

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Planning Committee held on
Wednesday, 10 July 2019 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT: Councillor John Batchelor – Chairman
Councillor Pippa Heylings – Vice-Chairman

Councillors: Henry Batchelor (substitute) Dr. Shrobona Bhattacharya (substitute)
Anna Bradnam (substitute) Dr. Martin Cahn
Sue Ellington (substitute) Bill Handley
Brian Milnes Deborah Roberts
Heather Williams

Officers in attendance for all or part of the meeting:

Julie Ayre (Planning Team Leader (East)), Jane Green (Built and Natural Environment Manager), Stephen Reid (Senior Planning Lawyer), Dean Scrivener (Planning Project Officer), Ian Senior (Democratic Services Officer), Charles Swain (Principal Planning Enforcement Officer) and Rebecca Whitney (Senior Planning Officer)

1. APOLOGIES

Councillors Peter Fane, Judith Rippeth, Peter Topping and Nick Wright sent Apologies for Absence. Their substitutes respectively were Councillors Anna Bradnam, Henry Batchelor, Sue Ellington and Shrobona Bhattacharya.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Pippa Heylings declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minutes 7 and 8 (S/3983/18/FL and S/0768/18/FL - Orchard Park (Western side of land parcel COM 4)). As one of the local Members, Councillor Heylings had met with the developers but was considering the matter afresh.

In connection with Minute 6 (S/1483/19/LB - Sawston (Great Eastern Drying Shed, 163 High Street)):

- Councillor Brian Milnes declared a non-pecuniary interest. Noting the approximately 20-year history of the matter in question, Councillor Milnes said that, as a Sawston resident for much of that time, he had from time to time commented on factors concerning the Drying Shed prior to him becoming a South Cambridgeshire District Councillor. He was considering the matter afresh.
- Councillors John Batchelor, Anna Bradnam and Deborah Roberts had each been a Planning Committee member when that Committee had previously considered the Great Eastern Drying Shed. Each of them declared a non-pecuniary interest and was considering the matter afresh.

3. RECORDED VOTING

Upon the proposal of Councillor Heather Williams, seconded by Councillor Brian Milnes, the Committee unanimously agreed that all substantive votes at the current Planning Committee meeting should be recorded by name and / or number and name.

4. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 JUNE 2019**

The Committee authorised the Chairman to sign, as a correct record, the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2019 subject to

Minute 7 - S/2709/18/DC - Cambourne (Land to the west of Cambourne, Cambourne, CB23 6ER)

The reference to Councillor Nick Wright abstaining should be a reference to him not voting.

5. **S/1639/19 - DUXFORD (3 BLAKELAND HILL)**

The case officer reported that Duxford Parish Council supported the application and that there had not been any objections from statutory consultees.

The Planning Committee unanimously **approved** the application subject to the Conditions and Informatives set out in the report from the Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development.

6. **S/1483/19/LB - SAWSTON (GREAT EASTERN DRYING SHED, 163 HIGH STREET)**

Members visited the site on 9 July 2019.

Noting the approximately 20-year history of the matter in question, Councillor Milnes declared a non-pecuniary interest because, as a Sawston resident for much of that time, he had from time to time commented on factors concerning the Drying Shed prior to him becoming a South Cambridgeshire District Councillor. He was considering the matter afresh.

- Councillors John Batchelor, Anna Bradnam and Deborah Roberts had each been a Planning Committee member when that Committee had previously considered the Great Eastern Drying Shed. Each of them declared a non-pecuniary interest and was considering the matter afresh.

The case officer:

- Reported that an additional consultation response had been received and published on South Cambridgeshire District Council's website;
- Read out loud the letter accompanying that response;
- Confirmed that the Victorian Society had been consulted but, although comments had been received, the Council was seeking clarification as to whether these comments constituted an objection. Should an objection be registered, the Council would have to notify the Secretary of State;
- Informed Members that the application was for Listed Building Consent only: Planning officers had received legal advice that Planning Permission was not required for the works;
- clarified the issue of Departure from the Development Plan as follows
 - Paragraph 98 of the report from the Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development, stated that "Applications should be determined in accordance with the Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise." This wording had been taken from Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and Section 70(2) of the

Town and Country Planning Act 1990. These two Acts concern themselves with applications for planning permission.

- As the present application was for Listed Building consent, the requirement did not apply.
- Nevertheless, Policy NH/14 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2018 remained a material planning consideration.
- Paragraph 98 of the report also stated that there was some conflict with Policy NH/14 as not all the criteria set out in Paragraph 195 of the National Planning Policy Framework could be met.
- Therefore, if the application was to be determined in accordance with the Development Plan, this conflict with Policy NH/14 would constitute a departure from the Plan.
- The report from the Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development stated that the application was not a departure. This remained the case as there was not a statutory requirement to have regard to Policy NH/14 of the Local Plan.

