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WISBECH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Planning Committee held on 8 June 2009 at 6.45pm.

Public Participation session between 6.30pm and 6.45pm:

No public representations were made.

Minutes: Deputy Clerk, Mrs S Farmer

Present: Cllr Mrs Y Lawrence, Town Mayor, Cllr L Sims, Deputy Town Mayor, and Cllrs Mrs C Cox, JR Farmer, Mrs V Macrae, D Oliver, M Parker and T Wright.

11. Apologies

a) Apologies and reasons for absence

Cllr Fulcher – work commitments

Cllr Meekins – work commitments

Cllr O'Dell – recovering from a fall

b) the above absences were approved

12. Declaration of interest

None

13. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 26 May 2009 having been circulated were AGREED and signed as a true and correct record.

14. Fenland District Council

a) A notice and press release from Nick Seaton (Building Control and Planning Compliance Manager) in regard to 11/12 High Street was tabled for members' information:

As you are all aware the above has received numerous complaints due to its dilapidated state. We have been monitoring the condition of the site for some considerable time to ensure it does not represent a danger to the public. We have recently become more concerned with the site, and following a report from our structural engineers have been left with no alternative but to carry out works ourselves to ensure the building is made safe. All costs incurred in this work will be charged to the owner, who is responsible for the maintenance of the property. Work is due to start on Monday 8th June and last approximately 4 weeks. The contractor is aware of Rose Fair in July and will ensure the work does not disrupt the parade. Attached for your information is a copy of press release just prepared.

PRESS RELEASE

02/06/09

Council acts over dangerous eyesore

Essential work is to start on Monday [June 8] to stabilise two shops in the centre of Wisbech that have been "a blot on the landscape" for years. 11-12 Wisbech High Street have been semi-derelict for several years and Fenland District Council has decided that it has to act now to make them safe. The action follows an engineer's report commissioned by the council that showed the buildings to be dangerous and at risk of collapsing in very high winds. Although they are listed, the report revealed that there was little of historic merit that could be saved and that any attempt to do so would be far too expensive. The council's only statutory duty is to make the buildings safe. However, it is now working with the owners to try to get the site redeveloped. A council spokesman said: "These buildings have been a blot on the landscape for a number of years. We are keen to work with the owners of the site to encourage its redevelopment with a shop at ground level and flats or offices above. We want to give business a boost as well as restoring the appearance of the High Street."

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b) Further to Item 2008/2009 169 (Blocking off of pedestrian entrance to St Peter's Church Hall) – the Deputy Clerk had contacted both FDC and CCC requesting information.

FDC had replied that they had no knowledge of this.

Camilla Haggett (Senior Definitive Map Officer, Countryside Access Team of CCC) had responded:

I am advised by colleagues that the area within the walls of the church hall is owned and maintained by the Diocese of St Peter's Church. It is NOT recorded as a public highway maintained by this Council at public expense, and we would therefore not have any involvement in problems arising along the route.

However, we are aware that pedestrians have been using this route from the St Peters Car Park to the town (vice versa) for a long time. It is therefore possible that public rights may have been acquired through long usage. If so it would be for a member of the public (or the Town Council) to apply to the County Council as the Surveying Authority to register the route as a public footpath (or whatever is thought to be the appropriate status). If you think this is a possibility let me know and I will tell you more about what would need to be done. Beware however that the process can take 12 months - 5 years.

On the PROPOSAL by Cllr Farmer, SECONDED by Cllr Parker it was AGREED that the Deputy Clerk write to FDC and make enquiries regarding the origins and possible removal of the grid;

On a PROPOSAL by Cllr Mrs Cox, SECONDED by Cllr Mrs Macrae, it was AGREED that the Deputy Clerk would:

- i. write to the Church to enquire whether support would be given for the route to be registered as a public footpath;
- ii. reply to CCC and ask for further information regarding the process for registration.

15. Cambridgeshire County Council

This agenda item was dealt with within the previous item.

16. Correspondence

Nothing to report.

17. Revisions to previously received applications

Nothing to report.

18. Applications for planning permission

The applications enumerated on the attached schedule were considered and recommendations duly made.

Members noted that the current schedule is obtained from online information regarding validated applications. No plans or online applications had yet been made available for applications F/YR09/0350/F and F/YR09/0357/F and thus these would be postponed until the next meeting. The Deputy Clerk would also contact FDC to inform of the delay in these applications.

The meeting closed at 7.15 pm

Signed.....

Dated



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WISBECH TOWN COUNCIL

APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION – 8 June 2009

Reference	Description	Comments
F/YR09/0337/F	Alterations to shop front and installation of roller shutters and ATM (Automatic Teller Machine) and 2 x 1.0 metre high anti-ram bollards - Old Walsoken Post Office Kirkgate Street for The Post Office C/o EC Harris	Members recommend APPROVAL and welcome this facility for residents and public in this area.
F/YR09/0342/F	Installation of 1 air conditioning unit to rear to existing building - 8 De Havilland Road for Mr Alan Chapman	Recommend APPROVAL as members have no objections or observations in respect of this application.
F/YR09/0343/F	Erection of a single-storey extension to side of existing dwelling - The Vicarage Love Lane for The Diocesan Surveyor	Recommend APPROVAL as members have no objections or observations in respect of this application.
F/YR09/0347/F	Formation of new access to service dwelling (Unit 2)- Waldersey Pumping Station South Brink for Mr D Housden	Recommend APPROVAL as members have no objections or observations in respect of this application.
F/YR09/0350/F	Erection of extension to rear + re-cladding of existing building - Delta Systems Wisbech Limited 65 Boleness Road for Mr J Myles	To be postponed until the next meeting
F/YR09/0357/F	Formation of new roof and cedar timber boarding to garden room and replacement of timber windows/doors with UPVC (replica style) - 11 St Augustines Road for Mr P Humphrey	To be postponed until the next meeting