

# BLEADON PARISH COUNCIL

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DRAFT Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held at 7pm on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

Present: Cllrs Hemingway (Chairman), Hartree, Richardson, Selway, Baines, Williams.

Clerk: Marian Barber.

Three members of the public were present.

**P70.1 To receive any apologies for non-attendance.**

Apologies received from Cllr Scarisbrick and Cllr Sheppard.

**P70.2 To receive any declarations of interest.**

None declared.

**P70.3 To invite public participation.**

None requested.

**P70.4 Exchange of information between Councillors**

Cllr Hemingway referred to a Town and Parish Council forum meeting. Community Connect is a programme aimed at reducing social isolation and loneliness in the over 50 age group. It is run by Curo Housing Association in partnership with NSC and the West of England Rural Network. The volunteer groups for Bleadon In Bloom and environmental improvements in Bleadon are also aimed at engaging people who might otherwise be isolated.

**P70.5 To Approve the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2017.**

**APPROVED**

**P70.6 To Consider how to respond to the Planning Appeal regarding the proposed development of 200 homes on land between Bleadon Road and the A370.**

At the inquiry NSC employ a barrister to present their case for refusal. The barrister deals with the legal, technical and regulatory aspects of NSC's case and there is no need for other parties to do the same – in fact, it could weaken NSC's case.

BAT intends providing speakers on certain topics.

NSC advise that the value of other parties' involvement lies in presenting personal comment, personal examples of how individuals are affected by the proposed development.

It is likely that the Inspector would expect a Councillor to speak on behalf of the Parish. The Neighbourhood Plan survey results will be analysed soon. The general feeling of the village was important but needed to be evidenced – just saying 'everyone says xyz' would be disregarded. The views of residents from the public meeting (with written statements including name and address) and the evidence from the NP Survey can be handed to the Inspector.

Concern was expressed that so few members of the public were present tonight. It was felt that more residents needed to know that they could attend the appeal (and comment or not); perhaps councillors and others could offer transport assistance.

The Independent Editor may include an item in BVN 111, due out end February.

The option of a public meeting prior to the Inquiry was discussed, with suggestions for

format.

It was made clear that residents who were in favour of the development had an equal right to be heard and to have their comments considered.

*8pm - Standing Orders suspended for public to speak:*

It was questioned whether there was a need to have another meeting to get more comments after 300 objections had been raised on NSC website.

Can one councillor speak for the Council or the residents?

It would be useful to know the format of the appeal – where will people sit if they wish to speak?

*8.05pm – Standing Orders resumed.*

The Clerk will seek confirmation from NSC of the dates/times/venue/protocol/seats available for the public at the Appeal.

After discussion it was **AGREED TO RECOMMEND** the following actions to the Parish Council:

- a) Arrange a public meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> June (7pm, Coronation Hall) to let residents know the process and to seek their views in order to craft the Parish Council's response, and to include documented statements.
- b) Nominate one councillor to speak at the Appeal on behalf of the parish.
- c) BAT and BPC to co-ordinate regarding their responses, in order not to duplicate.

**P70.7 To agree the date of next meeting.**

The next meeting is scheduled for 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019. [To be confirmed: the usual venues are unavailable on this date]

**The meeting closed at 8.13pm**