

# FAWLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Public Services Committee held on Wednesday 18 January 2012 at 7.00pm in the Jubilee Hall, Fawley.

**Present:** Cllr E Holtham (In the Chair), Cllr B Coyston (Vice-Chairman), Cllr M Fidler, Cllr A Glass, Cllr B Hall, Cllr R Wappet.

**Also Present:** Cllr K Smith.

**In attendance:**

Stephen Nash, Parish Clerk.

Mrs S Markides, HR&Admin Officer.

**1. Apologies:** Cllr T Joof.

**2. Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Wappet declared a non-prejudicial interest in Item 6 Planning, as he is a member of the New Forest District Council Planning Committee. He stated that he would consider the applications on the evidence in front of him at this point in time.

**3. Minutes: RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2011 be signed as a correct record.

Standing orders were suspended.

**4. PUBLIC SESSION:** Members of the public present objected to planning application 11/97754 Saddlers Mews, The Lane, Fawley due to concerns relating to the lack of parking provided, the close proximity of the dwellings to existing housing, over development of the site, loss of a 19th century building central to the village and vehicle access, including emergency, to the development

Standing orders were reinstated

**5. Chairman's Remarks:** The Chairman reminded those present of the ExxonMobil visit planned for the following evening. He also asked if any of the councillors knew where the Ordnance Survey maps on canvas rolls belonging to the council were currently located.

**6. Planning:**

**a) Parish List**

11/97754

Saddlers Mews, The Lane, Fawley SO45 1EY (NB Proposed Legal Agreement)

One pair of semi-detached houses; 1 detached house; parking; demolition of existing (Outline Application with details only of means of access, layout, scale and appearance)

Amended plans and description

**(No 4)** We recommend refusal to this application and consider three properties in this restricted space as over development. We note the existing condition of the building and may find a sympathetic application with a much lower density than that proposed acceptable, the development should take into account the enjoyment of close neighbours amenity space. We reiterate the comments made on the earlier application as above, particularly the over development of the site and would like to add that there are concerns relating to on road parking, access for emergency vehicles and access using the Public Right of Way. The

proposed frontage to The Square appears in keeping with the village and it was considered would be an improvement to the existing building but a further detached dwelling behind was considered to be over crowding.

Members of the public present were advised to send individual objections to NFDC and if the application was discussed at a Development Control Committee meeting to make sure they booked a time slot to speak. A petition objecting to the application was handed in and would be forwarded to the NFDC Planning Department.

Cllr Hall wished it to be minuted that he would prefer to see 2 nice dwellings there but objected to the proposal at the back and if nothing were approved then it would result in another derelict building in the middle of the village.

11/98088

32 Kings Ride, Langley, Fawley, SO45 1ZN

Single-storey side and rear extension

**(No 3)** We recommend approval.

11/98032

185 Long Lane, Holbury, Fawley, SO45 2PA

Retention of 2 non-illuminated panel signs (Application for advertisement consent)

**(No 3)** We recommend approval.

11/98095

53 Saxon Road, Blackfield, Fawley, SO45 1WY

Single-storey front extension

**(No 3)** We recommend approval.

11/98111

Bolin, Green Lane, Blackfield, Fawley, SO45 1YG

Roof alterations, roof lights and dormer to the side in association with new first floor

**(No 4)** We recommend refusal due to concerns relating to overcrowding and out of keeping with the surrounding area.

11/98117

10 Stanley Road, Holbury, Fawley, SO45 2LR

Double garage/workshop

**(No 3)** We recommend approval.

**b) New Forest District Council Tree Works:**

12/008

On the field boundary rear of 15 Forest Gate, Blackfield

Oak – Fell

The Parish Council supports this application subject to the advice of the District Council's Arboriculturist, however we would like to comment that to cut it down would result in a loss of wildlife biodiversity.

**7. To receive reports for the following:**

**a) Ashlett** – Cllr Hall advised that the grass was long on the green but could not be mowed at this time of year. NFDC had trimmed the verges.

