

Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council
Minutes of the Planning, Highways & Consultations Committee
Held 7.00 pm on Monday 3rd October 2016
In the Guildhall, Abingdon-on-Thames.

Present

Cllr Jeanette Halliday
Cllr Mike Badcock
Cllr Margaret Crick
Cllr Robert Hall
Cllr Brian Hedley
Cllr Vicky Jenkins
Cllr Patrick Lonergan
Cllr Helen Pighills
Cllr David Pope

Chairman
Vice-Chairman

In Attendance

Mrs Nina Özdemir
Mr Nigel Warner

PA to Town Clerk
Town Clerk

Cllr Samantha Bowring
Cllr Dennis Garrett
Cllr Monica Lovatt
Cllr Sandy Lovatt
2 members of the public

1 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Alice Badcock, Mayor of Abingdon-on-Thames.

2 **Declarations of interest**

Cllr Mike Badcock declared non-pecuniary interests in Applications 17.1 (Ms E Blackburn, The Brewery Tap, 40-42 Ock Street) and 17.13 (Mr Richard Selby, 10 Swinburne Road) as he was acquainted with the applicants, and left the room during discussion of these items.

3 **Minutes**

Resolved that the minutes of the meetings held on 30th August and 12th September 2016 be signed as a correct record by the Chairman, subject to corrections of typographical errors.

4. **Matters Arising**

None

5. **Public Participation**

Application in relation to 1 Stert Street, Abingdon (shown on comment schedule as Application 18)

Cllr Dennis Garrett, as one of the local members for the Abbey Ward, introduced Mr Michael Harrison of Stert Street. Mr Harrison had contacted Cllr Garrett regarding his concerns in relation to the above application. It was noted that Mr Harrison's letter of objection, together with a number of illustrative photographs, had been placed with the plans for members to inspect.

Mr Harrison outlined his concerns and objections to the Committee.

The Committee then considered the application as detailed at minute 17, application 18.

6. **Community- Led and Neighbourhood Planning**

It was noted the report of the Town Clerk is a work in progress and will follow in due course.

7. **Open Consultation – Implementation of Neighbourhood Planning Provisions in the Neighbourhood Planning Bill**

Members noted the above consultation. This consultation closes at 19th October 2016 at 12:00am.

8. **Sutton Courtenay Neighbourhood Plan Area Designation Consultation**

Members considered the above consultation which runs to 2nd November 2016.

It was noted that the proposed neighbourhood plan area followed the Sutton Courtenay parish boundary, which itself bordered Abingdon parish to the north and the west of Sutton Courtenay parish. Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council was being consulted as a neighbouring parish.

Cllrs agreed that this was a suitable neighbourhood plan area with the exception of the northern-most part of the area, which was to the east of the south town park and the sewage works. The Committee considered that this area, marked and shaded in on the attached map, should be part of the Abingdon area and consequently it was **resolved** to object to the Sutton Courtenay neighbourhood plan area in relation to this specific area.

There was a discussion regarding the likely and potential development beyond the parish boundaries and the implications both for neighbourhood plan area and also the town boundaries. In considering this matter members felt it was important that the town's boundaries in the future reflected the functional area of the town. In this regard, any changes to the parish boundary would require an Order from the Vale of White Horse District Council following a Community Governance Review. The Committee felt that this was an important matter and therefore **resolved** that the Town Council consider applying to the Vale of White Horse District Council for a Community Governance Review with a view to altering the boundaries of Abingdon-on-Thames Parish Council. Members asked that the Mayor be approached so that this could be considered as an urgent item at the Town Council meeting on 5th October 2016.

9. **Oxfordshire County Council (Abingdon Marathon) (Special Event) Order 2016**

Members noted the above order. A member expressed concern regarding the change of route which, this year, passes the Rugby / Football Clubs near Preston Road as they felt this would create problems for those trying to reach the clubs.

It was agreed that the Town Clerk writes to Oxfordshire County Council highlighting these concerns.

10. **Highways Works in the Vale of White Horse**

Members noted the leaflet from Oxfordshire County Council regarding highway works in the Vale of White Horse for September and October 2016 and look forward to receiving the next edition.

