

Minutes of a meeting of the Planning and Highways Committee held by Virtual Meeting on Zoom Wednesday 26th August 2020 at 7.00pm.

Present

Councillors Phil Barnett; Jeff Beck; Billy Drummond; Nigel Foot; Jon Gage; Roger Hunneman; Pam Lusby Taylor; David Marsh ; Vaughan Miller; Gary Norman (Chairperson) & Tony Vickers

In Attendance

Hugh Peacocke, Chief Executive Officer

60. Apologies

Andy Moore (Cllr. Jon Gage, substitute)

61. Declarations of interest

The Chief Executive Officer declared that Councillors Phil Barnett, Billy Drummond, David Marsh and Tony Vickers are also Members of West Berkshire Council, which is declared as a general interest on their behalf and a dispensation is in place to allow them to partake in discussions relating to West Berkshire Council business.

The Chief Executive Officer made the following statement on behalf of Councillors Phil Barnett and Tony Vickers who are Members of West Berkshire Council Planning Committee: "I wish to make it clear that any comments I make tonight are only being made in relation to the formulation of the Town Council's view and is not in any way prejudging the way that I may vote when any application is considered by West Berkshire District Council. At that time, I will weigh up all the evidence."

In considering the following application, Councillors Gary Norman, Nigel Foot and Billy Drummond declared that a personal interest and took no part in the vote:

20/01530

62. Minutes

Proposed: Councillor Nigel Foot

Seconded: Councillor Billy Drummond

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning & Highways Committee held on Monday 13th July 2020, be approved, and signed by the Chairperson.

63. Questions and petitions from members of the public

There were no questions from members of the public

64. Members' questions and petitions

Question received from Councillor Phil Barnett:

In this present climate when we are being requested to walk and cycle, safety must be paramount in all our minds. Turnpike road between Fir Tree Lane and the Henwick roundabout, albeit a speed restricted area, does attract vehicles that might not be expecting to see children crossing between the Tiger's Nursery on the north

side of the road to the specific footpath on the south side. The crossing of that road by minors and their parents or guardians is a fraught experience.

Therefore, can this Planning and Highways committee of Newbury Town Council request West Berkshire Council to carry out a survey with the objective of installing a zebra crossing at some suitable point where the majority of pedestrian's cross.

The Chairperson replied that the Council would write as requested.

65. Schedule of planning applications

Resolved that the observations recorded at Appendix 1.A to these minutes be submitted to the planning authority.

66. Schedule of prior approval applications

No comments.

67. Schedule of Planning Decisions

No comments.

68. Schedule of Licensing Applications

No comments

69. Street naming and Numbering – Development of site within Adjacent Parish Shaw-cum-Donnington

The Committee considered the suggested street naming and numbering for the developments in Shaw-cum-Donnington for the following application Number 19/00442/OUTMAJ - Reserved matters application for phased development of 179 dwellings.

Proposed: Councillor David Marsh

Seconded: Councillor Nigel Foot

Resolved: That the Committee supports the Paddington Bear naming theme for the streets and the proposed names of

- 1) Paddington Drive
- 2) Marmalade Avenue
- 3) Peru Place
- 4) Andean Way

And further suggested the names of Michael Bond, Lucy and Gruber for the remaining streets

70. Street and Walkway Naming – Market Street Development

The Committee considered the suggested street names and walkway names for the Market Street Development for 1 new walkway and 1 new street name.

Proposed: Councillor Roger Hunneman

Seconded: Councillor Nigel Foot

Resolved: That the Committee supports the suggested names of Echo Walk and Throckmorton Street.

71. Update from the Western Area Planning Committee

Noted that the Western Area Planning Committee would be considering 2 Newbury applications, at 1 and 3 Kennet Road.

72. Newbury Community Football Ground

Proposed: Councillor Jeff Beck

Seconded: Councillor Nigel Foot

Resolved: that the Committee writes as follows to West Berkshire Council:

In June 2020 at Full Council meeting Newbury Town Council adopted the following changes to its Strategy:

Lobby WBC to:

- a) Provide a suitable football facility for Newbury's Men's, Ladies and Youth teams to play football at an equivalent or better standard than the old ground provided. This should be within the Newbury settlement area, with good walking and cycling access to the town centre, good public transport links and adequate parking. Inability to provision a suitable alternative site should result in the ground on Faraday Road being returned to its former standard or being redeveloped to an even better standard, with 3/4G pitches providing higher availability for matches and training.*

Our Planning and Highways Committee last evening commented that since closure of the football ground in 2018, the buildings have been allowed to fall into dilapidation, the pitch has been neglected, the stand has been mostly removed and the security barrier around the pitch has also been removed. All of this has taken place without planning permission, and while we understand that such permission may not be required for some of the buildings at the football ground, it would be required should WBC demolish the pub at the football ground (An application for full planning permission is required to demolish pubs or other drinking establishments)

We also note that the recent SSL consultation found that the three options for alternative grounds on WBC owned land were not viable.

Therefore in line with our Strategy, we would request WBC to desist from any further demolition of the remaining facilities at the ground and take immediate steps to reopen the ground as an Asset of Community Value for the men's, ladies and youth football community in Newbury.

At the Planning & Highways committee of 3rd August 2020, the committee received a presentation from the Newbury Football Community Group with proposals demonstrating that the ground could be reopened in phases. The initial phase would see the ground opened for the community as a Step 7 facility with the lowest cost. Enhancements to return the ground back to a step 6 and then step 5 facility could be phased over a couple of years. This proposal was received well by the Committee and we would therefore recommend this approach to WBC to reopen this green space to the community of Newbury.

73. Forward work programme for Planning and Highways Committee meetings 2020/21

It was agreed to add the following items to the agenda for 14 September 2020:

- A. Neighbourhood Development Plan
- B. LRIE draft development brief, as prepared by Avison Young.

It was agreed to add the following items to the agenda for 5 October 2020:

- “Planning for the Future”- Government White Paper

There being no other business the chairperson declared the meeting closed at 20.39 hrs

Chairperson

