

MINUTES OF THEALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 9th April 2018 in the Peter Gooch Room, The Pavilion, Englefield Road, Theale.

Present: Councillors B. Williams (chair), S. Coker, J. Richardson, A. Clark, D. Wood, Z. Fenwick, I. Hopcroft, D. Lye, D. Baker & P. Clifford.

Apologies received: None.

Present: Jo Friend (Clerk) in attendance. There were thirty three members of the public present.

Declarations of Interest: None declared.

The chairman asked if any members of the council or members of the public were intending to record or film the meeting. The answer was a negative.

234/17/18 Open Forum for Members of the Public

Several members of the public spoke:

Q - Will tonight's vote be recorded, ie which councillors have voted which way? BW replied that it was to be a private vote so, no, that detail would not be recorded but the result obviously will.

Q – Referred to the wording of the Part II and use of the word 'sale', this is strikingly different language to 'relinquish'. BW confirmed that the wording chosen was that which was advised by TPC's legal advisors. PC added that the legal advisors had said that 'sale' also covered 'relinquish'.

Q – We did have a vote at Englefield Parish, was this information passed on to councillors? BW confirmed that it had been.

Q – Re the WBC Project Board minutes that were recently released under a Freedom of Information request, had TPC been aware of the things that were contained within them, ie that matters had to be kept secret from TPC? BW said that she had not been aware of these things until the recent publishing of the minutes under the FOI. She added that the council would be discussing these minutes in the Part II tonight.

The speaker was also concerned about what wasn't in those minutes, for instance the land opposite Cllr Macro's house wasn't mentioned in them. They felt strongly that there had been and there was a lot of misinformation out there and it should be cleared up, she commented that the 'yes' vote had gone down from around 800 to around 400. What had happened with regards the 8:2 vote last time, when key conditions such as highways safety had not been met, these conditions have still not been met.

Another member of the public wanted to explain why the 'yes' vote had gone down from 800 to 400, she said it was because people are far more likely to vote if they can do it from a computer than they are if they have to turn out to vote – to question the integrity of the poll is unfair.

Q – Are there any other options on the table, other than to build it on NSPF? BW said TPC can't answer that, you'd have to speak with WBC. JR commented that at the library drop-in Bill Bagnell had accepted that it was possible to rebuild the school on the current site (some members of the public shouted out but JR confirmed there were witnesses with her when Mr Bagnell confirmed this.)

A member of the public said there had never been any options to start with – WBC said you have to have it on this site and that's that.

Another member of the public said they seemed to remember being at a meeting where all 11 sites were discussed, others disputed this, saying that there hadn't actually been a discussion, WBC had listed the sites and WBC's scores for them and said NSPF was the only site.

Q – I understand Save Our Village has submitted a pack of information to TPC, has that been discussed or will it be discussed this evening? BW confirmed that the clerk had brought it to the meeting and it would be discussed in Part II.

A member of the public asked TPC to please take notice of the poll result.

Another said that TPC agreed to have a poll and they will have to pay for it so TPC are urged to pay attention to the result. In their opinion, the result should carry a lot of weight when it comes to making a decision.

Q – Can the result be put out quite quickly, ie tonight? BW confirmed that the result would not be put out tonight although a statement would be made as soon as possible. The details of any statements would need to be checked by TPC's legal team as it was important that things were done correctly.

A member of the public said – please listen to what the school wants, they are the experts, they know what's needed and it's needed urgently.

Q – Are there any updates on the travellers? BW said she had been in touch with the school caretaker about this. Please could the public be vigilant and report any suspicious behaviour.

There being no further questions the chairman closed the public open forum at 7.40pm.

Twenty one members of the public left the meeting.

Notifications of Chairman's remarks – None.

SECTION A

235/17/18 MINUTES OF MEETING OF 5th MARCH 2018.

Members adopted the Minutes of the Meeting of 5th March 2018. Proposed Cllr Richardson; seconded Cllr Baker. Approved nem con.

236/17/18 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 5TH MARCH 2018.

224/17/18 Cllr Fenwick asked how tall the 'Silent Soldier' was. The clerk offered to resend the details to her.

226/17/18 Cllr Clifford said he had sent the revised cricket contract to the clerk and asked if it was ok. The clerk said, as it had only been received today, it had not yet been checked but she would do so as soon as possible.

SECTION B

237/17/18 District Council Report

Cllr Macro was not present but had provided a written report which Cllr Williams read out.

238/17/18 Clerk's Report

Members noted the report. Clerk to contact WBC to seek TPC consultation on the Event Management Plan for the Englefield Estate license application.

239/17/18 Planning Applications

18/00648/LBC2	Change paint colour of front & rear doors from white to blue; add secondary glazing where there is none to first floor; change secondary glazing from vertical to horizontal	Unit 2, Brewery Court Theale RG7 5AJ	L E International Ltd	No objection
18/00347/FUL	External alterations, including windows, doors & dormers to existing office building following change of use to C3 (dwelling house x 2)	Unit 7, Brewery Court, Theale RG7 5AJ	Willian Bucknell	<u>Object</u> : dormers out of keeping with surrounding buildings and with conservation area; it appears that site does not yet have permission for C3 use
18/00454/FULD	Demolition of existing workshops & erection of 6 flats, consisting of 2 x blocks – front & back, with 6 parking spaces & associated landscaping. Front development – 2 x 2 bed flats; rear development – 4 x 2 bed flats	74-76 High Street Theale RG7 5AR	Martin Clark	<u>Object</u> : permission should not be given without a contribution towards affordable housing

240/17/18 By-Election

Members noted that the by-election will take place on 3rd May. There are two candidates standing.

241/17/18 Changes to Planning Consultations

Members noted the report from the training session attended by Cllrs Williams, Coker and the clerk. Cllr Williams proposed setting up a planning committee, reasons included - to prevent full council meetings from getting even longer; to ensure planning issues are dealt with thoroughly and correctly; to make the clerk's preparations for meetings more manageable. Cllrs Lye, Wood, Williams, Hopcroft and Clifford expressed an interest in sitting on the planning committee.

It was agreed that a Planning Committee would be set up. Proposed Cllr Williams; seconded Cllr Richardson. Approved nem con.

The clerk will draw up terms of reference for the committee, ensuring that they conform to TPC's standing orders.

242/17/18 Internal Audit – Interim Report

Members noted the good report and Cllr Williams thanked the clerk for her work on the finances.

243/17/18 General Data Protection Regulation

Members noted the report from the training session attended by Cllrs Clark, Richardson and the clerk.

244/17/18 Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) Meeting

Cllr Clark gave a verbal report from the meeting he had attended on 13th March. He offered to attend future NAG meetings and report back to council.

245/17/18 Closure of Northbound Station Road

Noted.

246/17/18 Training Opportunities

Members will inform the clerk if they wish to attend any of the training sessions being organised by BALC.

247/17/18 Authorisation of Payments

It was RESOLVED that items on sheet no.515 and dated 9th April 2018 be approved for payment. Proposed Cllr Wood; seconded Cllr Coker. Approved nem con.

Members noted the February 2018 Direct Debit sheet and payment sheet no. 514, dated 16th March 2018.

SECTION C

248/17/18 Items for Information

Noted.

SECTION D

249/17/18 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

There were no Chairman's Remarks.

250/17/18 Part II

In view of the confidential nature of business to be conducted it is in the public interest that the public and press be excluded and are instructed to withdraw.

The remaining members of the public left the meeting.

Proposed Primary School on NSPF

Update from Staffing Committee

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 10.55pm.

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Chairman to the Council