

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 9 November 2016

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

1617/1068 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Cllr Mrs N McGee, Cllr E Dobson, Cllr A Piper, Cllr D Couchman, County Cllr Mrs A Dale

1617/1069 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Cllr Mrs C Cuthbert declared an interest in respect of the planning application reference 16/03534/VARYCO at Mickley.

1617/1070 MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL INCORPORATING THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING CONTRACT & WORKS COMMITTEE HELD ON 12 OCTOBER 2016

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

Proposed: Cllr Mrs E Burt Seconded: Cllr A Gill

1617/1071 MATTERS ARISING.

Town Events: the Clerk reported that the Council's Events Sub-Committee had approved a request from the BBC to commit the £500 offered by the Council, towards the hire of the marquee for the medieval-themed event at Prudhoe Castle for BBC Children in Need on 18 November. Cllr Mrs Burt stated that she was due at Prudhoe West First School between 0830 and 1430 hours for the health and safety briefing in advance of the Guinness World Records Face-Painting Challenge. She also reported that Prudhoe Community Partnership had been requested to nominate a second person to act as an independent observer at the record attempt at the school.

Christmas Lights: the Clerk reported that contrary to the statement in the record, funds had been allocated in the budget for 2016-17 for the supply and installation of Christmas lights for Mickley, but that the monies had been spent on unforeseen eventualities. It was also noted that Cllr Mrs Cuthbert and the Clerk were to liaise regarding the supply of a Christmas tree for Mickley First School.

BT public phone boxes – consultation regarding possible removal: the Clerk reported that the results of the county-wide consultation had now been published: in the case of the three boxes in the Council's area, the published report stated that "the Council have no objections to the removal of the [] phone box [concerned]." The report therefore indicated consent for the removal of the phone boxes.

1617/1072 PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Planning Applications Considered

Mickley Ward — Planning Ref. 16/03534/VARYCO

Proposal: Variation of Condition 2 (approved plans) pursuant to planning permission 15/03775/FUL in order to allow construction of a balcony

Location: Land south-west of the Blue Bell Inn, Mount Pleasant, West Mickley, Northumberland NE43

Applicant: Mr Geoff Yates, Blue Bell Cottage, Mount Pleasant, West Mickley, Northumberland NE43 7LP

Response date: 22 November 2016

It was **AGREED** to respond **SUPPORTING** the application.

Proposed: Cllr G McCreedy Seconded: Cllr A Gill

West Wylam Ward — Planning Ref. 16/03787/FUL

Proposal: Proposed front porch, widened driveway and dropped kerb

Location: 61 Stanley Crescent, West Wylam, Prudhoe, Northumberland NE42 6EW

Applicant: Mr Derek Hodgson (address as above)

Response date: 24 November 2016

It was AGREED to respond SUPPORTING the application.

Proposed: Cllr Mrs E Burt Seconded: Cllr G Price

(ii) Planning Notifications Received - Decisions

Prudhoe West & Halfway Ward — Planning Ref. 16/02829/FUL

Proposal: Proposed ground floor rear extension to provide garden room and wet room; lean-to glazed lobby entrance with platform lift to wheelchair / mobility-impaired access; detached single garage and store; parking for existing caravan and 1 no. visitor parking space

Location: Glendale, 31 West Road, Prudhoe, Northumberland NE42 6HP

Applicant: Ms Sheila Herrick (address as above)

Response date: 2 September 2016

Northumberland County Council decided to GRANT permission

[The application was *not considered* by the Council. It was the sole application listed for consideration in the papers initially sent out with the agenda for the September meeting of the Committee. However, owing to the public interest in the pre-application in respect of the housing development on land east of Highfield Lane, submitted by Barratt Homes North-East, which was taken first of the planning matters on the night, this application was accidentally not brought to the attention of the meeting]

General – Prudhoe West & Halfway Ward

Ref. 15/03035/FUL

Proposal: Proposed construction of new dwelling

Location: Plot 1, Land North of Braeside, Western Avenue, Prudhoe, Northumberland NE42 6PA

Applicant: Mrs Jacqueline Hutchinson, 12 Carlton Crescent, Gateshead, Tyne & Wear NE10 9HU

Response deadline: 4 October 2016

Northumberland County Council decided to GRANT permission

[The Council had responded Supporting the application, with the rider that that land stability issues arising from past mining works required thorough investigation]

General – Prudhoe West & Halfway Ward

Ref. 15/03036/FUL

Proposal: Proposed construction of new dwelling

Location: Plot 2, Land North of Braeside, Western Avenue, Prudhoe, Northumberland NE42 6PA

