Washington Parish Council Planning and Transport Committee Meeting

**MINUTES of the Committee Meeting held on Monday, 16th March 2015 at Washington Village Hall**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs Beglan, Cook, Jolley and Turley

**ALSO:** Clerk to the Council Petrina Kingham

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**: 2

**ABSENT**: Cllrs Heeley and Britt.

The Clerk opened the meeting at 17:30

**1. To Receive Nominations and Elect a Chair for the Meeting.**

Cllr Turley was proposed by Cllr Jolley seconded by Cllr Beglan. Cllr Turley agreed to the nomination and was voted in unanimously.

**2. Apologies for absence**Apologies were receive and accepted from Cllrs Heeley (Holiday) and Britt (prior engagement).

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

There were no declarations.

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

The minutes of the Meeting of 16th February 2015 were **AGREED** as being a correct record and duly signed by the Chairman.

**5. Public question time**

Cllr Turley invited the member of the public present to speak on matters on the Agenda.

Mr Mike Gould (HCRA) spoke on the matter of **DC/14/0457**Lupin Cottage and pointed out that the continued reluctance of HDC to act on the matter made the planning system a farce and exposed the Parish to other similar abuses. Mr Gould thanked the Parish Council for dealing with the matter of the Storrington and Sullington Bus shelter and the issue of its positioning which was creating a hazard on the A283.

 **6. Planning applications and consultations:**

WSCC/016/15/WS Windmill Landfill Site, The Hollow, Rock Road Washington RH20 3DA - Variation to Conditions 2 and 20 of the Planning permission WSCC/017/091WS in respect of final restoration of the site

Cllrs noted that there was very little information currently available on this complex application and asked the Clerk to write to WSCC noting this and requesting a response.

**DC/15/ 0231** - Little Yew Georges Lane Storrington Pulborough West Sussex RH20 3JH - Increase the length of an existing extension by 3.5m to 7.5m

After some discussion Councillors **AGREED** that they had **NO OBJECTION** to the proposals which were moderate in size and had no impact on the view from neighbouring properties.

**DC/15/0288** Small Croft Georges Lane Storrington RH20 3JH -Rear extensions and pitched roof and replacement garage

After some discussion Councillors **AGREED** that they had **NO OBJECTION** to the proposals.

**DC/15/0401** Finches Hollow, Melrose Place, Storrington Pulborough RH20 3HH - Fell 1 Birch tree and fell a row of Holly trees (TPO)

After some discussion Councillors **AGREED** that they had **NO OBJECTION** to the proposals. Most of the vegetation proposed for destruction was dead or dying.

**7. Enforcement issues update**

There were none

**8. To receive planning department decisions**

Councillors **NOTED** the following decisions:

Application Number: DC/14/0317 Decision: Application Permitted

Site: Former Highway Depot London Road Washington West Sussex

Description: Cessation of existing use as highway depot and erection of 4 x 3-bed houses with associated access, garaging and parking (Outline)

Date of Decision: 17/02/2015

*WPC did not object to this application but requested attention be given to access if granted. A S106 has been drafted (but not yet signed) giving £8400.00 to WSCC as a highways contribution.*

Application Number: DC/14/0915 Decision: Withdrawn Application

Site: Old Clayton Boarding Kennels Storrington Road Washington Pulborough West Sussex RH20 4AG

Description: Listed Building Consent for Demolition of Outbuildings around 'Old Claytons'

Date of Decision: 16/02/2015

WPC objected to this application

Application Number: DC/14/1770 Decision: Application Refused

Site: 1 Gorse Bank Close Storrington Pulborough West Sussex RH20 3AQ

Description: Erection of a one-and-a-half storey dwelling in the grounds

Date of Decision: 02/03/2015

WPC did not object to this application

Application Number: DC/15/0149 Decision: Application Permitted

Site: Laneside Veras Walk Storrington Pulborough West Sussex RH20 3JF

Description: Non-Material Amendment to permission DC/14/1937.The addition of two opening windows on the upper floor bedrooms on the north elevation

Date of Decision: 27/02/2015

WPC were not consultees on the amendment

**9. Appeals**

There were none

**10. Planning and Transport issues**

**10.1 DC/14/2736** Sandhill Lodge, Sandhill Lane, Washington - retention of a timber cabin for use as an ancillary domestic building to the existing mobile home

The decision date on this application expired on 24th February 2015. No decision has been made - there are currently two further representations on the portal which have been submitted after the Parish Council’s previous response and after the expiry date.

Councillors noted that since the expiry of the consultation period further letters in support of the application had been received. In addition to being received out of time it was clear that these were not neutral or impartial comments nor relevant to any material planning considerations. Councillors further noted that the site is becoming increasingly cluttered with a significant number of vehicles continuing to accumulate, the numbers of which would exceed any need of the current occupants. Councillors wished **to strongly urge** a site visit by Officers to review the context of the application, the letters ‘in support’, the influx of vehicles onto the site and the objections raised in the Parish Council’s letter of 20th January 2015.