**b) Play Areas**– Cllr Coyston reported that the play areas which had had new safety surfaces were looking good and he hoped that the others could also be attended to. The fencing at Renda Road was holding up well. He asked if funds would be available to repaint equipment. The Clerk advised that the Probation Service would be assisting with local projects in the near future and this would perhaps be something they could work on within our existing budgets.

c) **Footpaths** – Cllr Holtham reported he had advised the Rights of Way Dept. that Footpath 502 at the Holbury Millpond is blocked by a fallen tree. Other than that he had not had any other problems reported to him arising from the storms.

d) **Holbury Manor & Warren Copse** – Cllr Holtham advised as follows: I have just submitted a grant application to the Forestry Commission under the Woodland Grant Scheme for coppicing in Warren Copse that the Conservation Group is undertaking. This I have done in conjunction with the New Forest Land Advice Service who have been very helpful in filling out the forms and advice on how we should proceed. There are 13 sections of the copse that will be coppiced over the next 13 years each one approx. 3/4 of an acre. As each one is done approx. 25% of the second-generation trees will be thinned to allow more light to penetrate the woodland floor. The ancient trees such as the Oak and Beech will be left. This can be done at little cost, as I shall negotiate the felling of the timber for use as firewood.

During the recent storms a few trees were blown over mostly small trees, but an ancient Beech tree succumbed to the wind, luckily it fell parallel with Park Lane with only one small branch needing removal that was overhanging the road.

The Conservation Group have now finished the pond area and are moving up to the rear of Moat Close to coppice an area of Hazel. They had another new recruit start this month, with an inquiry from another person on how to join, it seems people are impressed with what is being done and want to get involved.

e) **QEII** – Cllr Fidler reported that following the installation of a timer device, gas and electricity usage had been reduced. Problems locking the building on a Thursday evening needed to be addressed. It was noted that 2 new litter bins had been installed - Cllr Wappet to contact the school girl who had requested these. A new dog bin had also been installed.

f) **Gang Warily** – Cllr Holtham reported as follows: First of all I would like to congratulate the Ground staff for reaching the final of the Institute of Groundsman's Industry Awards Ceremony at the Reebok Stadium, Bolton. Two Finalists were nominated out of over 300 national entrants in the Public Sector Sports Ground of the Year category, Fawley Parish Council and Sunderland City Council; unfortunately we came second. But it is a testament to our staff, and not forgetting the work put in by Pete Stevens who retired last year.

The fence around the Blackfield & Langley football pitch has succumbed once again to the recent gales, and they have asked us if our groundstaff can repair at their cost, but I think this is false economy. The original fence was erected with wooden post some 20 years ago, and it is a wonder that they have lasted this long, so I think we need to meet with Blackfield & Langley and discuss the replacement of the fence with something more durable, which is acceptable to the Council. Their Lease does state that they are responsible for the fence, therefore the onus is on them to keep it in good repair, but to repair it now would be throwing good money after bad.

g) **Allotments** – Cllr Holtham advised that the Council have just re-let an allotment, but it only removed one off the waiting list, which stands at 100 at the moment.

h) **Newlands Park** - Cllr Holtham reported as follows: Ian Knight our Architect has had a good response from NFDC regarding the provision of the Rugby Pitches and the Pavilion, but they have been more negative with the provision of a Community Church on the Blackfield Road side, which is surprising when they were very supportive 2 years ago when we first inquired. The NFDC Environmental Design Team seem to want to dictate to us what we should be putting on the site, but I would take more notice of the Rugby Club requirements on how they want it. At the end of the day if we have a pavilion and 3 pitches on the site then they can be utilized for anything.

I hope the formal application to raise the levels for the pitches is applied for soon, so we can make some progress. I think we also need to inform the residents of Blackfield Road what is going on when we have the final plans ready for submission. We need the Planning Agreement for the levels before the Environment Agency will grant a licence for the work to progress forward.

i) **Pentagon Copse** – Cllr Holtham advised the meeting: We now have the report from Mark Larter from the New Forest Land Advice Service on Pentagon Copse, which is based mainly on the report I made at the last Public Services Meeting. He has said though, that it is unlikely

that Natural England would be in a position to grant an HLS agreement until 2013/14, so grants are unlikely from that source. I think it is important to keep the momentum going, and to this end on the advice from Mark I have obtained an estimate of £1,080 +vat to regrade the northern boundary that has been subject to fly tipping for the past 150 years, and to fence the road boundary and northern boundary. The southern boundary, which is already fenced, will have a dead hedge created by the Conservation Group.