Applicant: Mr Steven Lamb, 45 Orchard Road, Whickham, Gateshead, Tyne & Wear NE16 4TG

Response deadline: 4 October 2016

Northumberland County Council decided to GRANT permission

[The Council had responded Supporting the application, with the rider that that land stability issues arising from past mining works required thorough investigation]

Prudhoe West & Halfway Ward — Planning Ref. 16/02306/FUL

Proposal: Demolition of unused former drill hall and erection of six 4 bedroom terraced houses

Location: The Drill Hall, Swalwell Close, Prudhoe, Northumberland NE42 6EX

Applicant: Mr S Miller, MGM House, Newburn Bridge Road, Tyne & Wear NE15 8NR

Response date: 11 August 2016

Northumberland County Council decided to GRANT permission

[The Council had responded Objecting to the application. The objection was made on the ground of there being inadequate car parking provision in the application for the proposed four-bedroom properties. It was noted that the nearby public car park referred to in the application was already being used for the flats that were recently built in Swalwell Close without their own car parking provision, and that this car park was full most of the time]

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

Proposal: Proposed loft conversion with dormer window and rear single storey extension (as amended)

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

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

Response date: 5 October 2016

Northumberland County Council decided to GRANT permission

[The Council had responded Supporting the application]

General - West Wylam Ward — Planning Ref. 16/02083/OUT

Proposal: Outline application for retail development comprising Class A1 (shops) and / or Class A2 (financial and professional services) and / or Class A3 (food and drink) and / or Class A5 (hot food takeaway) and / or betting offices (sui generis) with associated access

Location: Land South of Broom House Lane, Station Road, Prudhoe, Northumberland

Applicant: The Northumberland Estates, Estates Office, Alnwick Castle, Alnwick Northumberland NE66 1NQ

Response date: 20 July 2016

Northumberland County Council decided to GRANT permission

The Council had responded Supporting the application in principle, as being good for the town. However, the Council also agreed that it should be stipulated that this, the town centre retail development, should take place *before* the development proposed in application 16/02082/OUT, at Low Prudhoe]

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

Proposal: Proposed double storey extension to side and rear (as amended)

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

Applicant: Mr Christopher Stephens (address as above)

Response date: 4 October 2016

Northumberland County Council decided to GRANT permission

[The Council had responded Supporting the application, while expressing concern that the development was very close to the adjacent (semi-detached) property]

It was AGREED to receive the notifications.

Proposed: Cllr Mrs J McGee Seconded: Cllr G Simpson

(iii) High Shaw – proposed planning application

Cllr Mrs E Burt reported that some residents had been invited to a public meeting convened by Isos Housing Group regarding this matter. She stated that she would advise when the planning applications came to the Council as a consultee. She stated that she had spoken with Mr P Rutherford of Isos regarding this matter on 8 November. She stated that she had sympathy with residents' view regarding the loss of the garages that would be associated with the proposed application, but stated that the Council had indicated its support for affordable housing in the town. She added that the proposals envisaged the removal of garages close to Bewick Grange, and their replacement with four houses. Cllr Mrs J McGee stated that it was important that the views of the Council did not colour its participation in the planning process. The Clerk reported that Isos Housing had requested confidentiality in respect of the pre-application planning process: this explained why the Council had not been advised of the pre-application.

The report was received.

1617/1073 EDGEWELL CEMETERIES

Cllr A Gill reported that the Cemetery & Memorial Sub-Committee was (i) seeking ways to improve the ventilation in the front room at the chapel (ii) considering the installation of fencing of the design used

elsewhere in the cemeteries, along the boundary of the New cemetery with properties on Milton Grove (iii) considering works to the roadways and kerbs in the New cemetery, as these were in a poor condition **It was AGREED** to receive the report and to seek quotations for the works mentioned, as recommended by the Sub-Committee.

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

1617/1074 EDGEWELL CEMETERIES: CEMETERY FEES AND CHARGES

Cllr A Gill stated that the Cemetery & Memorial Sub-Committee had thoroughly reviewed the existing fees and charges. He said that the proposals laid before the meeting proposed an increase around 4% over the fees adopted in 2014: this compared the increased charges from NCC for contractor services in the cemeteries of 5 % *per annum*. The proposed increases would still mean that the council's charges were lower than those of other burial authorities. He stated that the proposed increases were being requested to take effect from 1 April 2017.

It was AGREED to approve the revised schedule of fees and charges, to take effect from 1 April 2017. Cllr Gill was also thanked for his hard work on the revised schedule, and it was noted that the regular reviews were leading to steady (rather than dramatic) increases in fees.

