

South Cambridgeshire District Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Planning Committee held on
Wednesday, 8 September 2021 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Henry Batchelor – Vice-Chair in the Chair

Councillors: Dr. Claire Daunton (substitute) Sue Ellington (substitute)
Peter Fane Geoff Harvey
Dr. Tumi Hawkins Judith Rippeth
Deborah Roberts Dr. Richard Williams
Eileen Wilson

Officers in attendance for all or part of the meeting:

Christopher Carter (Delivery Manager - Strategic Sites), Dr Jon Finney (Development Control Engineer City and South, Cambridgeshire County Council), Stephen Reid (Senior Planning Lawyer), Ian Senior (Democratic Services), Lewis Tomlinson (Senior Planning Officer) and Toby Williams (Area Development Manager)

Councillor Cllr Martin Cahn (a Planning Committee member) was in attendance remotely. As such, he could not vote on any item although he could take part in debates.

1. Chair's announcements

Councillor Henry Batchelor introduced himself as Vice-Chair of the Committee but explained that he would be chairing this meeting in the absence of the Committee Chair, Councillor Pippa Heylings. By affirmation, the Committee appointed Councillor Peter Fane as Vice-Chair of the meeting. Councillor Batchelor would absent himself from the Chamber due to a pecuniary interest in minute 6 (S/1963/15/CONDG - Linton (Land North and South of Bartlow Road)) and minute 7 (21/00629/S73 - Linton (Land to the North and South of Bartlow Road)). For those two items, Councillor Fane would take the Chair and, by affirmation, the Committee appointed Councillor Eileen Wilson as his Vice-Chair.

The Chair made several brief housekeeping announcements.

2. Apologies

Councillors Pippa Heylings and Heather Williams sent Apologies for Absence. Their respective substitutes were Councillors Dr. Claire Daunton and Sue Ellington.

3. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Henry Batchelor declared a pecuniary interest in minute 6 (S/1963/15/CONDG - Linton (Land North and South of Bartlow Road)) and minute 7 (21/00629/S73 - Linton (Land to the North and South of Bartlow Road)) because his employer had an ongoing business relationship with the applicant. Councillor Henry Batchelor would withdraw from the Chamber for the duration of those two items, take no part in the debate, and would not vote.

4. Minutes of a Previous Meeting

The Committee authorised the Chair to sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the meeting held on 27 July 2021, subject as follows:

Minute 4(a) – Minutes of a previous meeting

14 August 2021 should be 14 July 2021

Minute 4(c) - Access to documents and information

This should be Minute 4(b) and Minute 4(b) as printed, without any further text, should be deleted.

5. 20/05101/FUL - Longstanton (Land at The Retreat, Fews Lane)

The case officer reminded Members that, following an appeal against non-determination, the jurisdiction for determining this application lay now with a planning inspector rather than with South Cambridgeshire District Council. However, the Council was required to submit a Statement of Case and so the Planning Committee needed to agree on what decision it would have made given the opportunity. He referred Members to the update report and to various representations received subsequently which were in the public domain. He also referred orally to submissions that had been received on the morning of the committee meeting in relation to hedgerow and tree loss pertaining to visibility splays. The Local Highway Authority had responded to a Highways Report commissioned by Fews Lane Consortium by saying it could not identify any reason for refusing the application on highways grounds.

In response to an intervention by Councillor Deborah Roberts, the Senior Planning Lawyer said that, as the Council no longer had jurisdiction to determine the application, it was his view that it was not necessary or appropriate to advise on any external advice in relation to the application.

The Chair invited Daniel Fulton (Fews Lane Consortium) to address the meeting. Mr. Fulton asked to speak after Dr. Jon Finney (Local Highways Authority) had spoken. Officers stated that Dr. Finney was present only to answer Members' questions and advised the Chair to follow the Committee's established process. Councillor Dr. Tumi Hawkins endorsed this advice but Councillor Dr. Richard Williams, seconded by Councillor Deborah Roberts, proposed that, given the circumstances of the matter before the Committee, a more flexible approach be adopted. Upon an electronic vote being taken, and by seven votes to three, the motion was defeated. Councillors Ellington, Roberts and Williams voted in favour of the motion and Councillor Cahn did not vote.

Mr. Fulton then started to address the meeting as objector.

Shortly afterwards, a technical problem with the audio aspect of the webcast led to a lengthy adjournment while engineers tried to resolve the problem. Once it was clear that audio could not be restored, the meeting was abandoned.

Agenda items 5 (Longstanton), 6, 7 and 8 (Linton), 9 (Bourn Airfield), 10 (Waterbeach), 11 (Tree Preservation Order in West Wickham, 12 (Enforcement) and 13 (Appeals) would be considered at a Planning Committee meeting on a date to be arranged.

**The Meeting was abandoned at 11.30
a.m.**
