Appeal ref APP/P0240/W/16/3166033, Site at Land between Taylors Road and Astwick Road North of 51 Astwick Road, Stotfold. Members noted that the Taylor Wimpey Appeal is not until November, but the Gladman Appeal has been scheduled for May. The Town Council has no further written comments to make. Councillors Alan Cooper and Brian Collier will attend the appeal on 9 May 2017 at 10am. Any other Councillors are requested to attend if possible, but should be aware that they may be questioned by barristers.

Members are recommended to re-read the notes and details of what had already been said on this application relating to our objection and suggest any further planning reasons we could put forward should the opportunity arise. It is feared that the main argument of “loss of valuable agricultural land” will not win over Her Majesty’s Inspector to support the rejection of this application.

Whilst the site is not technically in Astwick, the members discussed whether it was too late to ask for support on this matter from Astwick Parish Council, Madeline Palmer will be contacted for their response.

Matters Arising – minute 33/17 – Members agreed to adhere to our policy of not meeting the developers and them resubmitting their application. It was noted that we may offer use of the Oak Hall for any public presentation if needed.

38/17 DECISION NOTICES

None to report.

39/17 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

RESOLVED that the comments made on the applications as listed and forming part of these minutes be forwarded to the Central Bedfordshire Council Planning Department.

40/17 CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS BY CENTRAL BEDS DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

RESOLVED it is not considered necessary to call in any applications for consideration by the Central Beds Development Management Committee.

41/17 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES RELEVANT TO THIS COMMITTEE ONLY

There were none

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 7.25pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

22nd March 2017

- A** CB/17/00925/FULL comments due 03/04
Mrs J King
78 Hitchin Road, Stotfold, SG5 4HT
Single storey rear extension
Town Council comments: No objections
- B** CB/16/05525/FULL comments due 22/03
Etonbury Academy, Stotfold Road, Arlesey, SG15 6XS
Erection of a new two storey building to provide additional teaching facilities. New entrance and reception area. New dance studio expansion to the existing fitness centre. New 4 no. classroom expansion of the existing year 5 block. New changing facilities extension to the existing year 5 block. New secure fence line to existing green
Town Council comments: No Objections to the building itself, but Councillors were concerned about the existing road congestion outside the Academy at the school drop off and pick up times, particularly when the public are also accessing / leaving the Pendleton Centre. It was noted that the academy state their aim to alleviate this by different methods such as encouraging pupils to walk, cycle or use public transport, also a possible staggering to the end of the school day and encouraging pupils to attend after school activities.
This is a tremendous problem at each end of the academic day and will only worsen when this further extension is added and then again in approximately 2 years when the new Pix Brook Academy is opened in the near vicinity. It was noted that many parents already park and drop off their children in the Larksfield Surgery and that the new owners of the Fox and Duck public house are also allowing use of their car park, this is not a solution to the problem.
It is realised that all schools suffer with parking problems at drop off and collection times, parents seem to be quicker dropping children in the mornings although there are more problems later in the day when parents park early to sit and wait for their children.
It was suggested to consider solutions such as reinforcing the grass verges outside the Academy to maintain the road width for passing traffic or look into the possibility of ticketing cars parked dangerously or causing an obstruction. The Academy and Central Bedfordshire Council are urged to work together in investigating the drop off and pick up logistics with due consideration to the safety aspect, and to also bear in mind that the arrival of the Pix Brook Academy in approx. 2 years will worsen this situation.