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

1617/1075 CEMETERY REGULATIONS

Cllr Mrs E Burt stated that the draft regulations put all the stipulation regarding the Cemeteries in order, including matters such as disposal of rubbish. Cllr A Gill stated that the regulations included the requirement to remove all plantings on graves by 1 May 2017. Cllr G McCreedy asked about the issue of enforcement of regulations at the cemeteries: the Clerk responded to the effect that NCC bye-laws prohibited certain things such as dogs being off leashes in the county's cemeteries, while the Clerk and Cllr Mrs Burt noted that enforcement of these bye-laws could only be carried out by NCC enforcement officers. In response to Cllr Mrs C Cuthbert, who asked how members of the public could collect items removed from graves / memorials under the regulations, Cllr Gill stated the opening hours at the cemeteries. In respect of the length of time floral tributes could be left on graves before removal, Cllr Gill suggested that the draft document be amended to allow 'up to 21 days' and it was agreed to make this amendment. Cllr Gill requested that the revised regulations be sent to all local funeral directors and memorial masons, requesting them to pass the regulations on to their customers in turn.

It was AGREED first to approve the Cemetery Regulations in respect of the Edgewell Cemeteries, for adoption with immediate effect.

Proposed: Cllr Mrs J McGee Seconded: Cllr A Gill

It was next AGREED that owners of graves with plantings, etc on them, except as permitted by the Regulations, should have up to 1 May 2017, as proposed in the draft document, to remove these, failing which they could be removed by / on behalf of the Council and stored pending collection by the owners.

Proposed: Cllr Mrs J McGee Seconded: Cllr A Gill

1617/1076 PUBLIC SEATS

Cllr Mrs J McGee reported that the seat by the Falcon, which had been there for around 40 years, was rotten. She proposed that it should be checked and, if it could not be repaired, it should be replaced. She also stated that a seat had been requested to be installed, immediately to the east of the westbound bus stop at Priestclose Cottages: this was because anyone seated in the bus stop could not see out to ascertain if a bus was coming. Cllr Mrs Burt suggested that, in relation to the Priestclose location, there needed to be room for wheelchair access. In relation to the seat at the Falcon, Cllr Mrs Burt noted that the seat had flowers on it, and that no-one would sit there because of the flowers: she concluded that it was difficult to know what to do without offending someone.

It was AGREED to carry out the enquiries suggested, and obtain any permissions / costs required regarding the repairs / supply of new seats.

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

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 Mrs E Burt Seconded: Cllr G Simpson

1617/ 1070 CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL INCORPORATING THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING CONTRACT & WORKS COMMITTEE HELD ON 12 OCTOBER 2016

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

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

1617/ 1071 MATTERS ARISING

Floral Bedding, Planters & Hanging Baskets – Award of Contract – Legal Advice: The Clerk reported that he was chasing the response from the National Association of Local Councils. He stated that he was liaising with the Northumberland Association of Local Councils, but Cllr Mrs E Burt and Cllr A Gill asked why he had not been in contact with National ALC directly.

It was AGREED to receive the report and to chase the return of the legal advice from National ALC, contacting them directly in order to speed the matter up.

Proposed: Cllr Mrs E Burt Seconded: Cllr A Gill

1617/ 1077 ENVIRONMENTAL TENDERS 2017/18 TO 2019/20: TENDERS FOR SERVICE CONTRACTS

(i) Grass-Cutting

Subject to the contractor's agreement to a robust reporting and monitoring protocol, **it was AGREED** to award the contract for the Grass Cutting for 2017/18 to 2019/20 to KAM Gardening and Landscaping at a cost for 2017/18 of £6,569.90.

Proposed: Cllr Mrs E Burt Seconded Cllr G McCreedy

(ii) Landscaped Gateways and Roundabouts

It was AGREED to award the contract for the Landscaped Gateways and Roundabouts for 2017/18 to 2019/20 to Hollybush Landscaping at a cost for 2017/18 of £4830.00. It was noted that they were a local contractor and, as noted above, had made suggestions for improvements which were welcomed.

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

At this point, Cllr Mrs J McGee made a statement for information.

The report was received.

Cllr Mrs McGee suggested that the budget process would need to be started prior to the December Combined Meeting, and suggested that herself, Cllr E Dobson, Cllr G Simpson, and Cllr G Price, as the Chairs / Vice-Chairs of Committees could meet to examine the first draft of the Council's budget.

The meeting closed at 2100 hours.

END OF MEETING