



Minutes of the meeting of the New Housing Development Committee held on Monday 11th April 2016 at the Band Hall, Gravel, Downton at 6.30 pm.

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

Mr Richard Fishlock, Mrs Alison Small and Mrs Nikki Wilson.

Bev Cornish, Parish Clerk.

Four members of the public were present.

Public Question Time: No questions or statements were received.

NHD78/15: Apologies: None.

NHD79/15: Minutes: Cllr Hayward proposed, Cllr Brentor seconded and it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 29th February 2016 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

NHD80/15: Declarations of Interest: None.

NHD81/15: Following confirmation from Wiltshire Council that it will not carry out any further investigations into the ‘upstream solution’ to The Bunny in relation to the Primary School’s planning application, to consider the options on the ways to proceed and whether to carry out independent investigations and modelling as required by the Environment Agency at a cost of up to £10,000: Cllr Quarmby briefly summarised the issues to consider stating that the upstream solution had always been the Parish Council’s preferred solution.

He reported that he had spoken to both the officer at the Environment Agency and to Wiltshire Council’s contracted engineer, Mr Tony Dilke, regarding the upstream solution. The EA had given a relatively positive response in recognising that a more workable solution to the Bunny was required and agreeing to give some thought to the upstream option and Mr Dilke confirming that the solution could work and may be cheaper.

Mr Fishlock said that the issue of the Parish Council carrying out the investigations had been raised with the small sub-committee of four governors who had been charged with dealing with the school’s planning application. He said that whilst the governors appreciated very much the Parish Council’s wish to improve the land available to the school, they were concerned about the risk to the funding for the extension if there were delays, as any change would require a planning application and further consultation. He said a significant proportion of the funding was coming from Wiltshire Council which everyone had worked hard to get and further delays might mean that it would be lost.

Mr Fishlock also said that more work could be done on the landscaping to the approved scheme in order to ameliorate the impact of the fencing.

Cllr Hayward suggested that clarification be sought on Mr Cunningham's comment in his letter that Wiltshire Council might have to 'meet education needs elsewhere'. Mrs Small reported that places were currently available in a school close to Salisbury.

Concerns were raised and stated by Cllrs Ford and Cordell about the consequences of proceeding to investigate the upstream solution which would cause further delays in the process of expanding the school and they urged members to consider them in detail.

There was general agreement that there was no need to re-consult the village on the Memorial Hall and school playing field plans, although it was likely that the upstream solution would require planning permission with usual planning consultation.

Following a further discussion, Cllr Quarmby proposed, Cllr Ford seconded and it was RESOLVED that a recommendation be made that the amount of up to £10,000 be approved in principle to carry out investigations to the upstream solution. This was to be subject to approval being given by Mr Alistair Cunningham of Wiltshire Council and a commitment to refund the monies if the solution was proved to be viable and cheaper to implement.

Cllr Quarmby confirmed that, subject to Parish Council approval, he would contact Mr Cunningham to convey the Parish Council's proposal and stance and to obtain Wiltshire Council's approval.

NHD82/15: Next meeting: Monday 9th May 2016 at 6.30 pm at the Band Hall, Gravel Close, Downton.

With no other business, the meeting closed at 7.20 pm.