

## **Melksham Town Council**

### **Minutes of the Economic Development and Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday 20th June 2023**

**PRESENT:** Councillor S Rabey (Chair)  
Councillor J Oatley (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor P Aves  
Councillor G Cooke  
Councillor G Ellis

**IN ATTENDANCE:** One member of the public was present

**OFFICERS:** Andrew Meacham                      Committee Clerk  
Hugh Davies                                      Head of Operations

#### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Wiltshire Councillor Mike Sankey spoke on the question of land at Verbena Court. Agreement currently stipulates land must be used for recycling or medical facilities. Local GP surgeries have indicated they do not need the site. The Council needs to ask if they still wish to use the site for a Community Hall. Councillor Sankey offered to call the application in if the Melksham Town Council so wished. He stated that a compromise was available. Melksham Town Council and the developers could work together to redesign the nursing home to incorporate community facilities. If an accord is reached the Council's objection could be withdrawn before the matter comes before the Western area Planning Committee.

#### **427/23      Apologies**

There were no apologies.

#### **428/23      Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **429/23      Minutes**

The minutes of 30th May 2023, having previously been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by The Chair Councillor Rabey.

#### **430/23      Planning Considerations**

#### **431/23      Gillings Planning - Presentation on proposals for Care home on land at Verbena Court**

Did not take place. Representatives unable to attend.

**432/23 PL/2023/03797**

Address: Land at Verbena Court, Melksham, SN12 7GS

Proposal: Application to modify obligations contained within the S106 agreement relating to marketing land within the Local Centre pursuant to consented outline planning permission 04/01895/OUTES

Councillor Cooke noted there was nothing new from the previous application and there was no community benefit. Councillor Rabey asked if the committee felt this was the appropriate site for a Community Hall. It was agreed it was appropriate. Councillor Oakley also expressed his agreement with the comments of Melksham Without Parish Council.

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

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to, object to the application, note that the Council still wants a Community Centre on that land and ask Councillor Sankey to call the application in.

**433/23 PL/2023/03875**

PL/2023/03875 - Householder Application

Address: 110 FOREST ROAD, MELKSHAM, SN12 7AE

Proposal: Rear Extension

Proposed by Councillor Oatley, seconded by Councillor Aves and

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to approve the application.

**434/23 Planning Decisions**

Members noted the following planning decisions.

**435/23 PL/2023/03896**

Noted.

**436/23 PL/2023/02536**

Noted.

**437/23 PL/2023/01622**

Noted.

**438/23 Neighbourhood Plan**

**439/23 Minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meeting held on 3 May 2023**

The minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group meeting held on 3 May 2023 were received.

**440/23 Town Centre Masterplan**

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

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to accept the Town Centre Masterplan with the amendments highlighted by Councillor Baines and Councillor Harris of Melksham Without Parish Council.

**441/23 Sparkle Team and Parish Steward**

Councillor Rabey advised that the quickest way to deal with one off items was to report online via MyWilts.

Councillor Oatley asked for the bushes to be trimmed and the grass cut on the track leading to the Forest Community Centre. He noted that the area is maintained by Wiltshire Council.

Councillor Aves commented on pavements being obscured by bushes from private gardens.

Councillor Rabey commented that the area around Weavers Cross and the Unicorn Pub is looking untidy and needs weeding.

Councillor Aves commented on the number of weeds around the town. The Committee Clerk confirmed Wiltshire Council had advised they had no weed spraying programme this year.

It was suggested that a campaign be launched to encourage residents to trim bushes and voluntarily take ownership of weeds near their property.

**442/23 Road Sweeping in Melksham - Report of the Head of Operations**

Head of Operations gave a verbal report. There was discussion on budget, the historical situation, what is required, the feasibility of road sweeping in areas with on street parking, the Amenities Team and the use of the "Nunu" sweeper owned by the Council.

It was suggested a small working group be formed to identify roads key roads. Councillor Oatley asked if this should be referred to Full Council. Councillor Rabey felt that only one meeting would be required and it was pointed out that the time limit for publication of next weeks agenda had passed.

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

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that Hugh Davis, Councillor Rabey, Councillor Aves and Councillor Oatley meet to identify roads.

**443/23 Five-year Housing Land Supply and Housing Delivery Test - Briefing Note 23-15 -**

Item was noted.

**444/23 Local Plan Review - Housing Numbers briefing Note 23-16**

The item was noted.

**445/23 Local Plan Review**

The item was noted.

**446/23 Wiltshire Bus Review Stakeholder Survey**

Councillor Ellis gave a verbal report on the survey and his views on the current service.

Councillor Oatley raised the possibility of real time departure boards. Councillor Ellis advised that the cost would be £6000 per bus stop, or £12000 if there is currently no electricity supply to the stop. It was noted that this cost would be prohibitive for all bus stops in Melksham. Councillor Ellis mentioned Wiltshire Council's online system accessed by QR codes.

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

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that Councillor Ellis and the Committee Clerk meet with a view to the survey completed by Councillor Ellis, subject to distribution to the committee, being submitted as Melksham Town Council's response.

**447/23 Confidential Session**

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

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that in view of the sensitive nature of the business to be transacted it is advisable in the public interest that the public and press be excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.

**448/23    Neighbourhood Plan Confidential notes 3 May 2023**

Councillor Ellis gave a verbal summary of the information. The confidential notes were received.

Meeting Closed at: 8.10 pm

**Signed:** .....

Dated: 11 July 2023