

## **Melksham Town Council**

### **Minutes of the Economic Development and Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 24th April 2023**

**PRESENT:** Councillor G Ellis (Chair)

Councillor P Aves  
Councillor S Crundell  
Councillor C Goodhind  
Councillor J Oatley  
Councillor S Rabey  
Councillor S Mortimer

Unitary Councillors Nick Holder & Mike Sankey – Wiltshire Council

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

**OFFICERS:** Linda Roberts Town Clerk

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** One member of the public was present in the Town Hall and one via Zoom.

#### **387/22 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillor Gary Cooke who was substituted by the Deputy Town Mayor Councillor Mortimer.

#### **388/22 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **389/22 Land at Blackmore Farm, Sandridge Common, Melksham, SN12 7QS**

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

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders to allow Unitary Councillor Nick Holder the Wiltshire Councillor for the Bowerhill Division of Wiltshire Council, to address the Committee

Councillor Holder advised the committee that over 100 comments had been received on Wiltshire Council's planning portal in relation to the application with the majority being against the proposal. Adding that the proposed development sites outside of the designated development area and therefore does not conform with Wiltshire Councils Planning Policy. It is flawed in its detail and has made incorrect assumptions regarding the provision of a primary school.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

Members debated at length the application and **RESOLVED** to strongly object to the application, echoing and endorsing the comments submitted by Melksham Without Parish Council. Melksham Town Council also object as the proposal sits outside of the designated development area and does not conform to Wiltshire Council's planning policies; is premature to the emerging Neighbourhood Plan and Wiltshire Council's emerging Local Plan and therefore speculative development. The application is flawed in its detail and its assumption to build a one form entry primary school in an urban setting is against Wiltshire Council's Education Strategy.

If this application is taken forward Melksham Town Council would like to see space for a convenience store, funding towards the East of Melksham Community Hall, a free to use cash machine, a post office counter as part of the convenience store and improved access to public transport links. This development would leave its community isolated and residents would have to cross a busy A road to access facilities.

**390/22 Confidential Session**

**391/22 Housing Site Allocations**

It was **RESOLVED** that in view of the sensitive nature of the business to be transacted the press and public were instructed to withdraw.

The work that the Neighbourhood Plan Housing Task Group had completed following the housing site allocation exercise was noted and the proposed way forward agreed. There is still a lot of work to do to ensure the correct sites are allocated within the Neighbourhood Plan and that further public consultation would take place soon.

Meeting Closed at: 7.30 pm

**Signed:** .....

**Dated:**