

DRAFT Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council Incorporating the Meeting of the Planning Contract & Works Committee held in the Spetchells Centre, Front Street, Prudhoe at 7:00pm on Wednesday 8th February 2017

PRESENT: Cllr Mrs J McGee(Chair), Cllr A Gill, Cllr G McCreedy, Cllr Mrs E Burt, Cllr A Reid, Cllr B Futers, Cllr Ms J Rose, Cllr Mrs C Cuthbert, Cllr G Simpson. In attendance: R Whinney (Clerk)

1617/1084 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Cllr Mrs N McGee, Cllr E Dobson, Cllr A Piper, County Cllr Mrs A Dale

1617/1085 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Cllr A Reid stated that he would take no part in the discussion / decision-taking in respect of the Planning Matters.

1617/1086 EXTRAORDINARY ITEM: PRUDHOE EAST CENTRE

Cllr Mrs J McGee stated that the meeting was being requested to consider asking NCC if they would be prepared to consider a community asset transfer to either a community group or to the Town Council. Cllr G McCreedy stated that he would second this motion. Cllr G Simpson stated that the approach was just exploratory at this stage, with no commitment made on the Council's behalf. Cllr McCreedy stated that the matter was an important one given the threat to ongoing service provision at the building. In response to Cllr Mrs McGee, the Clerk advised that the letter sent by the Council to Mrs Daljit Lally, NCC Deputy Chief Executive, had been acknowledged, with a promise that a response would be forthcoming.

It was AGREED (i) to contact NCC to enquire they would be prepared to consider a community asset transfer of the East Centre to a community group or to the Town Council (ii) to invite Mrs Lally, and NCC's Estates Manager, Mr Mike Robbins, to attend the February Ordinary Meeting to answer questions about the disposal of the East Centre and the transfer of youth provision to the Fuse Media Centre.

Proposed: Cllr Mrs J McGee Seconded: Cllr G McCreedy

Cllr McCreedy raised the issue of the existence of a covenant limiting any use of the land at the East Centre to educational purposes. In response, the Clerk advised that Mr Robbins of NCC had stated that the title to the site was affected by certain covenants in favour of Northumberland Estates in relation to approval of any new buildings on the site, but that there were no 'community use' covenants.

1617/1087 EXTRAORDINARY ITEM: HIGHFIELD LANE – TRAFFIC CONSULTATION

The following issues were raised by councillors in the consideration of this matter:

- Cllr B Futers stated (1) the 'give way' chicane was not shown on the draft plan)2) there were no passing places shown on the diagram (3) without enforcement no scheme would be effective;
- Cllr Mrs E Burt stated that the current consultation was a response to the responses received from the residents of the Highfield Estate. She stated that she was not sure the proposal would work, but that the situation was desperate now;
- Cllr G McCreedy stated that he had supported the previous consultation, and noted that he would rather people parked outside his house than on Highfield Lane. He reported that the crossing patrol lady had stated that there had been four 'near misses' and that there would be an incident soon. He stated that without enforcement no scheme would work. While making it clear that he was not claiming to speak for other residents of the estate, he stated his support for the original scheme, along with improved line marking on the roads. He added that the problem was present during weekdays (schools) and at weekends (Our Lady and St Cuthbert's RC Church);
- Cllr A Reid stated that the traffic engineers had no easy solution to the problem, given that people were 'fundamentally lazy'. He stated his support for the proposed scheme, though he considered that proper enforcement would not happen;

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- Cllr Mrs J McGee worried that if there was a serious accident now, how an ambulance or a fire engine would get through. She felt that parents should use their heads, as an accident could happen at any time, and it might be their child;
- Cllr G Simpson stated that enforcement was required, and he noted that any barriers to parking would simply transfer the problem elsewhere;
- With respect to routes through the town to the schools, Cllr Futers noted that the children from the Cottier Grange development would have to approach Highfield Lane through the town centre, as there would be no through route through the former hospital site, while Cllr Burt stated that with the loss of Eastwoods Middle School there was less school accommodation in the east of the town.

