

PRUDHOE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Planning, Contract and Works Meeting held in The Spetchells Centre, Front Street, Prudhoe at 7:00pm on Wednesday 8 July 2015

PRESENT Cllr G Simpson (Chair), Cllr Mrs E Burt, Cllr G Price, Cllr Mrs C Cuthbert, Cllr B Futers, Cllr A Gill, Cllr G McCreedy, Cllr A Piper
In attendance: R Whinney (Clerk)

1516/1010 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Cllrs Mrs J McGee, Mrs N McGee, Co Cllr Mrs A Dale

1516/1011 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Mrs E Burt (Trustee, Prudhoe Community Partnership) – Ref. Planning Application 15/01798/FUL
Cllr G Simpson (partner employed at Ferndene) – Ref. Planning Application 15/01717/FUL
Neither councillor took any part in the discussions concerning, or decisions reached, regarding their respective items of interest, Both councillors remained in the room while the items were taken.

1516/1012 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING CONTRACT & WORKS COMMITTEE HELD ON 10 JUNE 2015

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

Proposed: Cllr A Gill Seconded: Cllr Mrs E Burt

1516/1013 MATTERS ARISING.

1516/1007 – Planning Matters: residential driveways and parking areas – the response from NCC to the enquiry proposed by Cllr B Futers regarding the above was tabled. The Clerk drew the attention of the meeting in particular to paragraph F.2 which indicated that the development of “hard surfaces incidental to the enjoyment of a dwellinghouse” is permitted subject to the condition that where the area would exceed 5 square metres “the hard surface is made of porous materials” or that run-off is directed “from the hard surface to a permeable or porous area or surface within the curtilage of the dwellinghouse.”
The information was received.

1516/1014 PLANNING MATTERS

1. Planning applications considered

General – Prudhoe Hall Ward

Planning Ref. 15/01717/FUL

Proposal: Alterations to existing car park with additional parking bays and provision of new parking area consisting of new sustainable car park surface and retaining structure

Location: Land Adjacent To Prudhoe Hospital, Moor Road, Prudhoe, Northumberland NE42 5BB

Applicant: Mr Kevin Scott, Northumberland Tyne & Wear Foundation NHS Trust, St Nicholas Hospital, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, Tyne & Wear NE3 3XT

Response date: 30 June 2015

SUPPORT

General – Castlefields and Low Prudhoe Ward

Planning Ref. 15/01901/ADE

Proposal: Advertisement Consent: Erection of 2 no. non-illuminated signs

Location: SCA Hygiene UK Ltd, Prudhoe Mill, Princess Way, Prudhoe, Northumberland NE42 5BB

Applicant: Mr John Bone (address as above)

Response date: 7 July 2015

SUPPORT

Prudhoe Hall Ward

Planning Ref. 15/01906/FUL

Proposal: Demolish utility and construction of single storey kitchen and garage extension

Location: 31 Park Avenue, Prudhoe, Northumberland NE42 5BB

Applicant: Mr David Flynn (address as above)

Response date: 7 July 2015

SUPPORT

Prudhoe Hall Ward

Planning Ref. 15/01975/FUL

Proposal: Single storey front extension

Location: 2 Cheviot View, Prudhoe, Northumberland NE42 5AU

Applicant: Mr Simon Lowen (address as above)

Response date: 7 July 2015

SUPPORT

General – Prudhoe Hall Ward

Planning Ref. 15/01798/FUL

Proposal: Demolition of existing building and rebuild on the same approximate footprint. New build to be two storey and consist of two ground floor retail units and two first floor one bedroom flats

Location: 68-69 Front Street, Prudhoe, Northumberland NE42 5AA

Applicant: Prudhoe Community Partnership, The Spetchells Centre, 58 Front Street, Prudhoe, Northumberland NE42 5AA

Response date: 9 July 2015

Cllr G Simpson welcomed Revd C Hope, Chair, Prudhoe Community Partnership, to the meeting, and invited him to address it.

Revd Hope thanked the Council for the opportunity to address the meeting about the application. He spoke of the Council's long-time support for the work of the Partnership in the town. The Council had supported the Partnership's earlier application in respect of the former Windsor Bakery site, when the aim had been to refurbish the existing premises. However, it had been concluded that the state of the premises meant that demolition and re-building was the best option. The current proposal was for two residential units on the first floor, while the ground floor would comprise one or ideally two shop units. The Partnership would work with Isos Housing Group to let the residential units to local residents. Using the model of SCATA in Stocksfield, the residential offer would be 'locked into' Prudhoe, ensuring a direct benefit for local people. There had been 'quite a lot of interest' in the retail units, but for the moment nothing conclusive could be decided on. Revd Hope acknowledged the support over the years of NCC, Tynedale Council, the Homes & Communities Agency, and Isos Housing Group, and he expressed gratitude to Mr P Duncan of Social Regeneration Consultants, for his advice on the project. The proposed re-build was financially viable, and that the units would be of good quality. The Co-operative had agreed to permit access to their land (abutting the premises to the side and rear). Finally, he acknowledged with thanks the support of councillors, including Cllr Mrs Burt as a trustee of the Partnership.

Following a short discussion, **it was AGREED to SUPPORT** the planning application.

Proposed: Cllr B Futers Seconded: Cllr A Piper

2. Notifications of the Planning Authority in respect of planning applications

(i) Decisions

Castlefields & Low Prudhoe Ward

Planning Ref. 15/01630/FUL

Proposal: Single storey extension to rear and conversion of garage to create additional habitable accommodation and widening of driveway to provide an additional parking space.

Location: 2 Well Dean, Castlefields, Prudhoe, Northumberland NE42 5QQ

Applicant: Mr & Mrs Jonathan Wood (address as above)

Response date: 19 June 2015

Northumberland County Council decided to GRANT permission

[The Council had responded SUPPORTING the application]

It was agreed to receive the notification.

