

Melksham Town Council

Minutes of the Economic Development and Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday 22nd August 2023

PRESENT: Councillor S Rabey (Chair)

Councillor P Aves
Councillor G Ellis
Councillor S Mortimer

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor Goodhind
Councillor Westbrook
Councillor Sankey (Wiltshire Councillor for Melksham East)

OFFICERS: Linda Roberts Town Clerk
Andrew Meacham Committee Clerk

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: One member of the public was present virtually and one member of the press was present.

A presentation was given by Callum Warren and Cecelia Hughes on planning applications for land off Angelica Avenue and the existing section 106 agreement. The land includes a section that would be transferred to Melksham Town Council. Questions were asked and there was a discussion on whether or not the transferred land would be suitable for a Community Hall. Callum commented that the use of the transferred land would be the council's decision but their development of 11 units would provide access to the plot.

487/23 Apologises

Apologises were received from Councillor Oatley and Councillor Cooke.

488/23 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

489/23 Minutes

The minutes of 1 August 2023, having previously been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair, Councillor Rabey.

490/23 Highways Improvement Request

This item was advanced up the agenda to allow Councillor Westbrook and Wiltshire Councillor Mike Sankey to address the committee.

Councillor Sankey advised that the motion was prompted by contacts from local residents. An LHFIG request had previously been submitted. The response was that the application would be more appropriate when the new road was open and because Wiltshire Council did not have a Freight Management Policy in place, therefore no new weight limits could be considered. It had subsequently been confirmed the lack of a policy does not prevent weight limits being considered. Councillor Sankey asked for the committees support in putting this matter before LHFIG.

Councillor Westbrook concurred with Councillor Sankey's comment.

The committee was supportive of the request. Councillor Ellis commented when previously considered the committee felt the limit weight limit should apply to freight to allow access for removal vans, buses etc.

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

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to support the request.

491/23 Planning Considerations

492/23 Planning Applications

493/23 PL/2023/05595

Various concerns were expressed, including lack of garden/green space for water run off etc.

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

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to object to the application, with regard to the Emerging Local Plan, Current Core Strategy, NPPF, impact on residents of Devonshire Place and the loss of green space.

494/23 PL/2023/06483

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

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to support the application.

495/23 Planning Decisions

Members noted the following planning decisions

496/23 PL/2023/02074

The withdrawal of the application was noted.

497/23 PL/2023/04473

The decision was noted.

498/23 PL/2022/02499

The decision was noted.

499/23 PL/2023/05180

It was noted that this item is a planning application and should have been a sub-item of item 5 on the agenda.

The committee noted and agreed with the objection made by Fiona Webb, Senior Conservation Officer

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

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to object to the application for the reasons mentioned in the objection of the Senior Conservation Officer - Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, Section 16 of the NPPF 'Conserving and enhancing the historic environment', Wiltshire Council's Core Strategy CP 57 & Wiltshire Council's Core Strategy 'Core Policy 58. (See her full report for details)

500/23 PL/2023/00478

It was noted that this item is a planning application and should have been a sub-item of item 5 on the agenda.

It was noted that the presentation under public participation related to this application.

There was discussion on the proposal and use of the land to be transferred to the council. It was agreed that the site was too small for a meaningful community hall due to location and size but may be suitable for allotments.

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

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to support the application.

501/23 Public Spaces Protection Order for Avon Place Precinct

The proposal was discussed. Councillor Ellis asked if the other businesses affected had been spoken to. The Town Clerk explained that the process is in the hands of Wiltshire

Council and would include a stakeholders consultation. It was agreed that the town council could supply comments and evidence.

Councillor Mortimer expressed concern about the problems moving to another site such as Prince of Wales Gardens and asked if this could be included in the order. It was agreed that the request should be taken forward as it stands with a view to looking at additional sites in the future.

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

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to support the introduction of a Public Spaces Protection Order in Avon Place.

502/23 Planning Appeal

The appeal was noted and the committee's response was the same as to the original application.

503/23 Wiltshire & Swindon Tree Warden Scheme

The Briefing Note was received and noted.

504/23 Air Quality Action Plan and Air Quality Supplementary Planning

The document was received and noted.

505/23 EV Charging

The Town Clerk gave an update and the Chair, Councillor Rabey explained the different types of EV Chargers. The committee was advised that there will be a meeting on 5 September 2023 to discuss the Feasibility Study.

506/23 Local Highways and Footpath Improvement Group (LHFIG) Issues

507/23 Town Council Representative on LHFIG

It was agreed that Councillor Aves would be a representative and there would be one other appointed after the holiday season when all members were present. Councillor Sankey, as Chair of LHFIG said that he would canvassing opinion on whether future meetings should be online or in person.

508/23 Parking Review

City/Alms Houses – Councillor Aves advised there is a meeting in two weeks time and would report back to the committee with outcome. Will be checking with Avon Tyres to see if residents could use their car-park.

Cranesbill Road – Councillor Westbrook and Councillor Sankey advised that parking is chaotic, especially at the junction entering Verbena Court where there are no restrictions. Additionally, existing restrictions are often ignored. A review is needed to identify what measures are required. Councillor Westbrook suggested that it might be useful to take some photos. Joe McCann of Melksham Independent News advised that he could supply photos.

Skylark Road – Councillor Westbrook advised the problem was the Eastern Way entrance at the corner. No traffic restrictions so cars parked all the way along. Would suggest double-yellow lines.

Union Street – There was discussion of the issue of parking and speeding, the problems with installing chicanes and the effect on businesses in the road. The possibility of making it an access only road and the use of technology was discussed. It was agreed that the Town Clerk would liaise with Councillor Oatley to discuss taking the issue to Wiltshire Council.

Councillor Ellis asked for an update on double-yellow lines on Waverly Gardens and Woodstock Gardens. The Town Clerk believed they had been considered but the Committee Clerk would investigate.

509/23 A365 Shaw Bath Road footway improvements

There was a discussion on why Melksham Town Council was being asked to make this contribution. The reason was that the improvement benefits Town residents living in George Ward getting to and from Shaw school.

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

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to pay the sum of £1500 from the LHFIG budget.

510/23 Temporary Road Closure Notifications

The Temporary Road Closure Notification was noted.

511/23 Sparkle Team and Parish Steward

Councillor Aves - Weeds in the gap between the pavement and the road around the town. The Town Clerk advised the Head of Operations and the Amenities Team were dealing with this.

Councillor Rabey – Pathway from Hazlewood Road overgrown

Skylark Road Estate – weeding generally but particularly on the road.

Meeting Closed at: 8.40 pm

Signed:

Dated: 12 September 2023