

Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council
Minutes of the Planning, Highways & Consultations Committee
Held 7.37 pm on Monday 25th June 2018
In the Guildhall, Abingdon-on-Thames.

Present

Cllr Mike Badcock	(Vice-Chairman)
Cllr Samantha Bowring	
Cllr Dennis Garrett	(Substitute – Cllr David Pope)
Cllr Brian Hedley	
Cllr Vicky Jenkins	
Cllr Patrick Lonergan	
Cllr Lorraine Oates	
Cllr Margaret Crick	(Mayor, Ex-Officio)

Also in attendance:

Cllr Robert Hall	
Mr Nigel Warner	(Town Clerk)
Mrs Nina Özdemir	(PA to Town Clerk)
7 members of the public	

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs David Pope (Chairman); Jeanette Halliday and Angela Lawrence

2. **Declarations of Interests**

Application 12.2 – P18/V1221/T56 – EE Limited, Grass verge on Radley Road

Cllrs Vicky Jenkins, Patrick Lonergan and Lorraine Oates declared non-pecuniary interests in this application as they lived in the vicinity.

Application 12.12 – P18/V1383/FUL – 4 Lumberd Road

Cllrs Mike Badcock, Brian Hedley, Patrick Lonergan and Lorraine Oates, together with the Town Clerk, declared a non-pecuniary interest in the above as the applicant was a former employee. They took no part in discussion of this item and the Mayor, Cllr Margaret Crick, chaired the discussion of this application.

3. **Minutes**

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 4th June 2018 be signed as a correct record by the Chairman

4. **Matters Arising**

Application P18/V1132/HH – 118 Alexander Close

At the previous meeting of this Committee the following comment was made regarding the above application:

“The Committee queried how the proposed office was to be used, noting that it has a separate entrance to the main dwelling, and whether this should therefore require an application for a change of use to the appropriate use class. If the application results in a change of use the Council would recommended refusal on the grounds that change of use to a business use class in a residential area would generate an increase in traffic with the consequent impact on parking, access and the local road network, in contravention of retained Policy DC5 (Access) of the Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2011 and depending on the use would unacceptably harm the amenities of neighbouring properties in contravention of policy DC9 (Impact of Development on Neighbouring Uses) of the Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2011”

The applicant had confirmed to the Vale of White Horse District Council that the proposed office and toilet would be solely for personal use to get extra space for a computer room and prayer room in the future. The Committee therefore re-considered the comments in light of the clarification and it was **resolved** that the objection be retracted.

6. **Public Participation**

4 members of the public, John Campbell, Clare Rathbone, Lindsey Woolford and Zezhi Chen, spoke regarding their objection to application 12.2, proposed mast at Grass Verge, Radley Road. Their main concerns were:

- Negative effect on the visual amenity of the area
- Potentially dangerous location – blind bend
- Concerns about damage to other utilities if it were to be installed, eg water mains
- Trees will need to be lopped and will be disfigured
- Concerns that it is so close to a residential area
- Could affect property value
- Potential health risks

Ms Rathbone’s statement is attached as an appendix to these minutes.

Mr Campbell expressed his thanks to Town Council officer for their assistance when he initially contacted the office regarding this application.

6 Environment Agency – Temporary Flood Defence Deployment Plan

Members noted the details of the temporary flood defence plan which the Environment Agency has developed for the local area during flood events. Members.

The Committee requested that the Town Clerk contact the Environment Agency for a better quality set of maps as the original set was not easy to read due to the faint road markings, and this map then to be e-mailed to all Members of the Council.

7 Vale of White Horse District Council - Deep Clean

The VWHDC Waste Team had contacted the Town Council to advise that it would be spending a few days in each Parish / Town across the District to perform a deep cleanse. Details were emailed to all Members on 1st June 2018. The Committee was requested to consider suggestions for Members and confirm the order of priority in order for the District Council's form to be completed as one single document. The completed needed to be returned by the Town Council to the Waste Team by midday on Friday 29th June.

