

Ashwellthorpe & Fundenhall Parish Council
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 15th April 2008

Present: - Mr B Duffin, Mrs C Bushell, Mr H Smith, Mrs L Preston, Mr J Brooks,
Mr G Betts, Mr G Kelly

Apologies: - No apologies

Minutes of March Meeting: - These had been circulated previously and were duly signed by the Chairman. Mr Smith asked about the minutes of the January meeting and he was advised that they should be available at the next meeting provided that the information could be located in the items returned by Ms Burton.

Correspondence: -

1. SNC Planning Dept – Refusal of application from Manor Farm, Fundenhall – extension and alterations.
2. SNC Tree Line publication.
3. SNC re new Environmental Services charges.
4. SNC re Event Posters
5. SNC re Copy of Local Housing Delivery Plan 2008-11 – passed to Mrs L Preston
6. SNC re David Moore elected to Standards Committee
7. SNC re draft consultation Your Sustainable Community Strategy for South Norfolk 2008-11 – passed to Mr J Brooks
8. SNC re meeting on 31st March re Local Government Review

Affordable Housing: -

Mr Duffin signed the Declaration of Interest book (pecuniary) and vacated the chair to Mrs Bushell.

Mr Kelly read out the letter to Abigail Dennington-Price, the enabling officer, which had been sent to support Mr P Muskett's proposal to use Saffron Housing Trust. He also read out the response from the enabling officer which failed to answer the issues raised.

Mr Muskett addressed the meeting and outlined his plans for a development under policy HOU 13 which would allow a cross subsidy scheme development were some properties would be for sale and some would be for affordable housing. These schemes are unlikely to get approval unless there is some form of community benefit consequently he was proposing that a village green and a village hall should form part of the development. Mr Muskett advised that South Norfolk Planning would calculate the number of private dwellings that could be built to subsidise the number of affordable dwellings taking into account the costs of the village green & hall etc with the developer allowed to make a small profit. Mr Muskett had spoken with Mr Paul Witham at South Norfolk and had been told that he had to get the support of the Parish Council before making any applications which was at odds with the comments from the enabling officer who in her letter stated that the 'developer should work with Housing Strategy and Enabling Team at the earliest opportunity and certainly before a scheme was put forward to a Parish Council' (For information the enabling officers' head of department is Mr Paul Witham)

It was agreed that the Parish Councillors would go and look at a development at Tivetshall that was similar to that being proposed by Mr Muskett and that Mr Kelly would respond to the letter from the enabling officer. Mr Duffin re-took the Chair.

Planning Applications: -

1. HRC Homes – Residential developments at 91 The Street, Ashwellthorpe – amended drawing. The Parish Council saw no reason to change their decision and remained against the application for the same reasons as previously.
2. Mr & Mrs Blyth, The Laurels, New Road, Fundenhall – demolition of existing kitchen and erection of new single storey kitchen etc – all in favour.
3. Mr C Smith, The Labrador, The Turnpike, Fundenhall – proposed new workshop – in favour.
4. Saffron Housing Trust re 7 The Crescent, Ashwellthorpe – demolition of existing bungalow and erection of 1no. 2 bed physical disability unit – in favour (1 abstention)
5. Ecotricity re land at Group Lotus – erection of 3 wind turbines – in favour (1 against, 1 abstention)

Accounts: - No cheques were issued

Footpaths & Highways: - Mr Brooks advised that Nick Aldous of Norfolk County Council was now responsible for our area and that he agreed with our complaints re the state of the public footpaths. Mr Aldous is now in discussions with the relevant landowners to rectify the situation. Mr Kelly advised that he had written to NCC Highways following the complaints at the previous meeting and was awaiting a response.

District Council Report: - Mr Smith advised the following: -

1. The Unitary Authority saga was still progressing. The meeting held on 31st March had been quite fiery. More information would be available in June/July.
2. The Neighbourhood Forum meeting had been held the previous week at Hingham.
3. Fly tipping in the district – court cases were imminent.

County Council Report: - None

Dog Fouling: - Parishioners complained that there was dog fouling along The Street, Ashwellthorpe. They were urged to contact Rachel Ives, South Norfolk Dog Warden, who would implement the necessary actions.

Any Other Business: - Mr Smith asked about the steps being taken to find a new Clerk. Mr Duffin advised that the closing date for applications was 30th April and that interviews would be held thereafter.

The meeting closed at 21.30hrs.