

CHESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the PLANNING COMMITTEE

held on Monday 13th September 2021

PRESENT Councillor N.T. Southworth – Chairman (presiding)

Councillor	A.K. Bacon	Councillor	U. Hayyat
"	J. L. Baum	"	F. Holly
"	M. Fayyaz		C.A. Hood

IN ATTENDANCE

Officer: K.A. Graves – Policy and Projects Officer.

Councillor J.C. Fulford

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Q. Chaudhry and J.E. MacBean.

23. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Fayyaz declared a non-pecuniary interest in planning applications PL/21/2893/FA and PL/21/2603/FA and made no comments on the applications, leaving the room for PL/21/2603/FA.

Councillor Holly declared a non-pecuniary interest in planning application PL/21/2741/FA due to being a friend of the applicant and made no comments on the application.

Councillor Fulford declared a non-pecuniary interest in planning applications PL/21/2864/FA and PL/21/2908/FA due to being a friend of the applicants, making no comment on these applications and left the room while PL/21/2864/FA was considered.

24. **MINUTES**

It was

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on Monday 2nd August 2021 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

25. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The Committee considered planning applications received from Buckinghamshire Council since the last meeting of the Planning Committee and made comments and observations thereon as set out on the attached schedule.

26. **DECISION NOTICES**

The Committee noted the Decision Notices received from Buckinghamshire Council since

the last meeting of the Planning Committee as set out on the attached schedule.

27. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

The items presented on the Information Sheet were received and noted.

In respect to the EIA request in relation to upgrading Chesham Sewage Treatment Works, the Committee noted the importance of this work for the whole town and the local environment. The Committee wishes to be updated on the progress of this work at every opportunity.

28. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

The Committee felt that the issue of subsidised parking requests should not be private and confidential. It was therefore moved by the Chairman and unanimously agreed that the public and press should not be excluded from the following item. Cllr Fulford requested that the agenda item be made public on the town council web site.

29. **SUBSIDISED PARKING REQUESTS**

Cllr Bacon said that he was pleased that the Chiltern Hills Academy is trying to find solutions to the congestion and parking issues that are a real problem for residents on Chartridge Lane, Penn Avenue, Lowndes Avenue and Hampden Avenue. There was, however, consensus within the Committee that the estimated costs of the one-hour free parking scheme provided by Buckinghamshire Council would place an unacceptable financial burden on the town council. Additional concerns were raised: the likely low uptake of the scheme due to the walk uphill from the car park to get to school; that encouraging driving into the town centre would run contrary to the Council's environmental objectives; and that the implementation of such a scheme for the benefit of one group would be likely to encourage other requests.

Cllr Southworth advised that a planning condition had been placed on the Chiltern Hills Academy expansion requiring a 'park and stride' scheme. This scheme should be progressed to see if it helps to alleviate the traffic problems.

Cllr Fulford stated that students of senior school age living within the town are largely within walking distance of the school. However, she said that transport by car is prioritised in the town and the public transport is poor, making other forms of travel to school less attractive. Cllr Baum said that Buckinghamshire Council is seeking funding from central government for a Bus Service Improvement Plan and we should be encouraging more people to use buses and other forms of non-car based transport.

The Committee unanimously rejected the recommendation of further investigating options for subsidising free car parking in Star Yard and Water Meadow car parks. The Committee wishes to encourage walking, and working with the Zone 9 Cycle Group for better cycling infrastructure. The Committee requested an update on the recent meeting with the Zone 9 Cycle Group at the next Community, Assets, Recreation and Environment Committee meeting. Officers were requested to circulate to the Committee a draft of the letter to be sent to Chiltern Hills Academy.

30. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 9.14 pm.

CHAIRMAN

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