

EVESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the **PLANNING AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held at 6.30 pm on **MONDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2014** in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Evesham.

Chairman Cllr C D Homer (Deputy Town Mayor)
Vice Chairman Cllr J H Smith OBE

Councillors: Cllr Booth, Cllr P R Boyd, Cllr J Bulman, Cllr Mrs W Dyke,
Cllr M D Elliman, Cllr M S Goodge (Town Mayor), Cllr Mrs B A Gurden,
Cllr M Hammon, Cllr Mrs L Jakeman, Cllr R A Jakeman,
Cllr R S W Jones, Cllr F Kaler, Cllr G O'Donnell, Cllr Mrs J E Sandalls,
Cllr Mrs F S Smith, Cllr I Stewart, Cllr Mrs J Taylor, Cllr N S Tucker

Officers: Mr S D Carter (Town Clerk)

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Dyke, Mrs Raphael, Raphael and Mrs Whiting.

2. Declarations of pecuniary or other interest including requests for dispensation (if any)

Councillor Smith declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 3.9 (14/00243/PP) since the application was in his District ward.

Cllrs Bulman, Jakeman and Mrs Sandalls declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 5 planning applications, since they were members of Wychavon District Council's Planning Committee.

Cllr Tucker declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 10, since he was an acquaintance of the applicant.

3. Announcements

The Town mayor informed Members that the prospective Conservative Candidate for Mid Worcestershire Constituency would be at Raphael's Restaurant on 28 February to meet any interested individuals.

Cllr Jakeman informed members that there would be a fund raising event in aid of the Bell Tower at the Arts Centre on 5 April 2014.

4. Verbal Update – Sgt P Stayte

Councillor Homer welcomed Sergeant Stayte and PC Lewis from West Mercia Police (WMP) to the meeting. Sgt Stayte began his update by explaining how West Mercia Police Authority had gone through lots of recent changes. He explained that the area now covered by Evesham had doubled, encompassing areas as far as Upton-on-Severn. As a result, there was now an increase in Officers working out of Evesham.

It was explained that there had been a spike in burglaries around the Christmas period. There had also been a spate of thefts of catalytic convertors in the area. People were targeting cars with high ground clearance and removing them from underneath the vehicle in the middle of the night. As a result, more nighttime patrols were being undertaken to counter this.

The Safer Neighbourhood Team had been very proactive recently and had carried out seven warrants on cannabis farms in the area. These warrants were carried out on the basis of intelligence gathered from the general public.

WMP had been carrying out speed enforcement exercises in and around Evesham and had caught 120 people speeding. This was part of a speed and casualty reduction exercise.

In response to a question, Sgt Stayte stated that Port Street was a vibrant area and that the perception that it was troublesome or dangerous was unfounded and incorrect. It had a night time economy which brought with it related anti-social behaviour but that this was no worse than any other area, and that there was no risk of significant harm to anybody frequenting Port Street.

In response to a question, regarding gangs of young people who had been behaving anti-socially, Sgt Stayte said that he was aware of two groups who had been given Criminal Anti Social Behaviour Orders (CRASBOs). CRASBOs prevented those under the order from associating with each other, going to certain areas etc. They required a lot of effort in terms of evidence gathering to get one; however, the evidence could be hearsay. It was hoped that the CRASBOs would ease this problem.

With regards to a question about anti-social behaviour at Workman Gardens, Sgt Stayte said that there was a perception that this was a hotspot; however, there had been no reports in the last 3 months. Many of the reports were historical and based on rumour and centred on a section of the community. WMP were keen to dispel this myth and rumour and deal with facts. A camera was to be placed in the area to restore confidence. Members commented that it would be helpful if the cameras could focus on mooring boats as boaters were reluctant to moor there because of the perception that it is an anti social behaviour hot spot.

Finally, Sgt Stayte state stated that he could not comment on two car fire incidents as they were subject to an ongoing investigation.

Sgt Stayte and PC Lewis were thanked for attending.

NOTED

5. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- 5.1 DB/14/00222/DB -Wychavon District Council, Toilets at Crown Meadow - application for prior notification of proposed demolition - to demolish brick built toilet block.

Members were very happy to see this planning application and it was **RESOLVED** to recommend that this application be approved.

- 5.2 W/13/02525/PP – Limetree, Abbey Manor Farm, Worcester Road
A single story bedroom extension on the side of the existing property, with a connecting corridor between the house and the extension to connect all the rooms together along with and a new front door entrance.

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend that this application be approved.

