

**GREATER WILLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Planning Committee**  
**4<sup>th</sup> March 2015**  
**Minutes of Meeting**

**IN ATTENDANCE**

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

Councillor Tinsley opened the Planning Committee meeting. He said that the role of the Planning Committee was not to determine Planning Application decisions but to make submissions to D.C.C if appropriate.

**1. APPROVAL OF APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Smith, Councillor Buckham, and Councillor Etherington.

Acceptance of apologies were proposed by Councillor Tinsley and seconded by Councillor Cogdon.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None received

**3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**Resident's agenda items requested through the Clerk.**

Mr John Spencer, Oakenshaw Community Association said Oakenshaw Nature Reserve is a great natural asset owned by the Banks Group. It is a mixture of Commercial Woodland and Ponds.

Banks have asked Oakenshaw Community Association if they as a small unincorporated organisation they would be interested in taking over the site. They are willing to enter into discussions with Banks and asked if the Town Council would like to be represented at that meeting to determine if they would like to be involved. He asked if Councillor Tinsley could attend.

Councillor Tinsley agreed to attend.

Councillor Cogdon said he concurs with opening discussion on the future management of the Nature Reserve.

Councillor Carr suggested that as part of the agreement Banks should be asked to make an annual donation.

**4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING 4<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2015**

The minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> February 2015 as printed and circulated were approved and taken as a true record.

Proposed Councillor Henfrey

Seconded Councillor Greensmith

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

Emma Mennouni, Community Services Officer confirmed that 17 Prospect Tce, Willington application had been refused.

**5. NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- 28 Abbots Green, Willington – Two storey and single storey extensions to rear and garage conversions (Resubmission) No objection. Neighbours have been informed.

**6. CONFIRMATION OF OUTSTANDING PLANNING APPLICATION DECISIONS**

- 26 Greenways, Sunnybrow – Erection of single storey rear/side extension - Approved

**7. COUNTY DURHAM PLAN**

Councillor Tinsley said the Development Plan guides decisions. It is the primary consideration against which to measure planning applications. Councillor Tinsley has made submissions regarding housing and retail designations for the Willington and Crook area. He has attended two meetings with the Inspector on behalf of this area.

The County Durham Plan has been rejected. The intention was to develop Durham as a sub regional Centre based on a comprehensive inward investment strategy. The Inspector considered that the increase in land and jobs predicted was too big and wanted to see more development of green space outside of Durham. This could however benefit the GWTC area. The Western and Northern Relief Roads into Durham were also refused. The Inspector wanted to encourage greater use of public transport. There are a number of options available on how to proceed and the best way forward is being considered by the Strategic Planning Committee.

**8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)**

Councillor Graham thanked the Clerk for organising to have the sign on the Town Green removed. Councillor Graham said he noticed a sign on the gable end of the Pound Shop and he would like Councillor Tinsley to chase it up.

Councillor Graham asked what the timescale was on the decision on the Sunnybrow Planning application. Councillor Tinsley said we had held consultation on access. Members had been given the opportunity to comment on the Draft submission; this had been distributed to neighbouring properties. It will be considered by Strategic Planning Committee. Councillor Todd asked when will the West Road application be considered or can it be deferred. Councillor Tinsley said there is no deferment it will be considered when it is ready.

**9. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 at 6.30pm

Signed by the Chairman.....

Dated: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015