

Minutes of a meeting of the Planning and Highways Committee held at 7:30 pm on Monday 6th March 2023, in the Council Chamber, Newbury Town Council, Town Hall, Market Place, Newbury,

Present

Councillors Phil Barnett, Billy Drummond, Nigel Foot, Roger Hunneman, Pam Lusby Taylor, David Marsh, Vaughan Miller, Andy Moore, Gary Norman and Tony Vickers

Subs: Councillors Martin Colston, Jon Gage and Stephen Masters

In Attendance

Hugh Peacocke (Chief Executive Officer)

158. Apologies

Apologies received from Councillors Jeff Beck and Jo Day (attended on Zoom)

159. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

The CEO declared that Councillors Phil Barnett, Billy Drummond, David Marsh, Andy Moore 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.

Councillor Phil Barnett and Billy Drummond are also Members of Greenham Parish Council.

The CEO made the following statement on behalf of Councillors Phil Barnett and Tony Vickers who are members of West Berkshire Council Planning Committee and Councillor Andy Moore, who is a Substitute Member: "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."

Councillor Jo Day declared an interest in Planning Application ref. No. 23/00274

160. Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning and Highways Committee held on Monday 13th February 2023.

The draft minutes, as circulated, were amended to show the correct attendance and apologies for the meeting.

Proposed: Councillor Gary Norman

Seconded: Councillor Vaughan Miller

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 13/02/2023, as amended, be approved, and signed by the Chairperson.

161. Minutes of the Meeting of the Extra Planning and Highways Committee held on Monday 20th February 2023.

Proposed: Councillor Billy Drummond

Seconded: Councillor Andy Moore

Resolved: That the minutes of the Extra meeting held on 20/02/2023, as amended, be approved, and signed by the Chairperson.

162. Actions from previous meetings

A) Positioning of 5G Masts: The CEO reported that representatives from Vodafone will attend the Committee meeting on 27 March to discuss this matter and the questions raised by the Committee.

As requested by the Committee, the CEO will invite officers from the Planning Authority to attend.

B) Following the Extra meeting on 20 February, the Council's responses to the draft Newbury Town Centre Conservation Area Appraisal and the Local Plan Review (Regulation 19) consultations had been sent to West Berkshire Council.

The Committee thanked Councillor Tony Vickers, the Heritage Working Group and the CEO for their assistance in responding to these consultations.

163. Questions from members of the public

None received.

164. Members' Questions and Petitions

None received.

165. Schedule of Planning Applications

Resolved that the observations recorded as Appendix 1.2 to these minutes be submitted to the planning authority.

166. Schedule of Appeal Notifications

Noted

167. Proposal to revise parking restrictions on Station Road following redesign of the station frontage.

The meeting pointed out that the purpose of Station Road was to service the railway station. Accordingly, parking arrangements should be designed to encourage and facilitate the use of public transport. The proposed parking restrictions did not meet these aims.

The meeting agreed that the parking proposals for Station Road should be for 30 minutes, no return parking, with current disabled spaces retained. There should also be improved facilities for buses on Station

Road, including extra seating and shelter, to encourage greater use of public transport.

168. Update on Newbury's Neighbourhood Development Plan
The Chairman reported that the Steering Group would be meeting again on 20 March to consider the consultants' report on the survey.

169. Update from The Western Area Planning Committee
Next meeting on 22 March.

170. Planning and Highways Committee Meetings Schedule.
The CEO told the meeting that West Berkshire Council had informed him that they have a 2 weeks "buffer zone" over and above the minimum statutory period for public consultations, which is 3 weeks.
The Planning and Highways Committee currently meets every 3 weeks in order to meet the consultation deadlines. However, given the WBC "buffer zone" of an extra 2 weeks, the Council could change this schedule to meeting every 4 weeks and still be comfortably within the deadlines. This would save members and officer resources and time on 5 meetings a year.

Proposed: Councillor Garry Norman

Seconded: Councillor Billy Drummond

Resolved: That the revised schedule of meetings be approved.

171. Forward Work Programme for Planning & Highways Committee
Noted that Vodafone re 5G Masts was on the agenda for 27 March.
Remove Argyle road (Wynter's Trust) item.

There being no other business, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 8.43 pm

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____

