

Droitwich Spa Town Council

MINUTES of the meeting of the PLANNING COMMITTEE held in the Council Chamber, St Richards House, Victoria Square, Droitwich Spa, on Monday 1 June 2015 at 6.00pm.

PRESENT: Councillor R E Murphy (Chairman)
Councillor R G Beale (Ex-officio)
Councillor Ms J H Bolton
Councillor G R Brookes
Councillor Mrs A Hawkins
Councillor A Humphries
Councillor Mrs M A Lawley
Councillor R J Morris
Councillor T J Noyes

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors S Best, Mrs C A Bowden, A H Laird, Mrs C A Powell, A Roberts and A M Sinton.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors L Evans and Mrs S Harris.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

❖ Mr John Fraser, 2 Stalls Farm Road WR9 8JQ

Mr Fraser's address to the committee (appended) was circulated before and at the meeting. He outlined some of the incidents that had occurred caused by irresponsible drivers parking their cars in Stalls Farm Road rather than utilising the car park at the Railway Station.

Councillor G R Brookes advised of the following:

- the remit of the three levels of local government and Police in such matters;
- Worcestershire County Council as the Highways Authority dealt with Traffic Regulation Orders, Wychavon District Council was responsible for on-street parking enforcement within the scope of these Orders;
- the Police could enforce in matters of obstruction;
- cars obstructing the pavement was an enforcement matter for the Police who applied the 'double buggy test' for width clearance;
- cars blocking a private driveway did not count as obstruction if exiting from the driveway but did if unable to access your driveway;
- cars parked so that a van could not get past was obstruction provided the driver was trying to get to somewhere in such a vehicle but not if this situation was just observed by a pedestrian;
- Police attended if possible but may be busy with more serious matters and this should be allowed for.

County Councillor Mrs Lynne Duffy was in attendance in the public area and advised that she would meet with Mr Fraser to discuss options available following consultation with the Highways Officers.

❖ Mr Brown, Planning Consultant: Re: W/15/01182/PN

Mr Brown confirmed that all planning issues raised by the Town Council and the Planning Officers at Wychavon District Council had been addressed. Planning application W/15/00619/PN for the erection of two dwellings had been withdrawn and W/15/01182/PN submitted for the erection of one dwelling was to be considered by the Committee at its meeting. He reported that Mr David Pitcher, the Highways Officer had confirmed that the access arrangements to the site were considered adequate for the erection of two dwellings on the site.

Councillor T Noyes queried some aspects of the access including width and ownership and Mr Brown responded accordingly.

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11 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

The Membership and Chairmanship of the Committee, as determined at the Annual Meeting of Council held on 18 May 2015, was noted.

12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of Interest were made at the appropriate point in the meeting in Agenda Item Agenda Item 6(a) – Planning Applications:

- W/15/01171/PN – Unit 22 North Street WR9 8JB, Mr M Simmonds, Diamond Windows: Councillor Ms J H Bolton – inasmuch as she knew the Applicant.
- W/15/01182/PN – Land Off, Newland Drive, WR9 Mr & Mrs Siddle: Councillor Mrs M A Lawley – inasmuch as she knew the Applicant’s Agent.

13 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE

It was proposed by Councillor R E Murphy and seconded by Councillor G R Brookes that Councillor Ms J Bolton be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee for the ensuing municipal year.

There being no other nominations, it was

RESOLVED That Councillor Ms J Bolton be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing municipal year

14 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 13 APRIL 2015

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 13 April 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

15 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Prior to consideration of this item the Chairman gave a short summary of the role of the Town Council as one of the statutory consultees in planning applications, delegations to Planning Officers, the role of the District Council's Planning Committee, of which he was now a member, and the situation of appeals.

RESOLVED That the comments of the Planning Committee upon the planning applications received from Wychavon District Council, appended as a schedule to these Minutes, be approved.

16 AMENDED PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were none.

17 FORTIS HOUSING: DEVELOPMENTS UTILISING GARAGE BLOCKS – PRIDZOR CLOSE AND BOWER HILL

Pursuant to Minute 283(2), Planning Committee meeting 13 April 2015, a meeting between Fortis Housing and Town Ward Councillors and with key residents invited, had taken place on 21 May 2015 and the Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk thereon which had been circulated at the meeting and via email to Town Councillors.

In summary it was noted that the Planning Appeal against refusal of W/14/02610/PN - Garage Block site, Pridzor Close, Droitwich Spa had now been lodged with the Planning Inspectorate and that a public consultation exercise would shortly be undertaken with regard to the Bower Hill site. This information was noted by the Committee.

