

PRUDHOE TOWN COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the Planning, Contract and Works Meeting held in The Spetchells Centre, Front Street, Prudhoe at 7:00pm on Wednesday 8 June 2016

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

1617/1001 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Cllr E Dobson, Cllr B Futers. The Clerk advised that Cllr B Futers had written to the Council notifying his resignation from the Committee: this notice would be formally received by the next Ordinary Meeting, at which consideration could be given to electing a member to replace Cllr Futers.

1617/1002 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST None

Cllr Mrs J McGee vacated the Chair at this point.

1617/1003 ELECTION OF CHAIR OF COMMITTEE

The Clerk requested nominations for the position of Chairman of the Committee for the next 12 months. Cllr G Simpson was nominated, proposed by Cllr Mrs J McGee, seconded by Cllr Ms J Rose. There being no other nominations, the Clerk declared that Cllr Simpson was duly elected to serve as Chairman of the Committee.

Cllr G Simpson took the Chair. He stated that he would endeavour to do his best in the role.

1617/1004 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR OF COMMITTEE

Cllr G Simpson requested nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Council for the next 12 months.

Cllr G Price was nominated, proposed by Cllr Mrs J McGee, seconded by Cllr Mrs C Cuthbert.

There being no other nominations, Cllr G Price was declared elected to serve as Vice-Chair of the Committee.

Cllr Simpson stated that he would ensure Cllr Price was included in the work of leading the Committee.

1617/1005 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING CONTRACT & WORKS COMMITTEE HELD ON 11 MAY 2016

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

Proposed: Cllr Mrs J McGee Seconded: Cllr G McCreedy

1617/1006 MATTERS ARISING.

1516/1100 Admiralty Commemorative Plaque: The Clerk advised that the request to have the plaque mounted in the Parish Church would be added to the Faculty application in respect of the War Memorial Lych Gate, as previously suggested. The Clerk also advised that, following the recommendation of the Diocesan Advisory Committee in support of the Faculty Application, the public notice regarding the Faculty would now need to be displayed in the Parish Church and at the Spetchells Centre for a period of 28 days, to allow public comment on the application. At the conclusion of the 28-day period, the Application for Faculty could be made to the Chancellor of the Diocese.

1516/1107 Re-Development of Former Prudhoe Hospital Site – ref. to Eastwoods Park: The Clerk noted that he had previously, as requested, liaised with NCC to chase progress on a meeting regarding re-provision of play facilities at Eastwoods Park. Cllr Mrs J McGee noted that the previous meeting of the Committee had requested an update, and it was now agreed that, failing further progress towards the desired meeting within the next fortnight, Mr M Jeffrey, Countryside & Green Spaces Manager, NCC, should be contacted. Cllr Mrs J McGee added that other potential users of the sports facilities at the Park included a new group of cricketers.

1617/1007 REMIT OF THE PLANNING CONTRACT & WORKS COMMITTEE

Cllr A Gill stated that he had not sought to 'spring' the question of review of the Committee's remit on the Council at the Annual General Meeting (AGM): he stated that he had contacted the Clerk, and had been advised it was not necessary to place a request for review of the remit on the agenda of the AGM.

Cllr Gill stated that he was asking for the review of the remit because (i) items were duplicated on the agenda for meetings of the Committee and those of the full Council and (ii) that items were placed on the agenda for meetings of the Committee that should not be. He noted that when the Council first considered planning matters separately from Ordinary Meetings, this was because the planning matters had been considered late on in council meetings, often at around 10pm. Having gone through the minutes of meetings since 2007, he stated that planning matters had initially been considered on their own, and that it was Cllr A Reid who had proposed the removal of the contract and works items from the remit of the Committee. Cllr Gill stated that he wished to propose revision of the remit of the Committee, confined it to consideration of planning matters only.

Commenting. Cllr Ms J Rose stated that she agreed with Cllr Gill's suggestion that works items be left to the Ordinary Meeting. However, Cllr Mrs J McGee stated that she could not agree with Cllr Gill's proposal. She said that the meetings mentioned by Cllr Gill as running up to 10pm had to do with a lot of work of the Council which the Committee had now taken on. Matters had not been discussed properly, had been rushed through, and that she was not prepared to let this happen now. She added that while the Committee dealt with most planning applications, those that were deemed to be of strategic importance were considered at Ordinary Meetings. Cllr Mrs McGee also stated that, when she was first on the Council, its work and remit was not as extensive as it now is. At that time the Council had not taken on the extra work and service agreements for which it is now responsible: it was important that contracts and tenders were looked at properly. Responding, Cllr Gill stated that service contracts were awarded for three-year periods, and that these were awarded by the Ordinary Meeting, so this also represented duplication. However, he agreed that meetings did "go on" sometimes, stating that this was because some items "shouldn't be on the agenda".

The Chairman having confirmed to Cllr Mrs E Burt that she was entitled, while not a member of the Committee, to speak at its meetings, but not to vote, Cllr Mrs Burt stated that planning applications were initially considered on their own at separate meetings, but that attendance at these meetings had been poor, and indeed they had often been inquorate. She agreed that meeting agendas needed to be better managed, and suggested that proposals be brought forward in the course of the year. Commenting, Cllr Mrs C Cuthbert agreed with Cllr Gill that there was a problem with duplication.

