

Minutes of a meeting of the PLANS COMMITTEE held at The Winter Gardens, Ventnor, I.W. on 19th May 2008.

Present: Councillor C.J.Elvers Chairman
Councillors A.C. Bartlett, Mrs.M.Cawley, S.B.Milford, M/s D.Robinson,
Mrs.S.J.Scocia and Mrs.V.Taylor.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J.S.Fitzgerald-Bond, Mrs.B.Lawson, B.M.Lucas and R.J.Mew.

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

It was Resolved - That Councillor C.J.Elvers be appointed Chairman for the ensuing year.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th May 2008 were approved and signed.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs.S.J.Scocia declared an interest as a member of the Development Control Committee and did not vote upon planning applications.

4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS TCP/14875/N - LAND ADJACENT TO PUMPING STATION, THE ESPLANADE, VENTNOR.

Further to Minute No.3(c) of the meeting held on 6th May 2008, Mr.S.Strevens attended the meeting at the invitation of the Committee to clarify the intention and background to the above application

Mr.Strevens stated that when condition no. 14 was prepared it appeared that the legal department of the Isle of Wight Council had not been consulted and when it came to the signing of the Section 106 agreement those solicitors and his solicitors stated that the wording of the condition could not be legally implemented. In respect of condition no. 11 it had been found that contrary to advice originally given by Southern Water that a 900mm sewer running across the site was not used the sewer was in fact found to be in active use and could not be built over. Hence the proposed building needed to be redesigned to include a Harbour Office. This has caused a long delay in the start of the works including a delay of a year in the construction of the new public conveniences, the realignment of the road and eventually would require a further planning consent.

The Committee expressed their deep concern that the Isle of Wight Council had not made them aware of all these circumstances before the application to vary conditions 11 and 14 was published since the information would have been very relevant to their consideration of the issue. Members felt that there had been a lack of communication between departments of the Isle of Wight Council which had resulted in unreasonable delay in the progress of the development of The Esplanade and the facilities available there and created additional costs for all concerned.

It was Resolved - That the Town Clerk write to Mr.Bill Murphy, Head of Planning Services expressing their dissatisfaction in the manner in which this application had been dealt with and requesting an assurance that in future they be kept informed of any circumstances which arise in such cases as this and be given the opportunity to make know their views by early consultation and discussion.

5. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

It was Resolved – That the Planning Authority be informed that the Town Council see no reason why planning consent should not be issued in respect of the following applications:

P/01014/08 TCP/11511/G Revision to approved balcony on front elevation – Flat 3, Seacliff Belgrave Rd.

P/01026/08 TCP/05163/F Telecommunications installation comprising five antennas mounted on roof-top handrail, one wallmounted transmission dish and associated equipment cabinet (revised scheme) – Knights Court, High St.

P/01057/08 LDC/04288/E Certificate of lawfulness for continued use of property as dwelling – The Coach House, Bunchurch Shute.

6. STATEMENTS BY ELECTORS AT MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee considered a communication from Mr.D.Russell asking that consideration be given to allow members of the public to speak upon planning applications which are discussed by the Committee. The Town Clerk submitted a note of advice for the guidance of members.

It was Resolved – That the Committee set a period of fifteen minutes before the commencement of meetings to allow electors for the area to make a statement upon planning applications which are to be considered at the meeting and that a time limit of three minutes be set for each person making such a statement.

It was made clear that only councillors can take part in any matter in question and electors cannot enter into debate since any decision reached must be clearly seen to be a decision of members of the Committee.

Chairman