The Warren Copse budget, which is derived from grants obtained, has sufficient money in it to fund this estimate so that work can commence, but I will be canvassing a local source to see whether it can be sponsored to recoup the money. It is imperative that the work is done soon, as in conservation terms we only have a very small window of time to do it in. When the fencing has been done it will be advisable to leave it for the summer to regenerate the grass on the northern side and to slowly thin the trees before putting ponies on it.

I have produced a Public Notice to put on the gate to explain to the local residents what is happening, and also a Press Release for the Waterside Herald. I have also consulted one of the adjacent houses, and will be talking again with the Pre-School group at the Church who have erected bird boxes, to keep them informed. The other house that backs onto the land, the occupants have been abroad for months and return in mid January.

Once this initial work has been carried out the site would only require minimal maintenance in the future.

**RESOLVED:** To proceed with the fencing of the road boundary and northern boundary of Pentagon Copse. Costs to be met initially from the Warren Copse Budget Code 7714.

Report from the New Forest Land Advice Service is attached as Appendix A.

8. **A report on Staff Training:** Members noted the core training completed by the Grounds staff.
9. **A report from the Head Groundsman** (see attached Appendix B).
10. **To confirm comments on proposed schemes of the Transport Contributions Policy:** Members noted that the previous suggestion of a barrier at the junction of Chapel Lane and Fawley Road, to slow cyclists down was not included in the outline plan and asked that the Clerk put this idea (with a photograph) forward once again before the deadline of 25 January 2012.

**RESOLVED:** To suggest to NFDC Transportation Policy team, a barrier at the Chapel Lane and Fawley Road junction as part of the improvement plan.

11. **To consider relocation of Compound gates:**

**RESOLVED:** To recommend the acceptance of quote of £3475.00 from A R Kitcher to supply fencing and gate for the Gang Warily Compound. This matter to be brought to the Policy, Resources and Personnel Committee meeting to be held on the 01 February where funding from reserves will be requested.

12. **To consider proposal regarding transfer of open land at Langley Lodge Gardens:**

**RESOLVED:** To not accept the transfer of open land at Langley Lodge Gardens.

13. **To consider purchase of a Strimmer for Groundstaff from the Warren Copse grant monies budget code 7714:**

**RESOLVED:** To purchase a strimmer for the Fawley Parish Council Groundstaff, cost to be met from the Warren Copse grant monies budget code 7714.

14. **To note overspend on Budget code 7716 Plant Machinery:** Concern was expressed regarding the over spend on the Plant Machinery budget. The Chairman queried why the Council had not been advised of this matter before and requested a full breakdown of the budget code expenditure to be brought to the next Policy, Resources and Personnel meeting.

15. **Response to the NFDC Local Development Framework, Sites and Development Management Development Plan:**

**RESOLVED:** To object to the comment HYD6: Site Specific Proposals Totton and the Waterside regarding New Public Open Space south of Hardley Lane, west of Fawley Road. The land south of Hardley Lane is within Fawley Parish but adjacent to Hythe and should remain as Fawley Parish land.

**RESOLVED:** To suggest Slades Hill, Fawley and the Racal Industrial Park as possible sites for housing.

**RESOLVED:** To write to NFDC Planning Enforcement and advise of concerns relating to access road at Slades Hill, Fawley.

16. **Correspondence:**

**a) For information:**

i) Development Control NFDC: Notification of appeal submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, Planning application 11/97762 Land rear of 74 Hampton Lane, Blackfield, Fawley, SO45 1WN (NB Proposed Legal Agreement). Two storey dwelling; parking; access. Noted.

ii) NFDC Licensing: Licensing Act 2003 – Minor Variation Premises Licence (S41A), Tesco Express, 144 Hampton Lane, Blackfield, Southampton, SO45 1WE. Application to update the internal store lay out. Noted.

**Exclusion of public and press.**

**RESOLVED:** That, considering the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public, including the press, be excluded from the remainder of the meeting.

17. **Staffing Matters: SEE CONFIDENTIAL MINUTE FILE.**

18. **Date of next meeting:** 14 March 2012.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.28pm.

.....  
Chairman