1516/1015 EDGEWELL CEMETERIES

The report of the recent meeting of the Cemetery & Memorial Sub-Committee was received. Cllr A Gill drew the attention of the meeting to the following matters:

- A local contractor had been suggested as a contact to deal with the recent spate of molehills in the New Cemetery.
- Mr D Hunt, NCC Neighbourhood Services Area Manager had attended the July meeting of the Sub-Committee, and had agreed that notice ought to be given when the cemeteries were not being attended during normal working hours.
- Registration of the Council's title to the Old Cemetery was ongoing.
- The permitted dimensions of memorial bases were under review, owing to one mason's bases being larger than those of other concerns: this was leading to their memorial installations appearing to be out of line, even though the memorials themselves were of normal dimensions.
- The issue of signage to the cemeteries had been deferred for future consideration. The need for both directional and entrance signs had been expressed. Cllr A Piper reported that recently three cars had come up Oakfield Terrace looking for the cemeteries.

The report was received.

1516/1016 TOWN EVENTS

(a) Tour of Britain Cycle Race 2015

The Clerk made a verbal report concerning recent developments, including the responses of local schools to the Tour 'offer', including the chance to view the race from a safe spot, participate in the 'Decorate a Bike' scheme, and write poems. He added that the release of final details relating to the race start, etc, had been delayed slightly: these were expected to be in the public domain shortly. Cllr Mrs E Burt confirmed that this information would be released "next week". Cllr G McCreedy suggested that the Council agree to support the decoration of the bus shelter opposite Prudhoe Waterworld with a cycling theme, to be done around a month prior to the arrival of the race. Cllr Mrs E Burt supported this idea, stating that the required funds could be allocated from the relevant budget. Cllr G Price, supported by Cllr B Futers, stated that little information had been given to residents, and that there was little evidence of a response to the arrival of the race. Cllr Mrs Burt responded that information would be supplied via press releases, while the Clerk noted that it had been promised that information specific to Prudhoe would be placed on a dedicated Prudhoe Page linked to the official website. Cllr McCreedy added that bikes were already being collected for decoration. Regarding the possible locations for decorated bikes, it was felt that safety would be an issue: Cllr A Gill suggested that perhaps there should be more bikes at the approaches to the town, and less in the town centre.

(b) Prudhoe Miners' Races 2015

Cllr G McCreedy stated that the Races had been launched at Highfield Middle School, adding the pupils involved had been "excellent" in responding to the launch, with many indicating their intent to participate in the junior events. He added that a number of entries had been received from Mitry-Mory, and it was thought possible that the new mayor of the town might be coming over as well. The news of this 'international' interest in the event was welcomed.

After a brief discussion, **it was AGREED** that the Council should pay for the entry fees of the competitors from Mitry-Mory.

Proposed: Cllr G Simpson Seconded: Cllr Mrs E Burt

(c) Schools' Incentive to Promote the Races

At the invitation of the Chair, the Clerk explained the proposal which had been recommended by the majority of the members of the Town Events Group. The incentive would see the sum of £500 awarded to the school in the Prudhoe Partnership of Schools which achieved the highest number of competitors in the Miners' Race junior race and mini-run as a proportion of its total pupil roll (excluding Early Years). The award would be for expenditure on sports equipment or coaching support.

Subject to verification that the council was permitted to spend local taxpayers' funds as proposed, **it was AGREED** to approve the proposal.

Proposed: Cllr Mrs E Burt Seconded: Cllr B Futers

1516/1017 HIGHFIELD PARK: PLAYSAFETY INSPECTIONS – SKATE PARK

The Clerk reported that the play equipment inspection would take place once the new equipment had been installed. He stated that the full report on the skate park and BMX track was tabled for inspection at the meeting. Summarising the report, he noted that this equipment was sports, not play equipment, that the equipment therefore carried a higher risk rating, and that this was advertised on the notice installed by the skate park. He drew the meeting's attention to the fact that while there were minor, recurring maintenance matters that would be dealt with, no major, high-risk concerns were indicated.

It was AGREED to receive the report and approve the carrying-out of the maintenance work advised.

Proposed: Cllr Mrs E Burt Seconded: Cllr G Simpson

1516/1018 HIGHFIELD PARK – SUGGESTED NEW PEDESTRIAN ACCESS

Cllr Mrs E Burt stated that the recent Council events held at the Park had seen many motor vehicles parking on the field. She noted that pedestrians and motor vehicles had entered and left the Park by the same entrance. While no incidents had occurred, Cllr Mrs Burt felt that this state of affairs was a concern, and she suggested that the possibility of installing a separate pedestrian entrance should be investigated, possibly located a short distance to the east of the vehicle entrance. This foot entrance would only need to be used at special events held at the Park, and could be kept locked at other times. Responding, Cllr G Simpson said that Cllr Mrs Burt's suggestion was a clear one, while Cllr A Gill stated that people approaching from the west would still be crossing over the entrance road to use the pedestrian entrance in the location suggested by Cllr Mrs Burt, and asked if some sort of crossing would need to be in place at this point. Cllr B Futers suggested that this concern could be remedied by having a pedestrian entrance either side of the vehicle entrance, but Cllr Mrs Burt said the principal concern should be with what happened inside the car park. Cllr Mrs Burt suggested that the Lease for the Park should be checked with The Northumberland Estates, and that the NCC Highways Department should also be consulted prior to taking any proposal forward.

It was AGREED to consult as proposed by Cllr Burt before proceeding further with her suggestion.

Proposed: Cllr Mrs E Burt Seconded: Cllr A Gill

END OF MEETING