

PRUDHOE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council including the Planning, Contract and Works Committee held in the Spetchells Centre, Front Street, Prudhoe at 7:00pm on Wednesday 12 October 2016

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

1617/1059 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Cllr Mrs C Cuthbert, Cllr A Piper, County Cllr Mrs A Dale

1617/1060 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Cllr A Reid declared an interest in all matters with respect to planning, and took no part in the discussion or decision-making with respect to the planning matters considered by the meeting.

1617/1061 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING CONTRACT & WORKS COMMITTEE HELD ON 14 SEPTEMBER 2016

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

Proposed: Cllr A Gill Seconded: Cllr Ms J Rose

1617/1062 MATTERS ARISING.

1617/1051 Planning Matters: Cllr A Gill enquired if it was known why application 16/02050/FUL had been refused. Responding, Cllr Mrs E Burt suggested that it might be because the location was in the Green Belt. When Cllr Gill noted that a location on Highfield Lane which was currently the subject of planning interest was also in the Green Belt, Cllr Mrs Burt suggested that the Planning Authority had to adhere to current planning policies, owing to the fact that the Core Strategy was yet to be adopted.

1617/1053 Play Areas: the Clerk reported that, following the agreement of the September Ordinary Meeting to accept the recommendation of the Committee with regard to the transfer of the play areas referred to in the minutes, he had written to NCC to advise them of the position taken by the Council. This report was received.

1617/1056 Former Prudhoe Hospital: Street Naming & Numbering Request: the Clerk reported that the Council's response had been conveyed to NCC, and that members had been advised of the agreement by the Planning Authority and the developer to the Council's suggestion of Nightingale Close in place of Redstart Close. This report was received.

1617/1057 Town Events: in response to Cllr A Reid, the Clerk reported that he had conveyed the Council's response to the BBC, and that the Administrator had advised the local organisations who were also involved in the arrangements for the Christmas Lights Switch-On. Cllr Mrs J McGee added that the decision had also been relevant to the many local volunteers involved in the Switch-On, as well as the schoolchildren who might have been torn between the wish to be in two places at once. She added that Prudhoe Castle would be attracting publicity on 18 November. In response to Cllr A Gill, the Clerk advised that he had yet to advise the BBC regarding Council's willingness to offer support to the tune of £500 towards the hire of a marquee for the BBC's event at the Castle, as the officer concerned had been on leave, but that the Ordinary Meeting could be updated on this matter. Meanwhile, the Clerk had been advised that there were no safety barriers currently available at the NCC Bearl (Bywell) depot, so the BBC would have to source these themselves.

1617/1063 PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Planning Applications Considered

Prudhoe West & Halfway Ward — Planning Ref. 16/03037/FUL

Proposal: Proposed double storey extension to side and rear

Location: 3 Edgewell Road West, Prudhoe, Northumberland NE42 6JP

Applicant: Mr Christopher Stephens (address as above)

Response date: 4 October 2016

It was AGREED to respond SUPPORTING the application, while expressing concern that the development was very close to the adjacent (semi-detached) property.

Proposed: Cllr Ms J Rose Seconded: Cllr Mrs E Burt

Prudhoe Hall Ward — Planning Ref. 16/03074/FUL

Proposal: Proposed loft conversion with dormer window and rear single storey extension

Location: The Oaktrees, Drawback, Prudhoe, Northumberland NE42 5LG

Applicant: Mr Dave Richardson, 41 Kepwell Road, Prudhoe, Northumberland NE42 6PD

Response date: 5 October 2016

It was AGREED to respond SUPPORTING the application.

Proposed: Cllr A Gill Seconded: Cllr Mrs E Burt

Castle & Eltringham Ward — Planning Ref. 16/03123/COU

Proposal: Retrospective – Change of Use to B2 General Industrial. Vehicle mechanical repairs and MOT testing station

Location: Unit West of Funstation, Station Industrial Estate, Prudhoe, Northumberland NE42

Applicant: Mr David Grant, 27 Rowan Grove, Prudhoe, Northumberland NE42 6PP

Response date: 14 October 2016

It was AGREED to respond SUPPORTING the application.

Proposed: Cllr G McCreedy Seconded: Cllr G Simpson

(ii) Pre-application consultation – response

Castle & Eltringham Ward — Planning Ref. 16/00393/PREAPP

Proposal: Proposed temporary site compound on grassland adjacent to Rowan Grove

Location: Land West of 35 Rowan Grove, Prudhoe, Northumberland NE42 6PP

Applicant: Mr Ian Davison, Northumbrian Water Limited, Boldon House, Wheatlands Way, Pity Me, County Durham DH1 5FA

Response date: 20 October 2016

It was AGREED to respond SUPPORTING the pre-application. It was noted that the pre-application did not specify the intended duration of the existence of the compound, and it was requested that this information be made public.

