

THRAPSTON TOWN COUNCIL

Mayor: Cllr. Eddie Sewell

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222-11/12

PLANNING, LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting Tuesday 03 January 2012

- Present:** Cllr. E Sewell ex-officio, Cllr. S Haynes, Cllr. V Carter, Cllr. P Goss, Cllr. K Draycott, Cllr. D Read and Cllr. H McCormack
- In attendance:** Jeanne Pike Clerk
- Part-time:** David Shaw, Ian Henniwell, Charles Ashbury and two members of the public

01 Apologies for Absence:

Sara Crawley tendered her apologies which were accepted.

02 Declaration of interest in items on the Agenda:

Cllr. S Haynes declared an interest in item 10. **Noted**

03 Chancery Lane Development Proposals:

Mr Shaw attended, together with an Architect and the owner of 15 Chancery Lane and surrounding land as well as the two members of the public, to give the Council an insight into proposals for redevelopment of the land at 15 Chancery Lane. No 15 is a listed building and is situated in the Conservation area of the town. Mr Ashbury is hoping to redevelop the land for planning purposes and is looking at housing with access off Chancery Lane. Mr Shaw assured members that although access may be tight it would reach the required standards; he went on to say that although Thrapston planners favour 3-4 bed dwellings the market is strongest in the 2-3 bed area and he anticipated these being two storey buildings.

Mention was made of the site being of archaeological significance and Mr Shaw said that a full study would be carried out to ensure preservation where appropriate.

Whilst members favoured the 2-3 bedroom concept they felt that access would be tight and the site cramped. Mr Shaw asked members to consider the plans he had put forward and to contact him if there were any further matters needing his attention. Mr Shaw promised to keep in touch through the Clerk. All part time attendees left the meeting at 7.55 pm.

05 Planning Applications:

EN/11/01759/FUL – Change of use from office to dwelling comprising the removal of the existing mono-pitch roof to be replaced with a dual-pitched roof with three dormers at 64B High Street. **No objection**

EN/11/01985/FUL – Demolition of modern farm buildings and conversion of remaining traditional buildings, to three office units (use Class B1), Springfield Farm, Oundle Road. **No objection subject to consideration being given to any archaeological significance on the site.**

06 Planning Decisions (for noting):

Approvals:

EN/11/01658/OUT – Demolition of garages on site and erection of 2 no. three bedroom dwellings (market housing) with associated parking and alternative parking to rear at Heron Avenue – Garage Block End of Grebe Close.

07 Ground Maintenance Audit:

The Ground Audit showed that the dog bin at Swallowfields needs a new lid.

Action Clerk

The overriding concern was for the state of the trees in general on Council land.

Members felt that they were not suitably qualified to assess the trees for damage and decay and discussed how the trees could be checked on a regular basis.

The Clerk will ask Howard Bosworth for his opinion and if necessary will take the matter further. It will also be possible to ask advice at an impending insurance course. **Action Clerk**

08 Review of Present Contracts for Service:

The alarm system is service annually by Secure One, the heating by Corvee, the fire equipment by Help and Safety (a relatively new contract) and the play equipment by RoSPA. It was noted that RoSPA had been over zealous in their recent inspection and had reported on land not belonging to the Council. **Clerk to notify RoSPA.**

The present contracts were all agreed as meeting the needs of the Council and accepted for a further year.

09 Community Plan Preparations:

Cllr. P Baden and Cllr. E Franklin (both from the Finance Committee) have agreed to join the working party for the Community Plan preparation

It was agreed to organise the initial meeting which will consist of Cllrs. P Baden, E Franklin, P Goss and D Read.

10 Firework Display 2012:

Kimbolton Fireworks reported that the 2011 display went well and hope to work for the Council again in 2012 but they will need an early booking due to the Diamond Jubilee and Olympic celebrations and they will also need to re-assess the area for the display following the building of the BMX track. Members agreed that a display should be planned for 2012 and Monday 05 November should be the first choice.

Clerk to contact Kimbolton Fireworks

11 Christmas Lights 2011 and 2012:

After an initial shaky start during the installation of the lights members agreed that the Lights looked good, worked well and were a credit to the town. The only problem being that the timers had been set incorrectly to switch off after 02 January instead of 05 January 2012. This will be brought to the attention of Blachere.

Once the lights have been removed a meeting will be arranged with Blachere personnel to iron out the problems that arose this year and to ensure that 2012 runs more smoothly.

12 Bus Parking in Oundle Road:

Concern was expressed over the length of time the X47 bus stays at the bus stop outside the Rectory in Oundle Road. Often for twenty minutes at a time the bus is parked causing an obstruction especially with the parking that is on-going outside the One Stop shop on the opposite side of the road. It was noted that the anomaly was that although designated as a bus stop the area also has double yellow lines.

The Clerk will contact the Highways Department and possibly Stage Coach.

Action Clerk

13 Clerks Report:

1) Play Rangers have written to thank the Council for their help in 2011 including the use of the Plaza and the Peace Park.

2) Dr & Mrs Purdy have commissioned an independent planning opinion report on the proposal for a Sainsbury's store on the Cattle Market site. They asked that it be issued to all councillors – this has been actioned.

3) The Licensing (Liquor and Gambling) Panel hearing will be held on Thursday 5th January 2012 at 9.30am in the Member's Room at ENC.

14 Items for Future Agendas:

There were no items for future Agendas.

There being no other relevant business the meeting was closed at 8.40 pm.