

## **PLANNING COMMITTEE: MINUTES**

Date: Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2015

Time: 10.00 – 10.40

Place: Kreis Viersen Room, Shire Hall, Cambridge

Present: Councillors B Ashwood, P Bullen, D Connor (Chairman), S Criswell, L Harford, S Kindersley, A Lay, M Lloynes, J Scutt and M Smith (Vice-Chairwoman)

### **126. APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P Ashcroft, W Hunt (Cllr Harford sub) and K Reynolds (Cllr S Criswell sub.)

There were no declarations of interest.

### **127. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Councillor Lay proposed Councillor Connor as Chairman. This was seconded by Councillor Lloynes. Councillor Connor was elected as Chairman unanimously.

This created a vacancy for the position of Vice Chairman. Councillor Lay proposed Councillor Smith. This was seconded by Councillor Lloynes. Councillor Smith was elected as Vice Chairwoman unanimously.

### **121. MINUTES – 23<sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2015**

The minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2015 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **128. REVIEW OF THE LOCAL INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE VALIDATION OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS.**

The Committee received a report that highlighted the proposed changes to Cambridgeshire County Council's Local Validation List.

During discussion on the report Members

- Welcomed the revised Local Validation List and officers confirmed that the draft document was available for inspection on the Council's website.
- "Hardstanding" was confirmed as asphalt or concrete.
- Raised a concern regarding whether the wording on page 3 of the document was strong enough. Members stated that development must ensure that developments should not increase the flood risk further downstream and mitigating steps taken so that can be avoided.

- Endorsed the statements of the Middle Level Commissioners.

It was resolved to endorse the proposed revised list and guidance notes set out in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 of the report.

## **129. ENFORCEMENT UPDATE REPORT 1<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2014 – 30<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2015**

Officers presented a report that detailed the enforcement action taken for the period 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014 to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2015. A verbal update was provided regarding the enforcement action undertaken at First Drove, Little Downham, Ely. Officers advised that following a meeting with Counsel it was agreed not to pursue counts one and two of the prosecution and while counts three and four were sound, it was agreed that it would not be in the public interest to pursue these further.

During discussion of the report Members:

- Sought clarification of paragraph 8.2 of the report. Officers confirmed that although the Council could seek to discontinue to the current planning permission it was not seeking to do that at this time. However, it would be kept under review.
- Thanks were expressed for the enforcement action taken against Cottenham Skips.
- Confirmed with officers that the legal costs of enforcement proceedings could be recovered from the applicant. Officers advised further if any profits had been made by the applicant as a result of the breach of planning permission then the Council would seek to have these frozen as proceeds of crime.
- Were keen to avoid the Council being seen as a “soft touch” with regard to enforcement.
- Questioned how the deterrent value of enforcement formed part of the public interest test when court action was being considered. Officers confirmed that enforcement action did act as a deterrent and did form part of the public interest considerations.
- Were provided with an update regarding Block Fen Drove. Work had not yet begun due to electricity lines being found. The first part of the work would therefore start next month on the part not affected by the electricity cables.

It was resolved to note the content of the report.

## **130. SUMMARY OF DECISIONS MADE UNDER DELEGATED POWERS**

The Committee received a report on decisions made under delegated powers between 15<sup>th</sup> April 2015 and 8<sup>th</sup> June 2015.

The Committee resolved to note the report.

## **131. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> JULY 2015**