Judith Martin (objector) and Emma Sharp (applicant's agent) addressed the meeting.

Members appreciated the Drying Shed's significance in terms of its scale, form and historical uniqueness. Demolition would be regrettable, and Members contemplated opportunities for the reuse of materials or wholesale reconstruction elsewhere, and discussed the deferral of the decision until this had been considered further.

Officers from Historic England and the in-house Built and Natural Environment team acknowledged the issue of significance but said that that significance was also a handicap. Methods of building recording were discussed, with electronic recording being requested. Officers agreed to consider this further, in so far as potential amendments to the wording of the recommended condition regarding building recording.

Members noted that Historic England was continuing to investigate options for digitising the building.

By seven votes to four, the Planning Committee gave officers **delegated authority to grant** Listed Building consent for the demolition of the Grade II* Listed Building known as the Great Eastern Drying Shed in Sawston, subject to

1. The Conditions and Informatives set out in the report from the Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development; and
2. the matter being referred to the Secretary of State should the Victorian Society register an objection to the proposed demolition.

(Councillors Henry Batchelor, John Batchelor, Bradnam, Cahn, Milnes, Handley and Heylings voted to grant Listed Building consent. Councillors Bhattacharya, Ellington, Roberts and Heather Williams voted against)

7. S/3983/18/FL - ORCHARD PARK (WESTERN SIDE OF LAND PARCEL COM 4)

Members visited the site on 9 July 2019.

Councillor Pippa Heylings declared a non-pecuniary interest because, as one of the local Members, she had met with the developers but was considering the matter afresh.

Jan Chadwick (objector) and Mike Galloway (Orchard Park Community Council) addressed the meeting.

Members noted that the first bullet point in paragraph 3 of the supplementary report should refer to a car ownership restriction rather than a five-year clawback provision.

Members had reservations about the application, based mainly on the very limited number of car parking spaces within the development, and uncertainty as to the identity of the intended occupants. Design and noise (from the adjacent A14)) were also issues, as was the perceived absence of placemaking and quality of life.

The Planning Committee unanimously **refused** the application contrary to the recommendation in the supplementary report from the Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development (as amended). Members agreed the reasons for refusal as being

1. That the application was contrary to Policy HQ/1 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2018 and, specifically, the following criteria therein, namely
 - Criterion A - Preserve and enhance the character of the local urban and rural area and respond to its context in the wider landscape
 - Criterion C - Include variety and interest with a coherent, place-responsive design, which is legible and creates a positive sense of place and identity whilst also responding to the local context and respecting local distinctiveness
 - Criterion D - Be compatible with its location and appropriate in terms of scale, density, mass, siting, design, proportion, materials, texture and colour in relation to the surrounding area.
 - Criterion E - Deliver a strong visual relationship between buildings that comfortably define and enclose streets, squares and public places, creating interesting vistas, skylines, focal points and appropriately scaled landmarks along routes and around spaces;
2. That the design of the proposed development would be contrary to the Orchard Park Design Guidance Supplementary Planning Document 2011;
3. That the landscaping/planting proposals illustrated on the submitted plans did not provide high quality landscaping which integrated the development with its surroundings and the landscaping and planting measures which had been proposed were not considered to be viable. The development would therefore be contrary to Local Plan Policy HQ/1(m).

That insufficient information had been submitted to enable the Local Planning Authority to determine whether there would be harm to protected species.

8. S/0768/18/FL - ORCHARD PARK (WESTERN SIDE OF LAND PARCEL COM 4)

Members visited the site on 9 July 2019.

Councillor Pippa Heylings declared a non-pecuniary interest because, as one of the local Members, she had met with the developers but was considering the matter afresh.

Jan Chadwick (objector) and Mike Galloway (Orchard Park Community Council) addressed the meeting.

By ten votes to nil, with Councillor Sue Ellington abstaining, the Planning Committee

refused the application contrary to the recommendation in the report from the Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development. Members agreed the reason for refusal as being a balanced assessment of the proposal being inconsistent with Policy HQ/1 (Design Principles) of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2018.

9. S/0029/19/FL - WHITTLESFORD (DUXFORD ROAD)

Members visited the site on 9 July 2019.

The case officer read out aloud comments from the local Member Councillor Peter Topping.

Louise Smith (objector), Kath Slater (applicant's agent) and Councillor Kenneth Winterbottom (Whittlesford Parish Council) addressed the meeting.

Members established that appropriate marketing had not yet been carried out. A traffic assessment should also be undertaken.

The Planning Committee unanimously **refused** the application for the reasons set out in the report from the Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development.

10. ENFORCEMENT REPORT

The Committee **received and noted** an Update from the Principal Planning Enforcement Officer on the enforcement report from the Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development.

11. APPEALS AGAINST PLANNING DECISIONS AND ENFORCEMENT ACTION

The Committee **received and noted** a report on appeals against planning decisions and enforcement action.

The Meeting ended at 3.10 p.m.
