

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 7TH MAY 2008

PRESENT

Mr. Fisher presided over Mesdames Harrison and Clark. Messrs. Mackin, Steeples and Leith.

1. APOLOGIES

Mrs. Holmes and Mr. Gray.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. PLANS FOR CONSIDERATION

08/00601/FULL

Two storey front extension.
10 Hazel Close.

No objection.

08/00490/FULL

Change of use from A1 Retail (Swimming Pool sales) to Veterinary Surgery.
Part of 23 Clifton Road.

No objection

4. DECISIONS

None.

5. POSTAL ADDRESSES – 8 CLIFTON ROAD

Information has been received from the Building Control Manager at the District Council informing the committee that the 9 apartments erected following the demolition of No. 8 Clifton Road will now be known as Nos. 1 – 9 Smiths Court, Clifton Road. SG17 5AE.

6. PLANNING OBLIGATIONS SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT – MBDC

The committee has received information that the Mid Beds Council's Executive formally Adopted a revised Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on 20th February 2008. The Adopted SPD together with a revised Background Paper, Sustainability Appraisal and Statement of Consultation together with other related documents are available on the D C's website. Printed versions will be available shortly and the LDF team can be contacted in order to purchase copies.

It should be noted that the Supplementary Planning Document came into operation on 1st May 2008.

7. QUESTIONNAIRE – PLANNING PORTAL

The committee has been requested by central Government to complete a questionnaire in respect of the Planning Portal. Committee members considered appropriate responses to the questions asked. The questionnaire is to be completed by the clerk prior to returning it to the Planning Portal.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The committee has been contacted by a resident in Ampthill Road via the District Council complaining about the nuisance behaviour on and around the bench opposite Bloomfield Drive and has requested that it should be removed.

The committee discussed the request and decided that the resident is to be told that the seat is a public amenity and if there are issues of nuisance behaviour then they should be reported to the police and a Unique Reference Number (URN) obtained.

The Friday Market Operators have contacted the committee and asked if the Town Council is in a position to make an offer for the purchase of the 'Right' to run the market. In the meantime, the General Manager of the Operating Company has promised to speak to his Managing Director in order to ascertain her disposition in respect of a sale. If the Managing Director is minded to sell the 'Right', then the clerk is to enquire as to what figure she would consider as appropriate.

A letter has been received from a resident registering concern that the phone box situated at the Ivel Road/South Bridge Street junction is to be removed by British Telecom. Although the resident understands Telecom's need to remove it because it has become unviable primarily due to the constant vandalism it attracts and subsequent money it costs in repairs, none the less a phone box is still required because of emergency situations that can occasionally arise. The letter goes on to suggest that the construction should be of a more robust quality both internally and externally. The resident is to be informed that if there should be *life-threatening incident* then there is a phone attached to the fire station which can be used by the public for *emergencies only*.

As there is only a short time to respond to the Bedfordshire Highways request as to what work the Town Council would like them to carry out in respect of the Enhanced Parish Partnership Fund (EPPF), the committee decided that the best value for the money would be the resurfacing of New Street and then to install a white edge line the length of the road to delineate the footway from the road. The clerk is to request as to how much of their allowance this would cost and should there be any money left then additional work will be discussed.

It was noted that there has been an increase in unwelcome activity at the two Shefford schools. As a result of this it was decided to contact both Headteachers and Beds police to enquire as to whether or not they would be interested in a daytime meeting to discuss possible remedies to this anti-social behaviour.

A resident has registered concern about the narrowness of the pathway at the junction of Ivel Rd/Clifton Road adjacent to no. 8 Clifton Road. It was thought that the boundary to this recent development of 9 flats was exactly the same as it had always been. Either way it must have approved by the Planning Authority.

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

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