A discussion took place regarding the possible merits of an increase in the Committee's spending ceiling, in the course of which the Clerk advised that the size of the service contracts awarded by the Council meant that an increase from £2,500 to £5,000 would have little impact on the work of the Committee. The Clerk also confirmed that the Cemetery & Memorial Sub-Committee was presently constituted as reporting to the Planning Contract & Works Committee. Cllr G Simpson suggested that a 'holistic' look was needed at the working of the Committee, and noted that "staffing issues" would need to be considered as part of the discussion. Cllr Gill suggested that the remit of the Committee ought to be reviewed, and Cllr Simpson indicated that all members should be involved. In response to Cllr Mrs J McGee, the Clerk confirmed that the Ordinary Meeting would have the power to decide on any variation in the Committee's spending ceiling. Cllr Mrs Burt noted that this issue had been a 'bugbear' for some members in the past.

Following a brief further discussion, **it was AGREED** to review the remit of the committee over the next couple of months, along with related issues, with recommendations to be made to the Ordinary Meeting.
Proposed Cllr A Gill Seconded Cllr Mrs N McGee

1617/1008 PLANNING MATTERS

1. Planning Notifications received

Castle & Eltringham Ward

Proposal: Front Single Side Extension to kitchen

Location: 1 Cranbrook Drive, Prudhoe, Northumberland NE42 6QF

Applicant: Ms Kirsty Blacklock

PERMISSION WAS GRANTED

Prudhoe Hall Ward

Proposal: Rear single storey kitchen extension and two storey side extension with garage to lower level and one bedroom with ensuite (amended 20th May)

Location: 32 Moor Road, Prudhoe, Northumberland NE42 5LH

Applicant: Mr Steven Henderson

PERMISSION WAS GRANTED

It was AGREED to receive the notifications

Proposed Cllr Mrs J McGee Seconded Cllr G Simpson

2. NCC Strategic Property Management: Land West of Kingdom Hall – Enquiry

The Clerk advised that the Council had recently responded to a pre-planning application enquiry from NCC regarding the Kingdom Hall site. The present enquiry, regarding the possible acquisition of land immediately to the west of the site, labelled 'A' on the accompanying site map, could be regarded as supplementary to the pre-planning application. Accordingly, he advised that the Committee was entitled to make comment as it saw fit, as it would in respect of such an application.

Cllr Mrs E Burt stated that she could understand why the land in question could be sought after to provide vehicular access to Front Street, but she said that she would strongly object to the loss of green space that would be entailed thereby.

The Clerk suggested that no enquiry had been made to the Council in respect of the plot of land labelled 'B' lying immediately to the south of the property, because this land was not owned by NCC. Cllr A Gill suggested that Isos Housing Group was the likely owner of this plot of land.

Cllr G Simpson suggested that the loss of amenity space, together with the issue of safe access to and egress from Stonyflat Bank, would be the concerns to be raised by the Council as militating against approval for the use of the land at location 'A' for vehicular access. After further discussion, **it was AGREED** to respond to NCC in this vein.

Proposed Cllr G Simpson Seconded Cllr G McCreedy

3. Planning applications considered

Prudhoe West & Halfway Ward

Planning Ref. 16/01519/VARYCO

Proposal: Variation of Condition 3 (Approved Plans)

Location: 33 Otterburn Way, Bewick Grange, Prudhoe, Northumberland NE42 6RD

Applicant: Mr & Mrs Granville Kelly (address as above)

Response date: 2 June 2016

It was AGREED to respond SUPPORTING the application

Proposed Cllr G McCreedy Seconded Cllr G Simpson

Prudhoe Hall Ward

Planning Ref. 16/01395/FUL

Proposal: Installation of one rooflight (1000mm x 1500mm) in flat roof over kitchen and installation of one rooflight (600mm x 600mm) in flat roof over bathroom

Location: 23 Moorlands, Prudhoe, Northumberland NE42 5LR

Applicant: Mr Roy Douthwaite (address as above)

Response date: 1 June 2016

It was AGREED to respond SUPPORTING the application

Proposed Cllr Mrs J McGee Seconded Cllr Mrs C Cuthbert

1617/1009 HIGHFIELD PARK: LITTER BINS

The Clerk advised that the quotation for the double bins now under consideration had been sought owing to the current single bins being unable to contain all of the litter currently generated at the Park. The Clerk noted that no bin was safe from vandalism, but the issue of aesthetics might support the use of litter bins as opposed to wheelie bins. In response to Cllr G Simpson, the Clerk advised that the cost of purchase of the proposed bins would have to be met from the contingency fund in the Council's budget. He also noted that members might have already concluded that the existing single bins at the Park could then be re-deployed elsewhere in the town if the double bins were installed at the Park. In response to Cllr Mrs C Cuthbert, the Clerk confirmed that the proposed bins were pairs of single bins mounted side by side: this meant that NCC only needed one size of bin-liner for all of the bins it serviced. Cllrs Ms J Rose, G McCreedy and G Price all spoke in support of the proposal on the ground that it would help in the management of litter at the Park.

It was AGREED to order 3 no. of the Derby double "E" litter bin from Messrs Broxap Ltd, as described, with the Council's logo mounted on each bin, at a cost of £349.00 each, exclusive of VAT.

Proposed Cllr Mrs J McGee Seconded Cllr Mrs C Cuthbert

Cllr G Simpson enquired where the single litter bins could be re-deployed elsewhere in the town. Cllr Mrs E Burt suggested that one location could be on the A695 Prudhoe bypass, where the fittings for the existing lamp-post-mounted bin might have gone. Cllr Mrs J McGee requested that one bin be mounted on Stonyflat Bank, and another close to the Falcon pub. It was agreed to look into these locations and report back to the Committee on potential locations for the bins.

END OF MEETING