11. **Abbey Meadow Project**

Members received a verbal update from the Town Clerk following a recent meeting he has had with the District Council officers in relation to the above.

The Town Clerk cautioned members that he was reading from the notes which he had taken at the meeting and therefore whilst he hoped his notes were accurate, he could not guarantee they were entirely so.

Toilets

The Town Clerk reported the following:

- The toilets were referred to as “the rest pavilion” in the project. A planning application would be submitted towards the end of October 2016, with building on site March / April 2017 and completion by end of July 2017.
- Same provision in terms of cubicles etc as at present but these would be

unisex toilets with full-length doors. This would have the advantage that queueing would be reduced compared with present.

- During the building period temporary toilets would be provided.

Play Area

- The consultation on the Abbey Meadow brought forward two major comments:
 - Not enough equipment
 - No provision for those of 10 years old and above within the current play area.
- The new play area will be more than double the size of the current play area as it will incorporate the current tennis courts and crazy golf.
- The project has gone out to tender and the contract has been awarded.
- In the adopted design, there is an Abingdon theme running through the play area and its features e.g. "The Grand Abbey Entrance."
- The Town Clerk produced draft plans which had been given to him by the Vale Officer and on going through these plans he stressed that these were draft and subject to alteration.
- By popular demand the existing play horse was being re-used.
- There were inclusive items within the design which could be used by children with disabilities: the inclusive/ wheelchair roundabout, inclusive trampoline and inclusive saturn whizzer.
- Ariel cable and spinning top were included.
- There was a hard standing area which would act as a performance area for bands / musicians. It included informal seating and would also be large enough for a children's fairground carousel.
- The hard standing area also acted as an informal multi-use games area for those over the age of 10 including a hoop into which a ball could be thrown.
- Safety surfacing was a mixture of rubber bonded mulch (wet pour) and natural grass matting but this was not finally agreed.
- There was a smaller children's area and a sensory area with equipment designed specifically for smaller children and an area which would be quieter. This was the Abbey Toddler sensory and play garden.
- A design feature was an area of wet pour in blue which resembled the river going through the lock.
- There were swings in the play area with a safe distance in front of them so as to avoid any conflict with those passing by.
- RoSPA have looked at all the designs and any necessary alterations had been made.
- Lots of wood was being used in relation to the equipment, it being noted that modern wood is fire retardant to avoid damage from vandalism.
- It was intended that the facility would be open next summer.
- The Vale is working with Community Safety and the Police to ensure that they have an input into the design. Ideally there would be an extension to CCTV.

- The area has been subject to a DDA report.

Members were very interested in the developments and considered that they would represent an improvement for the area. Members queried whether there was a fence to enclose the entire play area.

The Committee asked that the District Council be contacted to see if they could send an officer to a future meeting of this Committee so that they could go through the plans and answer queries.

12. **Precept Referendum – Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) Technical Consultation**

Members considered the above consultation. The closing date is 28th October 2016. It was agreed that this be referred to full Council for debate as an urgent item on Wednesday 5th October 2016.

13. **Naming and numbering of properties**

Members noted the following:

1. Erection of 1 new residential dwelling to be numbered as: 4 Beech Lane, Abingdon, OX14 1QF
2. Remove alias name: Winsmore House from the existing numbered property: 7 Ock Street, Abingdon OX14 5AL

14. **Certificate of Lawful Development**

Members noted the following:

RE: Proposed outbuilding for new garage and leisure room /WC
AT: 2 South Avenue, Abingdon OX14 1QT
REF: P16/V2300/LDP

15. **Permitted Development Rights**

Members noted the following:

RE: Erection of conservatory to rear of existing dwelling.
Depth: 4.2m
Height: 2.8m
Height to eaves: 2.1m
AT: 3 Appelford Drive, Abingdon OX14 2DB
REF: P16/V2399/PDH

16. **Vale of White Horse Planning Decisions**

There were none to note this cycle.

17. **Planning Applications**

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)

18. **Planning Applications**

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 schedule).

The meeting rose at 8.25pm.