

**GREATER WILLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Planning Committee**  
**5<sup>th</sup> February 2014**  
**Minutes of Meeting**

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Councillor Tinsley, Councillor Cogdon, Councillor Greensmith  
Councillor Carr, Councillor Henfrey,  
Councillor Bennett,  
Helen Cogdon, Town Clerk  
Emma Mennouni, Community Services Officer

Councillor Tinsley opened the Planning Committee meeting. He informed those in attendance of housekeeping rules regarding use of the washroom and fire exits. He asked all present to switch off mobile phones and electronic devices throughout the conduct of council business. Councillor Tinsley said that the role of the planning committee was not to make decisions on applications but to make submissions on behalf of the GWTC area if required.

**APPROVAL OF APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received by Councillor Buckham, Councillor Smith, Councillor Etherington, Councillor Todd, Councillor Greensmith and County Councillor Gunn. Acceptance of apologies were proposed by Councillor Carr and seconded by Councillor Henfrey.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None received

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Resident's agenda items requested through the Clerk. Mrs Pauline Moger (Resident) said she wanted to inform the council that there had been Officers viewing the former Bourne Way site as part of the council house/ tenants portfolio. Mrs Moger has spoken to neighbours and they would prefer it to remain an open green area and asked GWTC to support this idea. Councillor Buckham has talked to Mrs Moger about Rectory Gardens residents ideas to adopt the land behind their properties.

Councillor Tinsley said he would think that the viewing was part of Dale and Valley Homes Housing stock Transfer with the land being viewed as an asset to raise funds.

The land is not identified in the County Durham Plan for housing development. However this does not mean that it can't be developed.

There is provision under the Localism Act 2011 for resident to take over green areas.

He offered to attend a meeting with the residents. It was suggested that Mrs Moger leaflets the area to gauge support. This may then lead to the establishment of a Resident Forum.

Mrs Moger thanked the council for listening to her views and looked forward to future meetings.

#### **4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING**

##### **8<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2014**

The minutes of the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2014 as printed and circulated were approved and taken as a true record.

Proposed Councillor Cogdon

Seconded Councillor Tinsley

#### **4.1 MATTERS ARISING (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)**

Councillor Tinsley said he had met with Eddie Tomlinson and the other Crook Labour Councillors with regard to the G.W.T.C County Durham Plan submission.

GWTC have made submission regarding the Methodist Chapel, Lydia Street.

Whilst we support efforts to secure the future of the Methodist congregation. We are concerned that if they relocate to the proposed new Chapel, the existing premises will be left in a derelict condition. The Council has requested that a condition is inserted into any future planning permission issued; that requires an appropriate treatment of the existing premises and site.

Malcolm Cundick, Alpha Plus Architects has confirmed that it is the intention of the Church to offer the existing premises for sale as an integral element of their finding bid for the new scheme proposals. Consultation with D.C.C has established that residential development would be the preferred option, either through refurbishment or demolition and new construction, subject to planning applications by the purchaser. More detail is contained in the Design and Access Statement.

## **5. NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Stockley Fell Farm, Oakenshaw – Storage building (for information only)

Willington Methodist Church, Lydia Street – New Church/Community Centre (for information only)

26 Armstrong Drive, Willington – Retrospective application for the erection of a fence to the front (for information only)

## **6. OUTSTANDING APPLICATIONS DECISIONS**

25A Hall Lane Estate, Willington – Demolition of Community Centre Common Room – Approved

*(Not published on previous weekly lists. This application appeared as a decision on the 13<sup>th</sup> January 2014 list)*

Collier House Community Centre, South View, Sunnybrow – Demolition of community building and flat – Invalid Returned

*(Not published on previous weekly lists. This application appeared as a decision on the 6<sup>th</sup> January 2014 list)*

Site of Scout Hut, Park Road, Willington – Demolition of Scout Hut and erection of 2 detached houses – Approved

5 Boyne Street, Willington – Retrospective application for the erection of a conservatory to the rear - Approved

## **7. LICENSING**

Willington WMC & Institute – Application for a New Premises License.

The WMC is to change the terms of their premises licence to 09.00 to 23.30 each day. – No objection.

Hardy's Bar – Update on Notice of Determination.

Mr Harding has submitted an appeal to the Magistrates Court regarding the Licensing Committee decision to revoke the premises license for Hardy's Bar.

A preliminary court hearing has been arranged for the 19<sup>th</sup> February 2014, at which it is expected that a date will be set for the Appeal Hearing. The premises may continue to trade until the appeal application is determined by the Court.

Councillor Tinsley said Ron Hogg the Police and Crime Commissioner has stated that the police are tightening up on the enforcement of licensing conditions.

## **8. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2014 at 6.30pm.

Signed by the Chairman.....  
Dated: 5<sup>th</sup> March 2014