It was AGREED to respond to the consultation, expressing the Council's support for the proposals as set out in the consultation and shown in the accompanying map, but commenting as follows: (1) the critical issue with respect to the success of the proposals was one of enforcement of the solutions that were implemented (2) all existing road markings should be re-painted, including all the way down Highfield Lane to South Road (3) road markings should be painted across the entrance to the Highfield estate.

Proposed: Cllr A Reid

Seconded: Cllr Mrs E Burt

1617/1088 EXTRAORDINARY ITEM: HENRY TRAVERS (IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE) MEMORIAL PLAQUE

Cllr Mrs J McGee stated that the proposal for the memorial plaque to Mr Travers was founded on the fact that he had been born on 5 March 1874 in Prudhoe, as shown by the copy of the birth certificate that had been provided. Cllr Mrs E Burt suggested that the draft of the plaque be amended to include the film title. Noting recent comments regarding the gender-specific nature of the quote from the film, she said that if the quote was shown as coming directly from the film, this would not matter. Cllr Mrs McGee said that the film was known worldwide, and had been a popular choice when shown at the Fuse at Christmas: whilst of its age, the film carried a moral message and was relevant to what was happening now.

Cllr B Futers noted that a 'film buff', Allan Foster, had stated in a book that Mr Travers' great-niece had told him the actor had been born in Ireland. Cllr Futers was concerned that the Council should not end up with 'egg on its face' if there was possibility of fraud in relation to the certification of birth. Noting that *if* it could not, after all, be shown that Mr Travers had been born in Prudhoe, the plaque should be amended to stated that he had 'lived' in the town, **it was AGREED** to approve the design of the plaque as proposed, with the title of the film added, and to check with the Register of Births to verify that the entry in the register of births was in fact correct, before the proposal was taken forward with the possible manufacturer of the plaque.

Proposed: Cllr Mrs E Burt Seconded: Cllr Mrs J McGee

Cllr Mrs J McGee vacated the Chair at this point, and Cllr G Simpson took the Chair.

1617/1089 DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING OF PLANNING CONTRACT & WORKS COMMITTEE HELD ON 11 JANUARY 2017

It was AGREED to receive the minutes as a true record.

Proposed: Cllr A Gill

Seconded: Cllr Mrs E Burt

1617/1090 MATTERS ARISING

- 1617/1080 West Mickley Play Area – The Clerk stated that the tenders for the re-provision of the play equipment would be brought to the next Ordinary Meeting with a recommendation from the Council's Tenders Review Group;

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- 1617/1083 Trees on Kepwell Road – Cllr G McCreedy reported that NCC had advised that the developer, Shenstone, had made no response when contacted about the trees; as a result the NCC Trees Officer had stated that NCC would expect to carry out the work and invoice Shenstone for the costs incurred thereby. The NCC Neighbourhood Team were also expecting to sweep the road in the vicinity to clear away vegetation.

1617/1091 PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Planning Applications Considered

West Wylam Ward — Planning Ref. 17/00016/FUL

Proposal: Proposed to extend the rear of the garage to create a laundry off the kitchen; first floor bedroom extension above the garage, with ensuite

Location: 10 Low Close, Prudhoe, Northumberland NE42 5HZ

Applicant: Mr Kevin Altenroxel (address as above)

It was AGREED to respond Supporting the application

Proposed: Cllr Mrs J McGee Seconded: Cllr Mrs C Cuthbert

Mickley Ward — Planning Ref. 17/00003/FUL

Proposal: Creation of second floor including four dormers, construction of conservatory and external timber deck at first floor level

Location: Claulands, West Road, Mickley, Northumberland NE43 7BE

Applicant: Mr Jonathan McGill (address as above)

It was AGREED to respond Supporting the application

Proposed: Cllr Mrs E Burt Seconded: Cllr Mrs C Cuthbert

Castlefields & Low Prudhoe Ward — Planning Ref. 17/00151/FUL

Proposal: Change of use to camper van and caravan sales, servicing and storage with erection of a 512 sqm servicing building and a 282 sqm sales, office and staff welfare building with associated infrastructure, hard standings, parking and boundary treatments