Proposed: Cllr G Price Seconded: Cllr Ms J Rose

(iii) Planning Notifications Received - Decisions

General – Prudhoe Hall Ward

Ref. 15/02610/FUL

Proposal: House extension with garden room / workshop in rear garden; single storey extension to rear; side extension (first floor roof) with drive through under; porch to front; pitch roofs over all existing and proposed dormers; general internal remodelling

Location: 51 Park Lane, Prudhoe, Northumberland NE42 5LW

Applicant: Mr James Black (address as above)

Response deadline: 26 August 2016

Northumberland County Council decided to GRANT permission

[The Council had responded Supporting the application]

General – Mickley Ward

Ref. 15/02612/FUL

Proposal: Erection of a timber frame block to be placed in the north east corner of the land. Hardcore access road to be laid to allow access to the existing gate to the front elevation of the stable block

Location: Land South of High Close House, Eastgate Bank, Mickley, Northumberland NE43 7LY

Applicant: Mr Jamie Pratt, High Close House, Eastgate Bank, Mickley, Northumberland NE43 7LY

Response deadline: 1 September 2016

Northumberland County Council decided to GRANT permission

[The application was not considered by the meeting owing to the papers having been mislaid. Councillors were subsequently sent the electronic link to the application and invited to make comment as they saw fit.]

It was AGREED to receive the notifications.

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

1617/1064 EDGEWELL CEMETERIES

Cllr A Gill reported that members of the Cemetery & Memorial Sub-Committee had met with members of the NC Neat team, including Stephen Wardle, the Area Manager for Neighbourhood Services. Matters relevant to the service contract had been discussed.

- No concerns had arisen regarding grave-digging and burials;
- The issue of the supervision by NCC of memorial masons carrying out memorial installations and in particular the digging and pouring of foundations had been raised;
- It had been noted that there had been a bad start in 2016 in respect of maintenance, with grass-cutting falling behind;
- Related to this issue NCC had been requested to look into the issue of staff cover when the Cemetery Attendant was absent.

Cllr Gill commented that it would be difficult to get someone other than NCC to carry out all three distinct parts of the cemetery contract, and for this reason he wished to recommend that the contract continue to be designated as a specialist contract. Cllr Mrs E Burt commented that the cemeteries looked nice. Cllr Gill added that some of the new plantings / installation on one grave which had been objected to by the Council (as in breach of cemetery rules) had been removed: he suggested that they might have been installed by a person now deceased.

It was AGREED to receive the report and **it was also AGREED** also that the Service Contract for the Edgewell Cemeteries be designated as a specialist contract, on the grounds stated by Cllr Gill, and therefore exempt from a full procurement process.

Proposed: Cllr A Gill Seconded: Cllr Mrs E Burt

1617/1065 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Cllr G Simpson read the report prepared by the Clerk. This stated that with existing commitments accounted for, there was a surplus on the Christmas Lights budget heading of £157. However, prospective commitments were as follows:

- Mickley: 8 x 10 metre strings of white pea lights for 4 no. trees at 25.00 each: £800.00
- Mickley: install costs for the above – anticipated cost @£600.00
- Mickley: purchase of tree for Mickley First School: cost to be ascertained

In the circumstances it was suggested that an additional allocation of £2,000 to the Christmas Lights budget heading would cover the above costs, along with any unforeseen eventualities. Cllr Gill noted that the items mentioned had been agreed in principle with respect to the 2016-17 budget, but had been accidentally omitted.

It was AGREED to vire £2,000 from the Contingency budget heading to the Christmas Lights budget as suggested.

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

1617/1066 BT PHONE BOXES: NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL – CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED PUBLIC PAYPHONE REMOVAL

Cllr G Simpson stated that the issue of public payphones was a perennial one. He stated that the phone box outside the Factory Shop on Front Street was badly located, and Cllr Mrs E Burt said that it had been

moved to that location from the Glade. She added that with the advent of mobile phone technology there was less need for these public payphones. Cllr G McCreedy commented that there had been a public payphone outside the Youth Charity Shop, which had been removed without consultation; however, noting the vandalism to which it had been subjected, it had not been missed. Cllr A Reid stated that rural phone boxes were hardly ever used as landlines were superseded. Regarding the box at High Mickley, Cllr Mrs E Burt commented that the community at High Mickley were more isolated, and that there were less people to ask for help. The Clerk advised that he had driven through High Mickley and tracked the strength of the mobile signal from his provider through the settlement: apart from one very brief blip, the signal had remained at two to three bars out of five on a 4G throughout the journey.

Following a short further discussion, **it was unanimously AGREED** to respond to the Planning Authority stating that the Council raised No Objection to the removal of the public payphones at:

- PCO Redwell Road, Prudhoe, Northumberland (Tel. 01661 832799)
- O/S Kwik Save Store (now the Factory Shop), Front Street, Prudhoe, Northumberland (Tel. 01661 836286)
- PCO High Mickley, Stocksfield, Northumberland (Tel. 01661 843195)

Proposed: Cllr G Simpson Seconded: Cllr Mrs J McGee

It was resolved that, in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the press and public be excluded for consideration of the following item, in accordance with section 68 of the Council's Standing Orders:

Proposed: Cllr G Simpson Seconded: Mrs J McGee

1617/ 1067 ENVIRONMENTAL TENDERS: FLORAL BEDDING, PLANTERS & HANGING BASKETS CONTRACT, 2017/18 TO 2019/20

The matter was discussed.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

END OF MEETING