

North Wootton Parish Council



Clerk to the Parish

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Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting of North Wootton Parish Council held in North Wootton Village Hall on Tuesday 6th March 2018.

PRESENT Cllr A Bovey (Chairman), Cllr M Hoddinott and Cllr M Smith

Some 40 members of the public were present.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 19.32

1. **To receive any apologies for absence** – apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Townend and Shimmin.
2. **To receive any declarations of interest** – There were no declarations of interest from the councillors present.
3. **To receive comments and questions from members of the public** – The Chairman suspended standing order to allow members of the public who had registered to speak to comment on the planning applications to be decided. Three members of the public spoke for the application 2015/0527/OTA and three members of the public spoke against it. One member of the public spoke in favour of supporting application 2018/0257/FUL. The Chairman reinstated standing orders.
4. **To consider the Parish Council's response to planning application 2015/0527/OTA**
The Chairman reminded councillors of the requirement to consider the application with an open mind after what they had listened to from those speaking. The underlying point was that the application required formal approval by the parish council. He reminded councillors that there had been some controversy over the 2013 Housing Needs Assessment with Mendip District Council saying that some names had been withdrawn. With the passage of time, there was no reason for the parish council to necessarily stay with the previous decision.

The Chairman asked how much councillors felt they could rely on the Housing Needs Assessment from 2013 and whether a different approach was needed. Cllrs Hoddinott and Smith replied that they were happy with it. The Chairman stated that he felt there was too much discrepancy with it and whilst the parish council had said no at the time to another assessment, he felt there was a need to test the housing need now. MDC's officers had said this in 2015 at the time of the original application but the Chairman felt the parish council should support a new housing survey being done and if there was a genuine need, it would come out of the Housing Need Survey. Cllrs Smith and Hoddinott did not agree and felt a

Chairman's signature.....

new survey was not required. Cllr Hoddinott asked what the Chairman's view would be if a new housing needs survey showed a requirement for ten affordable homes. The Chairman replied that he would accept this as it would be up to date and demonstrate a clear need for affordable housing.

The Chairman asked for councillors thoughts on the scheme layout. Cllr Hoddinott replied that he felt enough improvements had been made to accept it as it is presented; not everything the parish council had been asked for was included but enough.

The parish council resolved on a majority vote of two to one to support the application.

The Chairman said that more detail would be forthcoming with a Reserved Matters application in the future.

To consider the Parish Council's response to planning application 2018/0257/FUL – The Chairman suspended standing orders to allow a member of the public registered to speak in respect of the application. Standing orders were then resumed.

The parish council resolved unanimously to support the application.

5. Date of next Meeting – 20th March 2018

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 20.09.

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