

PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 31ST AUGUST 2023

Minutes of the meeting of the **PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE**, held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe, Newton Aycliffe on **THURSDAY 31ST AUGUST 2023 at 7 pm.**

PRESENT

Councillors: Peter Bergg, Arun M. Chandran, Neil Collinson, Ian Gray, Brian Haigh, Joanne Jones, Neville Jones, Carl Robinson, Ken Robson and John Woodward

OFFICERS

Amanda Donald (Corporate and Policy Officer)

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Councillor Carl Robinson, seconded by Councillor Ken Robson, that Councillor Peter Bergg be appointed as Chairman of the Planning Sub-Committee for the municipal year 2023-2024.

RESOLVED – that Councillor Peter Bergg be appointed as Chairman of the Planning Sub-Committee for the municipal year 2023-2024.

Councillor Bergg took the Chair for the meeting.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Councillor Ken Robson, seconded by Councillor Carl Robinson, that Councillor Neil Collinson be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Planning Sub-Committee for the municipal year 2023-2024.

RESOLVED – that Councillor Neil Collinson be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Planning Sub-Committee for the municipal year 2023-2024.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Phillip Hawkins.

4. MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS

No applications for dispensations had been received.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

6. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

7. MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Ken Robson, seconded by Councillor Arun M. Chandran, and

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Sub-Committee, held on the 24th October 2022, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Members considered the undermentioned planning applications:

- (a) DM/23/02421/FPA – Construction of a new one-storey replacement school building followed by demolition of existing school buildings, with associated car parking, landscaping and outdoor play space and facilities – Sugar Hill Primary School, Sheraton Road, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 5NU.

RESOLVED – that the following response be submitted to the planning authority:

The Town Council considered this application at a meeting of the Planning Sub-Committee on Thursday 31st August 2023 and would make the following comments:

The Committee expressed extreme concern that this application does not take advantage of the rare opportunity to improve the safety of everyone accessing the school and its immediate vicinity by creating an on-site drop off area for parents transporting their children by car. While children may be encouraged to walk or cycle to school, realistically many will still be brought to school by car. Vehicular congestion along Sheraton Road and other local junctions at school times is considerable, often dangerous and unlikely to improve with this scheme.

A query was raised in relation to parking provision on-site and whether this complies with the County Council's emerging Parking and Accessibility SPD.

It was also noted that there is currently an arrangement in place whereby the large car park owned by the adjacent Working Men's Club is used for school parking and dropping off. The car park surface is, however, somewhat uneven and roughly patched and it was suggested that local initiative or GAMP funding could be used to resurface this car park, to then be used for the mutual benefit of the Club and Sugar Hill School to relieve congestion on Sheraton Road.

The management plan for demolition and construction is awaited with interest, bearing in mind the above comments regarding congestion already in place along this only access road to the site. HGV movements will inevitably cause more problems during this phase, for both school and residential access.

It was also noted that there is currently a 24-hour accessible public defibrillator in the grounds of the school and it is important that this remains easily accessible at all times.

- (b) DM/23/02425/FPA – Retrospective garden shed, erection of greenhouse, summerhouse and potting shed, extending existing paving for access, - 18 Clarence Green, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 5HZ.

RESOLVED – that the following response be submitted to the planning authority:

No comments or objections.

9. DELEGATED DECISIONS

Members received a report of delegated decisions from Durham County Council for information.

RESOLVED – that the report be received.

CHAIRMAN