

HEPWORTH PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING MEETING
HEPWORTH PAVILION
THURSDAY 17 AUGUST 2023
7.30 PM

PRESENT:

Councillor Garry Bloomfield (GB) (Chair)
Councillor Nicholas Bennett (NB)
Councillor Hollie Bloomfield (HB)
Councillor Marjorie MacPherson (MM)
Councillor Perry Penn (PP)
Councillor Louise Robinson (LR)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Andy Osman (Parish Clerk) (AO)
County Cllr Joanna Spicer (JS)

Five members of the public were present.

23/098 APOLOGIES

None.

23/099 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

23/100 PUBLIC FORUM

None.

23/101 PLANNING MATTERS

a. DC/23/1154/OUT. The meeting discussed the outline planning application and noted the following:

- The application had a significant amount of documentation for an outline planning application.
- It was more than just demolition of existing buildings as it included seeking approval for a development of 115,000sq feet of floor space of mixed class of use.
- The status of the 2019 Shepherds Grove Masterplan was unclear and yet formed a key part of the planning statement.
- It was unclear whether the traffic assessment information accounted for the potential cumulative impact should both the Equation and Copart developments be approved. **JS agreed to confirm that Suffolk County Council would assess** the cumulative impact of assumptions made for traffic, drainage, and flood documentation.
- The application referred to a previous Ikea planning application and yet this was for a single use facility with planning conditions restricting overnight activity.
- Little reference has been made to the potential concurrency of the proposed Copart development.
- Economic benefits and noise assessments are aspirational rather than based upon robust evidence.
- The scale of the development seems incompatible with the current rural context of the site.
- Proposed landscaping does not appear to be integral to the design layout.
- The application was a shopping list of aspirations with no firm clarity on future use that made understanding impact on local community difficult to judge.

The meeting **agreed that the Clerk was to:**

- Seek urgent clarification on the status of the 2019 Shepherds Grove Masterplan from West Suffolk Council.
- Draft a Parish Council response to DC/23/1154/OUT based upon the comments made at the meeting and circulate prior to next meeting.

23/102 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

- a. Mobile Post Office. The **Clerk was to investigate whether a mobile Post Office could visit the village.**
- b. Star Cottage Footpath Sign. **MM agreed to report the fallen footpath sign** on the Highways reporting tool.
- c. Blacksmith Cottage. The **Clerk was to contact West Suffolk Council** to seek an update on the future of Blacksmith Cottage.
- d. The Bungalow, Beck Street. It was agreed to add the re-consultation of the planning application for this property to the agenda for the next meeting.

23/103 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed to hold a further planning meeting on 31 August at 7.30pm. It was agreed to hold the next full Parish Council meeting on Thursday 28 September at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.28 pm.



Andy Osman
Parish Clerk
21 August 2023