- 5.3 W/13/02594/PN – Tesco Stores Ltd, Worcester Road
Installation of Dry Cleaning, Key Cutting, Shoe & Watch Repairs Pod to Class 1 Retail Premises

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend that this application be refused since Members considered that this proposal would take business away from the town centre.

- 5.4 W/13/02595/AA – Tesco Stores Ltd, Worcester Road
Advertisement consent for 6 fascia signs in connection with installation of Dry Cleaning, Key Cutting, Shoe & Watch Repairs Pod to Class 1 Retail Premises. The advertisements promote the brand and the services the pod can provide.

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend that this application be refused since Members considered that this proposal would take business away from the town centre.

- 5.5 13/02529/PN – De Montfort Medical Centre, Burford Road
Two storey extension to health centre with private and public car park alterations, De Montfort Medical Centre

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend that this application be approved.

- 5.6 14/00267/PP – 2 Glencoe Road
Demolition of existing single storey extension to be replaced with a new flat roof single storey extension.

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend that this application be approved.

- 5.7 13/02381/AA – Outside Youth Association, Broadway Road
Two fascia signs.

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend that this application be approved.

- 5.8 14/00109/PN – Jet Plant Hire, Land adjacent, The Enterprise Centre, Enterprise Way
Vale Park
Erection of one commercial building to be used for servicing of HGV

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend that this application be approved.

- 5.9 14/00243/PP – Lyndale, 78 School Road
Demolition of rear extension, side extension and car port. Erection of single storey rear and front extension. Erection of new porch and loft conversion.

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend that this application be approved subject to the proposal not adversely affecting the light to neighbouring properties.

- 5.10 14/00201/RM – Persimmon Homes South Midlands, Land off Cheltenham Road and including 118 Cheltenham Road
Reserved matters application following outline planning permission W/10/01760/OU – redesign of part of scheme approved under consent ref: W/12/01286/RM and to erect 30 dwellings and associated garages as a replacement for 24 dwellings already approved.

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend that this application be approved.

- 5.11 14/00255/PP – 53 Lavender Walk
Extension over garage and kitchen and new conservatory.

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend that this application be approved.

6. Traffic Order Consultation – Offenham Road

Worcestershire County Council (WCC) had written to the Town Council to inform the Town Council of their proposal to construct a roundabout as part of the Offenham Road development. The roundabout would be furnished with a street lighting system and as a result, the speed limit for this area would be reduced to 30 mph.

It was commented that there was a small section that was to be designated 60 mph, however, that because it was such a small stretch of the road, it would be beneficial to make this 30 mph too. This would in effect extend the 30 mph limit down to and including the roundabout.

It was **RESOLVED** to request that the 30 mph speed limit be extended too the new roundabout, therefore removing the 60 mph stretch of road.

It was further requested that the Town Council ask WCC to consider making this stretch of road 30 mph limit beyond the Aldington Road to the Railway Bridge. Members **RESOLVED** that this comment also be submitted to WCC.

7. Traffic Order Consultation – High Street

Worcestershire County Council (WCC) had written to the Town Council to inform the Town Council of their proposal to prohibit loading and unloading Monday to Saturday 10.30am to 4.30pm along the High Street. The specific details of the order were as follows:

The area to the east of the eastern kerblines of High Street between the southern kerblines of Swan Lane and the northern kerblines of Swan Lane and the northern kerblines of Oat Street; and the east side of the area to the east of the eastern kerblines of High Street between the northern kerblines of Oat Street and the south kerblines of the unnamed access road to that area (north of number 10 High Street).

The west side of the area to the east of the east kerblines from the south kerblines of Oat Street and the south kerblines of Oat Street for a distance of 5 metres in a southerly direction; and the west side of the area to the east of the east kerblines from a point 43 metres south of the south kerblines of Oat Street for a distance of 14 metres in a southerly direction.

It was explained that this traffic order covered the paved area from Swan Lane down to the taxi rank. It was **RESOLVED** to support this proposal.

8. Reports from Council's Representatives

No reports were raised under this agenda item

9. Matters of urgency raised, for information only, at the discretion of the Chairman

Councillors O'Donnell and Smith left the meeting.

10. Business Rate Relief Application

Under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act, it was **RESOLVED** to ask the press and public to leave and move into confidential session pending the discussion of a confidential item.

In confidential session, it was **RESOLVED** that the application for business rate relief is supported but that the Town Council does not contribute financially as it does not receive any income from business rates and has not budgeted to for such an expenditure.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.10 pm.

COUNCILLOR C D HOMER
CHAIRMAN