As this matter has not been determined within HDCs performance targets and it appeared the consultation window was still open Councillors wished to request that the matter be referred to Development Control where a Washington Parish Councillor will speak at the meeting (Part 3F of the Constitution Section 10).

**10.2 DC/14/0457** Lupin Cottage, Hampers Lane, Storrington, RH20 3JB - Raising of existing roof and creation of first floor to provide additional living accommodation

The deadline for a fresh application expired on the 24th February 2015. No plans have been submitted. HDC have the option to enforce their original decision. The Clerk has emailed Madeleine Hartley (compliance) for an urgent update. Councillors discussed the fact that after numerous further representations by members of the public to the Parish Office and the fact that the deadline for a new application has expired with no application being received this matter has once again been brought onto the Agenda of the Parish Council. Councillors were of the view that the applicant had demonstrated that they were not minded to make a further application. Councillors wanted to stress on behalf of the residents effected and the Parish in general that the behaviour of the applicant and the apparent reluctance of Horsham District Council to firstly; make a timely determination allowing the applicant to continue building the premise and secondly; not to issue an enforcement notice was bringing the integrity of the planning process into disrepute and opening the floodgates to mass abuse in the future within the Parish.

Councillors wanted to strongly urge Horsham District Council to issue an Enforcement Notice to bring the matter to Appeal.

10.3 Storrington and Sullington Bus Shelter

**To Review discuss and recommend a response to the decision by WSCC to enforce the Developer Barratts to remove 115m of vegetation to resolve safety concerns and prior to a further Interim Safety Audit**

Since the item had been listed for discussion on the Agenda the Clerk had arranged a meeting with Barratts and senior Officers from WSCC. The meeting was arranged for 17th March on site to discuss the location and the highways issues as a whole. Cllrs Cook, Jolley and Turley confirmed their attendance. The Clerk was also to attend. The Clerk confirmed that at present Compass were using the temporary stops. She had advised Stagecoach of the issues but had not received a response from them. It had been proposed that cutting back 115 metres of vegetation to the west of the stop would alleviate the danger by increasing visibility. This however raised its own issues in respect of having a detrimental effect on the landscape as the proposed area extended along the length of the quarry and the vegetation identified was in part well established. Whilst WSCC had told Barratts to undertake the whole cut back immediately the Clerk and Malcolm Westcott (Barratts) had agreed that this should not be undertaken until after the meeting where a review of the location could be carried out on site.

An update on the meeting would be given by the Clerk after the meeting and progress reported at the Full Council Meeting on 13th April.

**10.4 30 mph Limit on the Bostal and a 20mph Limit in Washington Village**

**To Review, Discuss and Recommend a Response to the Request for an implementation of a 30mph Limit on the Bostal and a 20mph limit in the Village**

A Washington resident has asked for a response from the Council on the matters above. Councillors discussed the background to the current limits now enforce. Their efforts as a Council to gain an agreement to reduce the limit along the Bostal had been rebuffed at every level. The issue was that motorists had to understand why the limit was imposed otherwise it would simply be ignored. The Bostal was on the whole in countryside and a 30mph limit would not be understood or adhered to. This then led to issues of enforceability. This was the rationale behind WSCC’s location of the signs on the edge of the built up area. The 20mph limit in the village could be reviewed in due course.

As the limits had only just been imposed Councillors **AGREED TO RECOMMEND** to Council that they would ask for the police monitoring report and review the matter again in 6 months’ time. The Clerk would update the member of the public accordingly.

10.5 VAS

**To receive an update on the progress of the VAS**

The Clerk had bypassed Ross Shepherd and Cali Sparks and had spoken directly to the engineers on why the VAS was not progressing. She was advised that the Council had requested a flashing ‘Slow Down’ sign which was not under Regulations allowable. However none had seen fit to advise the Council of this despite the Clerk chasing the progress on a monthly basis. The Clerk had circulated options for the sign prior to the meeting. These were:

A Flashing Speed Limit (50)

A picture of a School Sign (parent and child)

The above with the word ‘school’ underneath

The above with the word ‘playground’ underneath

The above with the word ‘patrol’ underneath

The engineers had advised the Clerk that the most effective sign in their view was the flashing parent and child with now writing. The 50mph limit was often ignored and the parent and children sign with school on it was ignored outside school term times. Cllr Turley added that in his experience a speed limit warning often resulted in drivers speeding up to the limit.

The Committee therefore **AGREED to RECOMMEND** that the Parent and Child flashing symbol be used with no descriptive writing.

10.6 Road surface RMC A283

Councillors **NOTED** the following update - Malcolm Westcott (Barratts) has advised the Clerk that WSCC have granted a road closure from 18 - 22nd May 2015 to carry out the resurfacing works. The road will be closed from 19.00 until 6.00. There would a letter drop and advance signage in place.

**11. Items for the next Agenda**

RMC - lighting, footpaths, and an update on the S106 money from the Millford Grange development.

Date of next meeting 20th April 2015

The meeting closed at 20:30

Signed………………………………….. Dated………………………………..