Councillor G R Brookes, who chaired the meeting with Fortis Living representatives advised upon the meeting and confirmed that he was now a member of the District Council's Planning Committee although he had not been at the time the original application was determined and had supported residents in their opposition to the proposals. However he had now been advised during his 'probity training' that in his role on the District Council's Planning Committee he should not form an opinion prior to committee debate. He had been contacted by Stuart Dudley the Architect for Fortis Living regarding redesigning the proposals for Pridzor Close and had referred him to the Town Clerk.

18 DECISIONS OF THE LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY

Wychavon District Council, the Local Planning Authority, had issued four approval notices, all of which accorded with the recommendations of the Town Council. No refusal notices had been issued.

The Committee noted that Planning Application W/15/00619/PN for the Erection of two detached dwellings, Land off Newland Drive, Mr & Mrs Siddle had been withdrawn by the Applicant on 29 April 2015.

19 WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGNS

The Senior Highways Liaison Engineer at Worcestershire County Council had assessed Westwood Way as a possible location for a VAS following a request by the residents of Westwood Close and County Councillor Mrs L Duffy. Consideration was given to the inclusion of this site on the rotation schedule.

RESOLVED That the location at Westwood Close be included on the rotation schedule for the siting of the Town Council’s Vehicle Activated Signs.

20 WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - WIDTH OF FOOTPATH DW-569, DROITWICH (PART) – PUBLIC PATH EXTINGUISHMENT AND DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2015

The Committee noted that this matter was for information only, having been considered previously at the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 7 July 2014 and 9 February 2015. The area in question concerned the footpath that was the continuation of Westlands Walk (ie at the rear of 11 - 19 East Park Drive) and that the Extinguishment Order was to enable the replacement of a retaining wall which was in a dangerous condition and referred only to part of the width of the footpath DW-569 (formerly Footpath No 31).

The meeting ended at 6.26pm.

Chairman of Committee
06 July 2015

Chairman of Council
22 June 2015

To
DROITWICH TOWN COUNCIL.
28-5-2015

MIR JOHN FRASER,
2 STALLS FARM RD,
DROITWICH, WR9 8JQ.

CAR PARKING FULL ON THE PAVEMENT AT THE
BOTTOM OF STALLS FARM RD ON THE RIGHT HAND SIDE.

RECENTLY LETTERS HAVE BEEN WRITTEN BY RESIDENTS TO THE
LOCAL PRESS, ABOUT CAR PARKING IN THIS AREA.

I SHARE A DRIVE-WAY WITH MY NEIGHBOURS WHICH
WE PAID FOR WITH A DROPPED KERB, OVER THE LAST
TWO YEARS SLIGHT DAMAGE HAS BEEN DONE TO
THE EDGES WHERE THE DRIVE-WAY MEETS THE
PAVEMENT BY VEHICLES TURNING.

THE POLICE SAY ITS THE HIGHWAYS WHO ALLOW PARKING ON
PAVEMENTS, THEY DO GET INVOLVED WITH PARALLEL PARKING
BY RESIDENTS WHEN LOADING HOME FROM WORK HAVE NO WHERE TO PARK.

I HAVE PHONED THE COUNTY HIGHWAYS ABOUT DAMAGE TO
THE DRIVE BY CARS PARKING, THEY TOLD ME TO GET IN TOUCH
WITH WYCHAVON WHO DEAL WITH PARKING ISSUES, THEY IN TURN
TOLD ME THEY ONLY GET INVOLVED WHERE LINES RESTRICT PARKING.
I NOTE THE TOWN COUNCIL ARE INVITING REPRESENTATIVES FROM
THE COUNTY HIGHWAYS DEPT TO A FUTURE MEETING.

MOST OF THE PARKING IN DROITWICH BY RAIL USERS IS ON
ROADS, ALSO 50-50 PARKING ON ROAD AND PAVEMENT, WHERE
I LIVE THE PAVEMENT IS ABOUT 4 METRES WIDE WHICH LEADS
TO FULL ON PARKING.

WITH THE EXPANSION OF DROITWICH, MORE CARS TO PARK.
CAN I SUGGEST PROPER PARKING OUT ON THE PAVEMENT
FOR CARS, AND BICYCLISTS AND OTHER USERS, AND
PERHAPS SOME PARKING PLACES FOR RESIDENTS.
I'M SURE THIS COULD HELP TO ALLEVIATE A LOT OF
PROBLEMS IN THIS AREA.

Yours sincerely
J. Fraser.