

DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held in the Spetchells Centre, Front Street, Prudhoe at 7:00pm on Wednesday 11 January 2017

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

1617/1078 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Cllr Mrs N McGee, County Cllr Mrs A Dale

1617/1079 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Cllr A Reid stated that he would take no part in the discussion / decision-taking in respect of the Planning Matters.

1617/1080 WEST MICKLEY PLAY AREA: RE-PROVISION OF PLAY EQUIPMENT

Cllr G Simpson requested that the meeting agree to take this item first on the agenda owing to Cllr Mrs C Cuthbert's commitment to attend a further meeting. This was agreed.

Cllr Mrs Cuthbert explained that the indicative pricings that had been submitted by interested potential contractors in response to the Council's enquiries had ranged between around £18,000 and £29,000. This would enable the procurement of three new pieces of equipment, a face-lift for the remainder of the fixtures, and new safety surfacing where this was deemed necessary. She requested the support of the Council in making provision in the Council's budget for 2017-18 for this project to be progressed. Cllr Mrs J McGee agreed with Cllr Cuthbert, stating that the intention would be to request three of the five contractors to submit firm tenders with greater detail than the indicative proposals received to date. Cllr Mrs McGee noted that the existing equipment that was remaining required refurbishment, and that the condition of the safety surfacing was 'deplorable'. She added that once the work had been completed, this would be a good play area. With regard to funding, the following was then stated:

- An allocation of £23,000 was suggested to be sufficient for the project to be fully-funded;
- A local business was being contacted with respect to possible funding to support the project, but there was not much funding 'out there';
- The NCC Housing Enabler Fund would be checked to see if there might be any funds available to support the project;
- Local councils were not allowed to apply to the NCC Community Chest for funding.

Cllr G Simpson stated that the Council had always been supportive of the plan to re-generate this play area, and in his view the council was 'duty-bound' to support the proposals.

It was AGREED to receive the report and support the actions proposed in taking the project forward.

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

Cllr Mrs Cuthbert left the meeting at this point.

1617/1081 PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Planning Applications Considered

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)

Response date: 3 January 2017

Note: the application was issued by the Planning Authority on Tuesday 13 December and received on Monday 19 December. In view of this and the Christmas holiday period, the Planning Authority has been advised that the application would not be considered until the meeting of the Council scheduled for Wednesday 11 January 2017.

Cllr A Gill and Cllr G Simpson both stated that they wished to declare an interest in this application, as neighbours in relation to the location of the proposed development. They proceeded to take no part in the discussion or decision concerning the application.

It was AGREED to respond Supporting the application.

Proposed: Cllr G McCreedy Seconded: Cllr A Piper

Mickley Ward — Planning Ref. 16/04446/FUL

Proposal: Construction of a single storey side extension, two storey rear extension and demolition of existing garage

Location: Alt Dhu, High Mickley, Northumberland NE43 7LT

Applicant: Mr Bernard Bloodworth, 33 Younghall Close, Greenside, Ryton, Newcastle upon Tyne NE40 0QG

Response date: 25 January 2017

It was AGREED to respond Supporting the application.

Proposed: Cllr Ms J Rose Seconded: Cllr G Price

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)

Response date: 26 January 2017

It was AGREED to respond Supporting the application.

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

(ii) Planning Notifications Received - Decisions

Prudhoe Hall Ward — Planning Ref. 16/04233/ADE

Proposal: Advertisement Consent for:

2x fascias (only logo illuminated) - signs A,C

1 x non-illuminated fascia - sign B

6 x non-illuminated aluminium panels - signs D, E1, E2, F, G, I

2 x internally illuminated totem's panels (replacement) - signs H1, H2

Location: The Co-operative Food, West Wylam Garage, Front Street, Prudhoe, Northumberland NE42 5DH

Applicant: The Co-op, Food Programme Delivery Orchid Group, 1 Angel Square, Manchester M60 0AG

Response date: 22 December 2016

Northumberland County Council decided to GRANT permission

[The Council had responded Supporting the application]

Prudhoe Hall Ward — Planning Ref. 16/04073/FUL

Proposal: Retrospective garden paving and change in ground levels

Location: 11 Priestclose Road, Oaklands, Prudhoe, Northumberland NE42 5AQ

Applicant: Mrs Julia Campbell (address as above)

Response date: 7 December 2016

Northumberland County Council decided to GRANT permission

[The Council had responded Supporting the application]

General – Castlefields & Low Prudhoe Ward — Planning Ref. 16/02082/OUT

Proposal: Outline application for mixed-use development comprising Class A1 (retail development) and / or Class A3 / A5 (drive-thru restaurant) and / or Class A3 / A4 (family pub / restaurant) and / or Class C1 (hotel) and / or petrol station (sui generis) with associated access

Location: Land South of Regents Drive, Prudhoe, Northumberland

Applicant: Prudhoe Estates LLP, c/o The Northumberland Estates, Estates Office, Alnwick Castle, Alnwick Northumberland NE66 1NQ

Response date: 20 July 2016 (extension for response agreed by NCC)

Northumberland County Council decided to GRANT permission

The Council had agreed to SUPPORT the application in principle, as the investment in the town would be positive, and could reduce the outflow of trade to other locations. However, the Council stated that its support was subject to the following:

(i) that Northumberland County Council, as the authority responsible, ensured that a full flood risk assessment was carried out, as deemed necessary by the authority itself and by the Environment Agency, and ensured that sustainable drainage solutions were put in place;

(ii) that transport issues were properly addressed: at present the travel plan was 'vague' 'tentative' and 'inadequate'. The travel plan was also *inaccurate* in at least one respect, as the number of bus services serving Low Prudhoe was only 2 per hour (the Go North East '10B' service) and not 4 per hour as stated. Further it was noted that the development site was as much as 2 kilometres distant from the bus service serving Low Prudhoe;

(iii) that the concerns raised by the County Ecologist in respect of protected species on the site were addressed.

