

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE held on 7 April 2008 at the Vernon Institute, Church Lane, Saughall

In attendance: Councillor DF Holman  
Councillor WI Humphrey  
Councillor JG Johnson  
Councillor Mrs J Johnson  
Councillor H Thorniley-Jones  
Councillor Mrs J Young (in the Chair)

11 APOLOGIES FOR AUTHORISED ABSENCE

Apologies for authorised absence were received from Councillor Mrs D Whitton.

12 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

13 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 4 February 2008 be confirmed as a correct record.

14 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

(a) 08/00546/FUL

Proposal: Use of land for storage and distribution of topsoil, yard area for office, bunkers, and weighbridge and improved access

Location: Lower Ridge Farm, Seahill Road, Saughall

The Parish Council was a statutory consultee and as such had been consulted by Chester City Council (the Planning Authority) on the above proposal. A large number of residents attended the meeting to make the Committee aware of the strength of feeling in the village over the above proposal and to urge it to object. They crowded into the venue and it became obvious that it was too small to accommodate them comfortably.

It was noted that the applicant had been invited but was unable to attend the meeting due to another commitment.

It was agreed that two parishioners Messrs P Hopkins and W Crouch would be allowed to speak against the application. They each made a three-minute presentation on the reasons why they believed the Parish Council should object to the application and why Chester City Council's Planning Board should refuse it. These were each met with rapturous applause from those who were of a similar view.

Reasons presented on why they were both against the proposal included:

loss of visual amenity, it was considered to be basically an industrial business and inappropriate development in the green belt, it would have a dramatic effect on the character of the landscape, loss of agricultural land, it had no agricultural sustainability, the entrance was on a dangerous bend, the amount of traffic that would be generated to and from the site and the impact of this on the minor road and noise and dust pollution.

The Chairman informed that Members had previously held some informal discussions and from these she was aware that the Committee was minded to object to the proposal on highway issues. However, it became apparent that the business of the Committee would not be able to be transacted that evening because the Chairman was continually interrupted by angry parishioners, the Parish Council meeting was scheduled to commence at 7.30pm and because the venue was not suitable in light of the large number of people in attendance at the meeting. Therefore, it was

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the meeting be adjourned until Friday, 18 April 2008;
- (2) the meeting be held in the main hall at the Vernon Institute;
- (3) the time of the meeting be posted on all Parish Council notice boards in the village; and
- (4) the applicant be invited to attend the reconvened meeting.