The requests were as follows (exact wording used by the Member requesting the work):

- *Wootton Road Shops – Request for litter pick, sweeping of gutters, weeding / deal with dead tree, removal of moss by pothole. Considered high priority by the Member.*
- *Cameron Avenue – request for sweep, weeds, moss (pavements). Considered high priority by the local member as elderly people in area.*
- *Gordon Close - request for sweep, weeds, moss (pavements). Considered high priority by the local member as elderly people in area.*

The following requests had been put in order of priority by the local member:

a) The path across the Coleridge Drive frontage to the bus stop on the Drayton Road. This has the problem of encroaching grass on both sides. Also users report that it is slippery in wet weather because of a light covering of moss in places. It is mainly the elderly (me included) that use this path and it will become more hazardous unless given a good clean.

b) The pavement at the junction of Wordsworth Road and Tennyson Drive (left hand side if approaching from Wordsworth Rd) forms a wide curve. On this curve there is now an area of about 1 - 2 sq m that has an extensive growth of grass. I note that there have been a number of complaints about this grass, this year and previously, on Fix my Street.

c) If the Vale are also willing to consider public footpaths, there is a deep and growing pile of leaves in the corner of the footpath from Burton Close to the Drayton Road. They collect where the angles of fences meet - these leaves are shed annually by the very large tree on the amenity grassed area in Burton Close. And they never seem to rot.

d) We also thought of the weedy gutters generally plus all the alleyways but thought that we were unlikely to get these as well given that the team (of two, I think) are in Abingdon for only 7 working days. Naturally we would be delighted if all or some of these could be included esp. in view of the flooding around Mill Road recently."

The local member had circulated the email to the Local Residents' Association and the Town Clerk also received the following comment from them:

"I think the Residents' Association would not want to put the suggestion of work to the alleyways and gutters at the bottom of our list. Any clearance work to these would be appreciated although we realise the time constraints.

The one we were very concerned about was when one of our residents from the sheltered block of flats reported that the path to the bus stop was slippery in wet weather."

Members felt they could not prioritise any suggestion above another; all the areas were important to each local member. It was **resolved** that officers send the list in as shown above to the District Council.

8 **Oxfordshire County Council Consultation – Proposed Disabled Persons Parking Bays**

The County Council was seeking views on the proposals to provide additional "Disabled Persons Parking Places". The proposals were being put forward in response to increased local demand for parking, specifically for those with a permanent and substantial disability such that walking is not possible or presents very considerable difficulty for distances more than 100 metres.

A Member stated that a member of the public had commented that in relation to the request for Bostock Road the property benefitted from off-street parking and therefore queried the need for an allocated on-street disabled persons parking bay. The Committee requested that the Town Clerk forward this comment to the County Council.

It was noted that any objections or other representations on the proposal needed to be submitted to the County Council by Friday 13th July 2018.

9 **Oxfordshire County Council Temporary Traffic Order**

Members noted the following TTRN:

- Temporary Traffic Regulation Order – S14 Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984
Temporary Road Closure – at Abingdon, B4017 Bath Street

(Previously circulated to all Members 6th June 2018.)

10 **Certificate of Lawful Development**

Members noted the following:

RE: Hip to gable loft conversion including rear dormer and front elevation roof windows. New window to loft stair landing.
AT: 40 Thesiger Road, Abingdon, OX14 2DX
REF: P18/V0880/LDP

RE: Convert existing integral garage to a study
AT: 36 Evelin Road, Abingdon, OX14 1JR
REF: P18/V1271/LDP

RE: Garage Conversion, addition of rooflight above existing kitchen and internal alterations to existing house
AT: 89 Oxford Road, Abingdon, OX14 2AB
REF: P18/V1442/LDP

11 **Vale of White Horse Planning Decisions**

The Committee noted the list of any recent planning decisions where the Town Council's recommendation was to refuse planning permission or was contrary to the decision by the District Council.

12 **Planning Applications**

The Planning Applications were received and considered from the Vale of White Horse District Council. Following consideration of the planning applications, it was RESOLVED that the following comments be forwarded as the Council's recommendations on the various applications: (See separate page)

The meeting rose at 8.13 pm

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Chairman

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Date