Proposed: Cllr E Dobson Seconded: Cllr A Gill

It was AGREED to receive the notifications, noting however that the Council reiterated its concern that the proposed developments in the town centre took place in advance of those at Low Prudhoe.

Proposed: Cllr G Simpson Seconded: Cllr Mrs J McGee

1617/1082 EDGEWELL CEMETERIES

Cllr A Gill reported the following:

- Details of the revised cemetery fees and charges, had been passed to funeral directors, who would levy these from their customers in turn
- Funeral directors and memorial masons had been advised of the new Regulations for the cemeteries, and requested to pass copies on to their customers. Cllr Gill stated that the Hexham Courant would be contacted to ensure the issue of the removal of unauthorised kerbsets, ornaments was brought to the notice of the public: the deadline for their removal was 1 April 2017
- The trees below the former cemetery chapel had been trimmed back, and the installation of the new BT telephone pole was awaited
- The Clerk advised the meeting of an enquiry from a relative of a deceased person, who was objecting to the right of the person acting as the deed holder to do so. The Clerk noted that the Council, along with funeral directors and memorial masons, acts under the presumption that the deed to the grave is held by the person who is legitimately the deed holder, and this response had been passed to the person making the enquiry
- The Cemetery & Memorial Sub-Committee was investigating the possibility that plantings be made to fill the gaps in the hedge boundary below the former chapel
- The Clerk had reported that *if* (which was considered a theoretical possibility only) the Council was minded in future to change the basis on which the cemetery services were managed, the Council should have regard to the possibility that a TUPE arrangement might be found to exist, fixing employment obligations in respect of existing staff
- Tenders for replacement fencing in the New Cemetery would be brought to the Ordinary Meeting
- Tenders for works to the roadways in the New Cemetery would be brought to the Ordinary Meeting

Cllr Gill stated that the Lych Gate / War Memorial project at St Mary Magdalene Parish Church had been 'stagnant' for some time, and he stated that more funding than the amount set aside in the Council's budget would be needed. Cllr Mrs J McGee stated that the Sub-Committee had agreed to recommend that the project should be progressed in 2017-18, and it was agreed to note the funding stated as being needed – perhaps of the order of £20,000.

It was AGREED to receive the report and to support the recommendations of the the Sub-Committee in respect of the Lych Gate / War Memorial project.

Proposed: Cllr G Simpson Seconded: Cllr A Gill

1617/1083 TREES ON KEPWELL ROAD

Cllr G McCreedy stated that there had been a long, ongoing affair with the housing developer Shenstone in this area, and that NCC had not been able to do anything about it. He stated that people were having to walk in the middle of the road, and that foliage from the trees in the photographs, supplied with the meeting papers, was touching the parked cars. Cllr McCreedy stated that he would like the Town Council to obtain quotes to cut the trees back to behind the footway. Cllr Mrs E Burt stated that she sympathised with Cllr McCreedy's view, and noted that there were three further trees near 1 Kepwell Road in need of attention. However, she said that legal liability could arise if there was any adverse result from carrying out works, and that this was why NCC would not act themselves. She and Cllr Simpson stated that that if a liability issue arose now, Shenstone as the developer would be liable. Cllr Mrs J McGee noted that there were similar issues all over the estate, and said that there were chestnut trees at Castle Road which could shed a branch at any time, and someone could get killed. She said that if there was a real potential hazard, NCC could carry out the necessary work and invoice Shenstone for it. The following suggestions were made:

- Asking the Hexham Courant to get involved;
- Encouraging householders to start a petition (it was asked why they were not complaining already);
- Contacting the NCC Trees Officer for an opinion (it was noted that the officer had thousands of trees to deal with);
- Tynedale District Council had had a 'trees' group and had agreed a policy to deal with the problem: it would be useful if this could be located;
- The matter was one of persuading the developer to take action.

It was AGREED to request the NCC Trees Officer to have a look at the trees and suggest what could be done in respect of them.

Proposed Cllr G McCreedy

Seconded: Cllr Mrs J McGee

Cllr A Reid suggested that the former Chief Executive of Tynedale Council had made reference to specific records which would show who owned the land. Cllr Mrs E Burt suggested that there had been an agreement some 50 years previously that Tynedale Council would cut the grass and maintain the trees. The Clerk suggested that it should be a matter of professional advice as to what action was taken in respect of specific, identified trees in the future. Cllr Mrs Burt stated that NCC would take action only if a tree was 'diseased or dangerous.' It was agreed that the agreed resolution should be followed up and a report presented to the next meeting of the Committee.

The meeting closed at 1950 hours.

END OF MEETING