

## Melksham Town Council

### Minutes of the Economic Development and Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday 9th January 2024

#### PRESENT:

Councillor P Alford  
Councillor P Aves  
Councillor Stokes  
Councillor J Westbrook

#### IN ATTENDANCE:

**OFFICERS:** Andrew Meacham Committee Clerk

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** One member of the public was present virtually.

#### **606/23 Appointment of Chair for the meeting**

It was proposed by Councillor Westbrook, seconded by Councillor Alford and  
**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to appoint Councillor Aves as Chair of the meeting.

#### **607/23 Apologises**

Apologies were received from Councillor Rabey and Councillor Ellis.

#### **608/23 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **609/23 Minutes**

The minutes of 5 December 2023, having previously been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by Councillor Aves.

#### **610/23 Planning Applications**

#### **611/23 PL/2023/10357**

Councillor Aves asked if the committee could request a replacement be planted. Councillor Alford pointed out that the trunk would need to be dug out and the tree was next to a fence.

It was proposed by Councillor Aves, seconded by Councillor Alford and **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to support the application.

**612/23 PL/2023/10184**

Councillors noted that plans were not clear.

It was proposed by Councillor Alford, seconded by Councillor Stokes and **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to reply that the committee was unable to support or oppose due to unclear documents

**613/23 PL/2023/10730**

It was proposed by Councillor Aves, seconded by Councillor Stokes and **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to support the application.

**614/23 PL/2023/10488**

Councillor Stokes felt the pathway was needed and noted that Councillor Sankey was very supportive. She referenced the Biodiversity, Ecological and Arboricultural reports and issues with wildlife. Could something such as hedging be put in place to prevent people straying from the path. Lighting and CCTV should also be considered.

Councillor Westbrook supported Councillor Stokes comments and particularly stressed the need for CCTV.

Councillor Alford felt that lighting may have an adverse effect on bats and fencing would limit wildlife access across the pathway.

Councillor Aves was pleased that the pathway was being proposed. She noted that hedging would require maintenance and that lighting could be installed that had minimal effect on wildlife.

Councillor Alford noted that the route was already used by school children and he believed that the wider area has been allocated in the local development plan.

It was proposed by Councillor Aves, seconded by Councillor Alford and **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to support the application but be mindful of biodiversity and wider development of the site.

**615/23 Planning Decisions**

**616/23 PL/2023/07608**

The decision was noted.

**617/23 PL/2023/08688**

The decision was noted.

**618/23 PL/2023/00065**

The decision was noted.

**619/23 PL/2023/05351**

The decision was noted.

**620/23 PL/2023/09560**

The decision was noted.

**621/23 PL/2023/05180**

The decision was noted.

**622/23 PL/2023/08930**

The decision was noted.

**623/23 PL/2023/09789**

The decision was noted.

**624/23 PL/2023/09715**

The decision was noted.

**625/23 Notice of Planning Decision Appeal**

The decision was noted.

**626/23 Notice of A350 Resurfacing Work**

Noted.

**627/23 Sparkle Team and Parish Steward**

Members asked for the wet and slippery leaves at Crown House and down Lowbourne to be cleared.

**628/23 Comments from Councillor Alford**

Councillor Alford confirmed that, contrary to his earlier belief, the site around the footpath had not been allocated for development.

Councillor Alford referenced the changes in National Planning Policy Framework. Local Authorities with Local Plan through consultation and into Regulation 19, which Wiltshire Council has, have to demonstrate 4 year land supply rather than 5 year. Key Strategic Policies around settlement boundaries are back in play. Would therefore expect to see large scale applications being refused. Wiltshire Council Planning Officers will be looking to revisit applications that have been approved by Strategic Planning Committees but have not had the 106 agreements signed off.

Councillor Alford also raised the Avon Factory site auction which is set for February. Does Melksham Council have a view on future development and discussions with a future owner. Councillor Aves felt this was covered by the Joint Neighbourhood Plan. It was agreed that with the Cooper site, the Assembly Hall/Blue Pool and other sites there were exciting opportunities to shape the future Melksham.

Meeting Closed at: 7.40 pm

**Signed:** .....

**Dated:**