

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Planning Committee held on
Wednesday, 7 August 2013 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Robert Turner – Chairman
Councillor Lynda Harford – Vice-Chairman

Councillors:	David Bard	Richard Barrett (substitute)
	Val Barrett	Tumi Hawkins
	Caroline Hunt	Sebastian Kindersley
	David McCraith	Deborah Roberts
	Ben Shelton	Hazel Smith
	Nick Wright	

Officers in attendance for all or part of the meeting:

Nigel Blazeby (Development Control Manager), Katie Christodoulides (Planning Officer), Gary Duthie (Senior Lawyer), John Koch (Planning Team Leader (West)), Ian Senior (Democratic Services Officer), Paul Sexton (Principal Planning Officer (West)), Charles Swain (Enforcement Officer), Rebecca Ward (Planning Officer), Andrew Winter (Senior Planning Officer) and Kate Wood (Planning Team Leader (East))

Councillors Tom Bygott and Douglas de Lacey were in attendance, by invitation.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Brian Burling.

21. GENERAL DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

22. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Committee authorised the Chairman to sign, as a correct record, the Minutes of the meeting held on 3 July 2013.

23. S/1174/13/FL-FULBOURN (8 LUCERNE CLOSE)

Don Proctor (applicant's agent) addressed the meeting.

The Committee **approved** the application, subject to the prior completion of a Legal Agreement under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 requiring financial contributions (index linked) towards the provision and management of public open space off-site and in Fulbourn, and towards the provision of new community facilities or the improvement of existing ones, and per dwelling for the provision of household waste receptacles, and subject also to the Conditions and Informatives set out in the report from the Planning and New Communities Director.

24. S/0941/13/FL - GIRTON (TRINITY FARM, HUNTINGDON ROAD)

Mark Dean (applicant) and Councillors Tom Bygott and Douglas de Lacey (local Members) addressed the meeting.

The Committee **refused** the application for the reasons set out in the report from the Planning and New Communities Director.

25. S/1101/13/FL- IMPINGTON (27 PEPYS TERRACE)

David Mead (applicant's agent) and David Jenkins (Impington Parish Council) addressed the meeting.

The Committee **approved** the application subject to the prior completion of a Legal Agreement under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 requiring financial contributions (index linked) towards the provision and management of public open space in Impington, towards the provision of new community facilities or the improvement of existing ones, and per dwelling for the provision of household waste receptacles, and subject also to the Conditions set out in the report from the Planning and New Communities Director.

26. S/1196/13/FL - LONGSTANTON (38 PRENTICE CLOSE)

Don Proctor (applicant's agent) addressed the meeting.

The Committee **refused** the application for the reasons set out in the report from the Planning and New Communities Director and for the additional reason of it being considered to have an adverse impact on the amenity of the occupier of no. 36 High Street.

27. S/0757/13/FL - LONGSTANTON (HIGH STREET/NELSON CRESCENT)

The Committee gave officers **delegated powers to approve** the application subject to the satisfactory conclusion of negotiations between the applicant and the Council's Environmental Health Officers to minimise noise nuisance, and to the Conditions referred to in the report from the Planning and New Communities Director.

28. ENFORCEMENT ACTION UPDATE

The Committee **received and noted** an Update and progress report on enforcement action

29. APPEALS AGAINST PLANNING DECISIONS AND ENFORCEMENT ACTION

Site visit day and Time of meeting
The Committee **received and noted** a report on Appeals against planning decisions and enforcement action.

30. SITE VISIT DAY AND TIME OF MEETING

Councillor Nick Wright, speaking in his capacity as Planning & Economic Development Portfolio Holder, noted the declining number of Committee members attending site visits, and attributed this to Members' difficulty in assigning two consecutive days to Planning site visits and the actual Committee meeting.

The Committee considered three options, namely:

- The status quo (meeting at 10.00am on the first Wednesday of the month (except in January and May) with site visits at 9.30am generally the working day before)
- Site visits at 9.30am and meeting at 2.00pm but both on the first Wednesday of the month (except in January and May)
- A hybrid whereby the day of site visits would be determined once the length and

complexity of the agenda had been determined about 14 days before the meeting. A short and straightforward agenda would result in site visits and the meeting taking place on the same day: otherwise, they would take place on consecutive days with meeting starting at 10.00am on the Wednesday.

Having previously discussed these proposals with the Democratic Services Officer, the Development Control Manager concluded that the system of 'mix and match' offered by the hybrid option mentioned above would be administratively difficult and practically unworkable.

Councillor Deborah Roberts said that the status quo should be maintained, pointing out the Committee's first duty was to the public and that putting site visits and the meeting on the same day could lead to long days resulting in standard of debate issues towards the end of the agenda, and issues with the Quorum should Councillors have to leave for other engagements.

Among other Councillors supporting the status quo, Councillor Val Barrett said that keeping site visits to the working day before the meeting allowed officers time to investigate issues raised by Councillors on site, and prepare answers for the following day.

The Committee **agreed** to maintain the status quo (meeting at 10.00am on the first Wednesday of the month (except in January and May) with site visits at 9.30am generally the working day before)

The Meeting ended at 11.40 a.m.
