

Melksham Town Council

Minutes of the Economic Development and Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 16th September 2024

PRESENT: Councillor S Rabey (Chair)

Councillor P Alford
Councillor P Aves
Councillor G Ellis
Councillor C Stokes

IN ATTENDANCE:

OFFICERS: Tracy Predeth Locum Clerk

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Councillor Pafford and Councillor Sankey.

99/24 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Griffin and Councillor Oatley.

100/24 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

101/24 Public Participation

Councillor David Pafford of Melksham Without Parish Council

Attended to give confidential information about the Neighbourhood Plan.

It was resolved to go into confidential session.

The committee noted, agreed and approved all points and issues raised by Councillor Pafford.

Councillor Mike Sankey of Wiltshire Council

Snarlton Farm (item 6.2). Speculative, not plan led. There are some within Wiltshire Council, including Councillor Sankey himself who feel that speculative applications should be resisted when they don't comply with the Neighbourhood Plan or the Local Plan.

Forest and Sandridge School (item 6.3). Feels strongly that it should be supported but is crucial there is a condition the facility is available for community use. In that part of

Melksham East community facilities were incorporated into Sandridge School. The two pitches currently there have never been fit for purpose or available for community use. If the committee is minded to support the application they may wish to consider what times the facilities should be available for community use. He suggested Monday to Friday 3:30pm to 8pm, Saturday & Sunday 10am to 4pm

102/24 Minutes

The minutes of 27th August 2024, having previously been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by Councillor Rabey.

Councillor Alford had to leave the meeting at this point.

103/24 Planning Applications

104/24 PL/2024/07506

Roundponds Farm, Melksham, SN12 6EF.

It was proposed by Councillor Ellis, seconded by Councillor Stokes and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to support the application.

105/24 PL/2024/07097

Land south of Snarlton Farm, Snarlton Lane, Melksham SN12 7QP.

Members noted the comments of Councillor Sankey and of Melksham Without Parish Council. Members felt that the area was already getting congested with the current developments and agreed to support the comments of Melksham Without Parish Council.

106/24 PL/2024/07573

Forest and Sandridge Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School, Cranesbill Road, Melksham, SN12 7GN.

Members discussed the issue of facilities not being available for community use, despite this being the intention when the estate was built. Members accepted that this was not the fault of the school and that the White Horse Federation should be taking steps to ensure access

It was proposed by Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Aves and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to support the application with the condition that the facilities be available for community use between 3:30pm and dusk on Monday to

Friday and between 10am and 4pm on Saturday & Sunday, and that this condition be rigidly enforced if permission is given.

107/24 PL/2024/06462

62 Lowbourne, Melksham, SN12 7ED

It was proposed by Councillor Rabey, seconded by Councillor Aves and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to support the application on condition that the development cannot be used for residential purposes.

108/24 PL/2024/08126

54 Churchill Avenue, Melksham, SN12 7JE.

It was proposed by Councillor Aves, seconded by Councillor Rabey and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to support the application.

109/24 Planning Decisions

110/24 PL/2024/06220

Forresters Arms, Sandridge Road, Melksham, SN12 7BN.

The decision was noted.

111/24 PL/2023/06725

Land at Longleaze Lane, Melksham SN12 6QJ.

The decision was noted.

112/24 Wiltshire Gypsies and Travellers Development Plan

The following points were raised.

Concerns had been raised that some sites were not accessible by caravans. The plan needs to ensure all sites are accessible to all times of vehicle.

Opening hours need to provide for late night arrivals.

Sites need to have all facilities – clear water, sewage, electric points etc.

113/24 Neighbourhood Plan

Councillor Aves advised that she was not able to attend the Steering Group meeting on Wednesday 25th September and had asked the Town Mayor Councillor Price to attend on her behalf.

114/24 Parish Steward

Councillor Rabey thanked the Amenities Team for work done around the town.

The following areas were raised for attention.

Bushes in walkway between The Original Factory Shop and King Street Carpark need trimming.

Weeds on roundabouts in East Melksham.

Skylark Road and roads off – weeds along the kerbside.

Clerk advised that Wiltshire Council were embarking on a gully cleaning program and that the Parish Steward had been instructed to start spraying weeds.

Members asked if something could be out in the Melksham Independent News to encourage residents to look after the area outside their property.

A350 underpass looking scruffy. It was noted that a Wiltshire Council street art project in the underpass was on the full council agenda for next week.

The Avon War Memorial was raised. Councillor Rabey confirmed that it was being moved next week.

Meeting Closed at: 8.40 pm

Signed:

Dated: