
Minutes of the planning committee meeting held on Tuesday 1 March 2022 at 7.30pm at Sancroft Hall

Present: Councillors Garry Deeks, Philip Eastgate, Tom Lindsay, Nigel Lucker, Trevor Orchard, Nick Stolls, Rachael Troughton, Neil Venton, Di Warne.

Also in Attendance: Two members of the public, Andy Parris, clerk to the council.

- 1 Cllr DW chaired the meeting. She welcomed everyone. DW also informed the council that Cllrs Sue Moore and Alex Brockhurst had resigned from the council. This will be discussed in further detail at the full council meeting on Tuesday 15 March. It was agreed to re-order two items on the agenda.
- 2 Apologies for absence There were none.
- 3 Members' declarations of interest Cllrs DW (planning application for The Gables, Laxfield Road) and NV, NS, NL and RT (conditions applying to the new Baptist chapel) declared non-pecuniary personal interests.
- 4 To record details of any lobbying relating to agenda items. All councillors had received emails lobbying about the discharge of conditions for the new Baptist chapel.
- 5 The public forum Both members of the public reminded the council that conditions attached to the planning permission for the Baptist chapel had not been met. They were particularly concerned with the conditions relating to the installation of external equipment (condition 8) and the provision of obscured glass (condition 12). The council was urged to raise these matters with the district council planning and enforcement teams.
- 6 To respond to planning application Babergh Mid Suffolk District Council planning reference DC/22/00867 Erection of first floor extension over an existing extension and erection of a single extension. The Gables Laxfield Road Fressingfield IP21 5PY. (Cllr NS chaired the meeting for this item. Cllr DW took no part in the discussion and did not vote.) The council decided to recommend approval of this application.
[Cllr DW took the chair from here to the end of the meeting. Cllrs NS, NV and RT left the meeting.]
- 7 To decide if representations need to be made to BMSDC planning department concerning the discharge of conditions that are part of the planning permission for the new Baptist chapel. It was acknowledged that there are no new developments which require parish council comments. However, it was agreed that the parish council should make further representation to the planning department, the enforcement team and the district councillor. This would highlight the continuing loss of residential amenity being caused by conditions not being met. An impression of deliberate prevarication on certain items is being given by the developer. This has exacerbated the difficult relations with immediate neighbours.

The council agreed to send the following statement to MSDC Planning Department, including the enforcement team, regarding application DC/21/00405. [Cllr NV did not vote.]

The parish council considers that a theoretical specification is insufficient to remove condition 8 (action required prior to installation of any external equipment)

The parish council urges MSDC only to accept discharge of condition 8 on the basis that:

- 1. The details submitted clearly state the sound limits.*
- 2. The developers prove those limits are met through demonstrable verified testing.*
- 3. An approved, suitably qualified member of MSDC should supervise post installation testing to ensure implementation is in accord with the details meeting the approved standards.*

Furthermore the parish council is very concerned that other discharged conditions have not yet been met by the developers. In particular, the lack of progress on installing frosted glass on the rear windows in line with condition 12 (residents are clear that the blinds currently in place are not sufficient), and the operational hours under condition 10 (residents have complained about internal lights coming on after the 10.30pm curfew).

These matters have been raised with enforcement, but no action has been taken. The parish council wants to see enforcement take action within 4 weeks.

The email will be copied to the district councillor, Lavinia Hadingham. [Cllr NV added comments to the discussion on this item but did not take part in the vote.]

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.20pm

Date of next meeting

1 full council

Tuesday 15 March at 7.30pm