

WASHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL



Clerk to the Council.
Ms Zoe Savill.
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Washington Parish Council - Planning and Transport Committee Meeting

Draft MINUTES of the Committee Meeting held on Monday, 21st March 2016 at Washington Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllr L Britt, Cllr C Beglan, Cllr T Cook, Cllr P Heeley, Cllr A Lisher and Cllr R Milner-Gulland

ALSO: Clerk to Washington Parish Council

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: 2 present

ABSENT: None

The meeting was opened at 20:00 hours.

1. Apologies for absence

None received

2. Declarations of Interest from members in any item to be discussed and agree Dispensations.

None declared.

3. To approve the Minutes of the last Planning & Transport Committee meeting

The minutes of the Meeting of 15th February 2016 were accepted as being a correct record and duly signed by the Chairman.

4. Public question time

No member of the public wished to speak

5. Planning applications and consultations:

*SDNP/16/00754/HOUS Elbourne House London Road Washington West Sussex
RH20 4AZ. Demolition of existing swimming pool building and erection of two-storey
extension to existing annexe*

*Councillors deferred their consideration of this application at the last
Full Council meeting on 7th March, pending a request for an extension of the
Deadline for comments by 24th March. The applicant's daughter Mrs Emma Walther and
her husband Mr Lee Walther, gave a brief overview of the proposals in support of the
application which was reported in the minutes of 7th March. Horsham Planning approved an
extension for comments by 24th March.*

Cllr Britt, who visited the site with Cllr Milner-Gulland, told the Planning & Transport Committee meeting that the proposed development was far away from neighbouring properties and not a problem with being viewed from the South Downs and was within existing curtilage. It was also solely for family use.

Councillors agreed in principle to raise NO OBJECTION to the application providing it is not contrary to Countryside policies.

6. Enforcement issues update

None received.

7. To receive planning department decisions

Councillors **NOTED** the following decisions:

Application Number DC/16/0116

Location: Rockwood House Rock Road Storrington Pulborough West Sussex RH20 3AF

Description: Erection of a new three bay single storey oak framed and clad garage

WPC Comments: NO OBJECTION to the application

Decision: **Application Permitted**

Date of Decision: 08/03/2016

Application Number: DC/16/0082

Location: Pinehurst Veras Walk Storrington Pulborough West Sussex RH20 3JF

Description: Surgery to 1 x Silver Birch (T3) and Surgery to a group of Scots Pine (G1)

WPC Comments: NO OBJECTION to the application

Decision: **Application Permitted**

Date of Decision: 02/03/2016

8. Appeals

There were no appeals.

9. Planning and Transport issues

To receive an update on Washington Parish noticeboard at Millford Grange from Barratts.

The Parish Council are awaiting confirmation from the developers that this will be installed in May/June at Millford Grange. The site is currently being used by a porta cabin.

Cllr Heeley reported that the clerk was awaiting an update on the noticeboard. However, Malcolm Wescott of Barratts had informed the clerk that the Washington sign is being relocated to the correct position near Hampers Lane, pending discussions with WSCC. He said the current sign is considered too large to be located opposite Hampers and would restrict pedestrians

To receive an update from Barratts on the screening in the exposed areas of hedging along Hampers Lane.

The Parish Council are awaiting details and confirmation from the developers that this will be carried out at the start of the growing season along the Hampers Lane escarpment where the new houses are clearly visible.

Cllr Heeley updated Councillors that Malcolm Wescott of Barratts had informed the clerk that

the developers would be replanting native species to act as a screen to the highway in the spring. This was considered the best time to ensure planting success. Cllr Britt said that trees should be planted in order to stabilise the embankment. Councillors requested that the clerk enquire which native species and whether they will be evergreens as this would provide better coverage.

To review any response from Cllr P Circus to the question raised at the FC meeting 7th March about costings for "Blind Junction" signs at the junction of Rock Road and Newhouse Lane.

Cllr Circus told the FC meeting on 7th March that he fully supported "Blind Junction" signs at this location and would put pressure on the County Highways Authority to make provision or provide costings for their supply and installation. This would give the Councillors the opportunity to consider whether to fund the project from Parish Council resources.

Cllr Heeley informed the Committee that the clerk had contacted Sussex Highways about the signs before the last FC meeting. He said Mrs Alison Lawler, Traffic Officer for Horsham and Chanctonbury Residential and Environmental Services, agreed to carry out a site inspection but that initial research did not flag up any security issues because records did not show that accidents were attributable to the hollow dip. The officer said that unless a security issue can be proven, the Parish Council's proposal could not be progressed either by Highways or the Parish Council. It made no difference that the Parish Council might consider paying for the signs.

Mrs Lawler had agreed to contact Cllr Philip Circus with the assessment report and to keep him informed.

Councillors discussed the response and expressed their strong disappointment. Cllr Beglan said that the scheme had the full support of Cllr Circus (WSCC) who could see no reason why it could not go ahead on financial grounds and that it did not require a TRO.

Councillors AGREED that Cllr Circus should be updated on their views to the WSCC response

To Review the position regarding the installation of the VAS warning signs at the pedestrian Crossing on the A283.

Two Vehicle Activated Signs for speed awareness on the A283 section of "The Pike", Washington, have been included in the proposed WSCC Highways & Transport Capital Works Programme 2016.17.

Any updates on its implementation and further details to be made at the meeting.

Emails of Programme and covering letter circulated to Councillors before the meeting.

Cllr Heeley told Councillors that the clerk had been informed by WSCC that although schemes on the Capital Works Programme were allocated cost codes, there was no funding at the time assigned to them and the £16,000 works for the VAS signs could not be progressed until a funding mechanism was in place. The information came from a brief statement from Adam Norris, senior technician for traffic signals at West Sussex who has been liaising with the Parish Council over the signs, just five months after WSCC confirmed the VAS would be carried out in 2016.17 and the £7,417 S106 money released to be used towards it. The Parish Council itself would be making up the £9000 balance.

Councillors expressed their shock and extreme disappointment at the news which comes after lengthy negotiations with WSCC, and set-backs before the VAS was given the go-ahead last October. Cllr Heeley said the VAS had been recommended in 2012 by a WSCC site assessment.

Cllr Beglan said that over the next 3 years WSCC had repeatedly gone round in circles and that it was time they were taken to task. She said the scheme had been agreed and then put on hold when WSCC decided to change the way S106 was to be allocated, before the VAS was finally included in the 2016.17 programme.

The clerk informed councillors that she had contacted Mr Norris prior to the meeting for further information and was awaiting a response. Councillors AGREED that the clerk should inform Mr Norris that councillors had requested a definitive answer from him about implementing the works, and that if he is unable to confirm that the project is moving forward, the Council would be taking the matter up directly with County Council leader, Louise Goldsmith. Cllr Circus would also be consulted and kept informed.

For information only:

Cllr Heeley and Cllr Cook will be attending the New Agents Forum at Horsham District Council on 31st March. The quarterly event is aimed at helping the council improve its service, to give agents advance notice of proposed changes and to invite their early input.

Date of next meeting 18th April 2016

The meeting closed at 20:30 hours

Signed..... Dated.....