



Minutes of the meeting of the New Housing Development Committee held on Monday 15th February 2016 at the Band Hall, Gravel, Downton at 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllr Quarmby (Chairman) and Cllrs Brentor, Cordell, Ford, Mace, Sutcliffe and Yeates.

Mrs Nikki Wilson, Mr Richard Fishlock and Bev Cornish, Parish Clerk.

Three members of the public were present.

Public Question Time:

Mrs Chris Parry advised that following the last Parish Council meeting she had received a call from Mr and Mrs Porter regarding a donation to the Memorial Hall.

Mr Rick Ladds expressed concern about the use of the upstream land for the 'northern swale' which in his view was unsuitable. He also commented that some of the questions he had put to the Committee had not been answered.

The Clerk advised that the Committee had received an email from Mrs Jenny Saxby with a number of questions. Cllr Quarmby advised that these would be addressed when the item on the Primary School's revised plan for the extended playground was considered.

Part 1

NHD59/15: Apologies: Cllr Hayward and Mrs Alison Small.

The Clerk advised that Cllr Lacey had resigned from the Parish Council.

NHD60/15: Minutes: Cllr Mace proposed, Cllr Cordell seconded and it was RESOLVED, with one abstention from Cllr Sutcliffe, that the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 18th January 2016 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

NHD61/15: Declarations of Interest: None.

NHD62/15: To consider a revised plan as part of Downton Primary School's Planning Application 14/11642/DP3 showing alterations to the Environment Agency's access to The Bunny flood defence ditch and to resolve to agree on any recommendations to be made to the Parish Council: A lengthy and detailed discussion was held as follows:

- all members expressed their concern about the new design and plethora of fencing which would look very unsightly in the Downton Conservation area;
- account was taken of Mr Fishlock's comments on behalf of the school in which he stated that the revised design would create issues for the school in the safe management of its children;

- Members expressed their frustration at the total lack of progress by Wiltshire Council in carrying out work to assess the viability of the Parish Council's suggested 'upstream' solution.
- The Parish Council had advised long ago that Wiltshire Council would need to demonstrate the viability of that solution before the Parish Council would give approval to any alternative and less acceptable scheme.
- Wiltshire Council had been given long enough and there had been enough discussions with no action. It was now time for the Parish Council to withdraw the offer of the land until it had been provided with the evidence that the upstream solution would not work.

Cllr Ford proposed, Cllr Quarmby seconded and it was RESOLVED unanimously that the Clerk should write a letter to Ms Carolyn Godfrey, Corporate Director of Children's Services at Wiltshire Council with copies to Mr Alistair Cunningham, Cllr Baroness Scott of Bybrook OBE, Leader of Wiltshire Council and Mr John Glen MP, advising her of the Parish Council's decision to withhold the leasing of the land until the viability of the upstream solution had been resolved.

Mr Fishlock said that governors were not aware that the Parish Council would withdraw the land if the upstream solution was not considered so he was unable to offer a letter of support from the Primary School.

Cllr Quarmby responded to Mr Ladds's question regarding the land to be used for compensatory storage. He said the fact that the land was higher than the land in the Memorial Gardens would mean that it was more suitable for providing the storage.

Cllr Quarmby also responded to several of Mrs Saxby's questions:

- The Parish Council's lease would provide sufficient protection for the sports played in the extended playground;
- It would not be appropriate to install acoustic fencing on the northern boundary of the extended playground because this would need to be close board fencing which would be more unsightly than the proposed chain link fencing.
- With regard to the 3m fencing around The Bunny, Mr Fishlock said he was in discussions with the project manager of the scheme to provide an engineering solution to reduce its impact.

NHD63/15: To consider and resolve to note a letter from Mr Alasdair Jones-Perrott, the Land Agent for Longford Estates, regarding a small potential development site for up to 5 houses in Wick Lane, Downton: Following a brief discussion, Cllr Quarmby proposed, Cllr Sutcliffe seconded and it was RESOLVED that the letter and the number of houses proposed be noted by the Parish Council. It was also agreed that any community benefit gleaned from the development should be linked in some way to the project to construct a footbridge across the Avon.

Part 2 – CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION – EXEMPT MATTERS

NHD64/15: Cllr Quarmby to propose the following resolution – 'That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest, that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they be instructed to withdraw', seconded by Cllr Mace and it was RESOLVED that the meeting be closed to the press and public. Cllr Quarmby also advised of the

importance of maintaining confidentiality with regard to the matters about to be discussed.

NHD65/15: To consider the costings for the construction of the Extension to the Memorial Hall and to resolve to agree on any recommendations to be made to the Parish Council: Cllr Sutcliffe provided the current predicted costs for the construction of the extension to the Hall to all members and responded to questions. Following a discussion, Cllr Quarmby proposed from the chair that all sources of funding be investigated. Cllrs Sutcliffe with the Clerk agreed to do some more work on the business case for the extension and the costs of funding.

NHD66/15: To note an offer of a contribution towards community infrastructure from Foreman Homes, the applicant for the proposed development at Rivermead, Breamore Road, Downton and to resolve to agree on any recommendations to be made to the Parish Council: A lengthy discussion was held in which information was provided and requested.

Cllr Quarmby proposed from the chair that the Committee meet on Monday 29th February 2016 to consider again the proposal once further information had been gathered and that no recommendation be made at this time.

NHD67/15: Next meeting: Monday 29th February 2016 at 7.30 pm at the Band Hall, Gravel Close, Downton.

With no other business, the meeting closed at 10.00 pm.