Location: Land at Former Pointings Site, Castle Lea, Prudhoe, Northumberland

Applicant: Mr Paddy Doherty, Camper NE Limited, Portobello Road, Birtley, Co Durham DH3 2SN

It was AGREED to respond Supporting the application, but with the following concerns raised / comments made:

1. That the screening of trees should be raised to better separate the site from the adjacent housing
2. That the proposed workshop would be better off sited on the other side of the development site, near to the railway
3. That there would be increased traffic in the vicinity of the site resulting from the business operating at the site
4. That the business should not be open round the clock
5. That the business should not be permanently lit

Proposed: Cllr A Gill Seconded: Cllr G McCreedy

(ii) Planning Notifications Received - Decisions

Castlefields and Low Prudhoe Ward — Planning Ref. 16/03768/FUL

Proposal: Construction of bedroom extension over garage and installation of window to utility room

Location: 18 Heather Lea Lane, Castlefields, Prudhoe, Northumberland NE42 5QR

Applicant: Mr Thomas Cantwell (address as above)

Response date: 24 November 2016

Northumberland County Council decided to GRANT permission

[The Council had responded Supporting the application]

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West Wylam Ward — Planning Ref. 16/04016/FUL

Proposal: Proposed 3 bedroom dwelling

Location: Land North-East of Open Door Community Centre, Holyoake Street, Prudhoe, Northumberland NE42

Applicant: Mr Gerry Weldon, Morningside, A695 Main Street, Riding Mill, Northumberland NE44 6HL

Northumberland County Council decided to GRANT permission

[The Council had responded Supporting the application]

Prudhoe Hall Ward — Planning Ref. 16/04309/FUL

Proposal: Proposed side 2 storey and front single storey extension

Location: 1 Drawback Close, Prudhoe, Northumberland NE42 5BD

Applicant: Mr Richard White (address as above)

Northumberland County Council decided to GRANT permission

[The Council had responded Supporting the application]

West Wylam Ward — Planning Ref. 16/04349/FUL

Proposal: Single storey rear extension

Location: Woodland House, Eastwood Villas, West Wylam, Prudhoe, Northumberland NE42 5NQ

Applicant: Mr Jim McLellan (address as above)

Northumberland County Council decided to GRANT permission

[The Council had responded Supporting the application]

It was AGREED to receive the notifications.

Proposed: Cllr Mrs J McGee Seconded: Cllr G Simpson

1617/1092 CEMETERY & MEMORIAL SUB-COMMITTEE

The following matters were discussed:

- Publicity regarding the removal of existing kerbstones, ornaments, plantings etc: it was agreed that the information should be placed as a public notice in the Hexham Courant as soon as possible, as well as seeking the inclusion of a report in the paper;
- BT landline to former cemetery chapel: following recent interruption, the landline connection had been restored. The agreed proposal for the works to provide a permanent means of delivering the landline to the chapel now appeared to be going forward;
- Cemetery works, New Cemetery: following the agreements reached at the Ordinary / Budget Meeting on 25 January, the works to the roadways were now under way;
- Former cemetery chapel – damp issues: in addition to the works to the exterior of the porch, ventilation solutions were now also being quoted for;
- Electricity bill, cemetery chapel: following the recent bill for over £900 (incl. VAT) received from the utility provider, consumption had been monitored over the last few weeks: it had been concluded that the usage had occurred as billed for, and the heaters were now operating on their timers for a limited period each day;
- Scattering of ashes: It was reported that there had been several recent instances where ashes were scattered on top of graves. No-one had been observed doing this, and it was noted that the Sub-Committee had agreed to continue monitoring the situation;
- Registration of title, New Cemetery: it had been agreed to progress this matter;
- War Memorial / Lych Gate: it had been agreed to progress this matter.

The meeting closed at 2003 hours.

END OF MEETING