

Lowestoft Town Council

Minutes of Meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee

Remote meeting at 17.00 on Tuesday 9 February 2021

Video meeting participants: Cllrs Amanda Frost, Alan Green, Jacqueline Hardie (arrived 17.08), Peter Knight (Chair), Andy Pearce and Alice Taylor.

Also participating: Sarah Foote (Deputy Clerk)

575. Welcome

A statement was read at the start of the meeting to mark the passing of Councillor Sue Barnard and a minute's silence was observed.

The right to report and the application of the video meeting protocol were explained and noted, and the meeting was welcomed.

576. To receive and consider acceptance of apologies for absence – none. It was noted that Cllr Eastwood and Carlton were absent.

577. Declarations of Interests and dispensations - none declared.

578. Minutes of last meeting - it was noted that the minutes of 26 January 2021 would be agreed at the next appropriate meeting.

579. No public comment had been submitted.

580. Planning applications

a. To consider the following planning applications (all available on www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk) and decide the recommendations of the Council:

Reference	Address and Description	District Ward
DC/21/0199/FUL	13 Grayson Drive - Loft conversion with proposed dormers	Kirkley and Pakefield
It was proposed by Cllr Taylor, seconded by Cllr Frost and unanimously agreed recommend approval.		
DC/20/5066/FUL	1 Ranworth Avenue - Extension	Carlton and Whitton
It was proposed by Cllr Hardie, seconded by Cllr Taylor and unanimously agreed recommend approval.		
DC/21/0331/FUL	27 The Fairway - Construction of a single storey front extension	Carlton and Whitton
It was proposed by Cllr Hardie, seconded by Cllr Green and unanimously agreed to recommend approval. At 1		
DC/21/0387/FUL	St Bridgets Cottage North Parade - Single storey rear extension	Gunton and St Margaret's
It was proposed by Cllr Taylor, seconded by Cllr Green and unanimously agreed recommend approval subject to no unnecessary removal of established trees close to the proposed extension.		
DC/21/0251/FUL	28 Gunton Church Lane - Double Storey Rear Extension	Gunton and St Margaret's
It was proposed by Cllr Hardie, seconded by Cllr Taylor and agreed (four votes in favour, two abstentions (Cllrs Knight and Pearce)) to recommend approval.		
DC/21/0358/COU	16 Gunton Drive - Change of use of two bedroom bungalow previously residential to be furnished holiday let	Gunton and St Margaret's
It was proposed by Cllr Taylor, seconded by Cllr Knight to recommend refusal due to the changing the character of the neighbourhood. This proposal was not carried (two votes for (Cllrs Taylor and Green), three votes against (Cllrs Frost, Pearce and Knight) and one abstention (Cllr Hardie). It was then proposed by Cllr Frost to recommend approval, seconded by Cllr Pearce and agreed three votes in favour (Cllrs Pearce, Frost and Knight), two votes against (Cllrs Taylor and Green) and one abstention (Cllr Hardie).		

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DC/21/0380/FUL	The Grande Oaks Yarmouth Road - Construction of attached garage.	Gunton and St Margaret's
It was proposed by Cllr Hardie, seconded by Cllr Pearce and unanimously agreed to recommend approval.		
DC/21/0153/FUL	9 Lansdowne Road - Construct a single storey extension to allow for a lounge at the front and bedroom with en-suite to the rear. Extension to have hipped roof from the original ridge. Construct concrete driveway with drainage	Kirkley and Pakefield
It was proposed by Cllr Hardie, seconded by Cllr Taylor and unanimously agreed to recommend approval.		

b. At this stage of the meeting a statement submitted by Cllr Youngman was read to members. The statement correct comments that he had previously made on how applications for tree works were dealt with by this committee. In response, Cllr Frost commented that at the Climate Emergency Committee where these comments had been made, it had also been stated that the Planning and Environment Committee was pro-development and felt all Councillors should become better informed of the work of the Planning and Environment Committee.

Applications for tree works - the following applications for works for trees subject to a tree preservation order (TPO) and/or proposed works to trees within a Conservation Area (TCA) were noted.

Reference	Address and Description	District Ward
DC/21/0164/TCA	11 Kirkley Park Road - Rear garden 1 x Lombardy Poplar - Removal to ground level due to excessive size, shading, and proximity to neighbouring property.	Kirkley and Pakefield

c. The following reports from the East Suffolk Council Referral Panel were noted:

DC/20/4617/FUL - Plot between 146/148, Kimberley Road – the Town Council recommended refusal of the application which was contrary to the planning officer's recommendation for approval. It was agreed by the Chair and Vice Chair of both Development Control Committees, that the application did not need to be referred to development control committee, and could remain at officer delegation level with the recommendation of approval. Concerns regarding the Environmental Protection teams comments about contaminated land would be addressed with the full standard suite of land contamination conditions to be attached to this proposal.

In an additional item it was noted that application DC/20/2593/FUL High Dene, 105 Park Road (Change the use from C2 Residential care home to large HMO (Sui-Generis category) - Supported Housing for people with complex needs) would now be considered by ESC Planning Committee on 22 February. It was agreed that Cllr Pearce would attend the committee on behalf of the Town Council. Proposed by Cllr Hardie, seconded by Cllr Green and agreed (five votes in favour, one against (Cllr Frost)).

d. To note the following Planning Inspectorate matters:

AP/21/0002/REFUSE 232 London Road South - Conversion of a dwelling house into two one Bedroom flats comprising ,Kitchen ,Bathroom ,Bedroom and Lounge , all above shop unit below. The refusal of this application has been appealed to Planning Inspectorate (Ref APP/X3540/W/20/3262535) APP/X3540/C/19/3232027 Tingdene, North Denes – to note the hearing has been postponed to 9 March 2021.

581. Highways

Councillors, including members of this committee, attended a meeting with the Area Highways Technician ahead of this meeting. Information on the reporting tool, defects criteria and how roads in Lowestoft were inspected was shared and councillors gave reports of specific areas of concern to be investigated by the technician. Further information would be provided to the Town Council. Members agreed that this had been a useful forum and would be held on a regular basis with the next meeting taking place on 13 April.

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582. Consultations

To consider making a response to the following consultations:

a. Suffolk County Council - traffic regulation order to remove part of the existing waiting restrictions on Essex Road. It was proposed by Cllr Knight, seconded by Cllr Hardie and unanimously agreed to support this change noting it would create additional street parking spaces.

b. North of Lowestoft Garden Village – A draft response was considered and it was proposed by Cllr Pearce, seconded by Cllr Taylor and unanimously agreed to delegate authority to the Deputy Town Clerk

c. Suffolk County Council - Help shape guidance for new housing developments in Suffolk (Suffolk Design: Streets Guide) - A draft response was considered and it was proposed by Cllr Taylor, seconded by Cllr Hardie and unanimously agreed to delegate authority to the Deputy Town Clerk

583. The recommendation from Standing Orders and Policies Sub-Committee to change the name of the Committee to Planning Committee and removing the reference to Environment in its name was noted.

18.28 Cllr Frost left the meeting.

Further consideration of this recommendation would take place at this week's Finance and Governance Committee and again at the next Full Council. Consideration was given to any implications of this proposal to the committee's terms of reference and it was understood no changes to the terms of reference had been proposed.

584. Date of the next meeting – 16.30 Tuesday 23 February 2021.

585. Items for the next Agenda - none were requested.

Meeting closed at 18.35