



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 20th April 2020 at 7.30pm

This meeting took place virtually via Zoom

Present: Cllr's Brettell, Ferguson, Gross, Hall, Hartshorn (Chair), Mitchell and Watts.

In attendance: Gail Newcombe – Clerk
1 member of the public.

20/176 Apologies: to receive, consider and accept apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

20/177 Declarations of Interest – to receive declarations of interest to items on the agenda

There were no declarations of interest.

20/178 To approve and sign the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 16th March 2020

The minutes were confirmed as a true record and will be signed by the Chair, Cllr Hartshorn when possible.

20/179 To approve the following addition to Standing Orders

Remote (virtual) meetings can be held according to NALC legal topic note LO1 – 20 until May 2021

Resolved to approve.

20/180 Clerks Report

LRALC/SLCC Newsletter and Round Robins – to consider and comment to content – previously circulated

Contents noted.

20/181 Planning

To approve proposed response to planning application P/20/0610/2 (Appendix 2) South off Farmers Way/Brookfield Road Rothley

Proposal: Erection of new detached school building to rear of existing primary school including relocation of hard ball court, additional staff parking & extension to drop off car park with extended access (full application) and erection of up to 80 dwellings including landscaping, drainage infrastructure & access to existing allotments with all matters reserved except access (outline permission).

Resolved to submit the following objection:

Rothley Parish Council (RPC) objects to this application on the following grounds:

1. The draft Rothley Neighbourhood Plan, which is now with CBC for formal consideration, consultation and inspection, does not support the proposals. These proposals were put forward in response to the six-week public consultation on the draft Neighbourhood Plan and were discussed at two full meetings of RPC. In short, RPC resolved that while RPC and its draft Neighbourhood Plan fully support an extension to the Primary School they do not consider that an extension should be linked to and dependent on building additional houses. Furthermore, the additional houses are not required in order to fund an extension as RPC has been advised that LCC Education Department has sufficient funds for this purpose.
2. The draft Rothley Neighbourhood Plan states that only small developments (max 9 houses) on sites within the development boundary of Rothley and not in areas of settlement separation will be considered.
3. A need for the additional houses is not recognized in the draft CBC Local Plan or the existing Local Plan. The existing core strategy specifically states that service centre villages, of which Rothley is one, have already had more houses built than are required to satisfy housing requirements up to 2028. Only sites that are on brownfield sites within limits of development and not in areas of settlement separation should be permitted. This site fails on all 3 points.
4. The proposed site is on greenfield land, between Rothley and the proposed Broadnook development, which both the draft CBC Local Plan and the draft Rothley Neighbourhood Plan propose should be designated as an 'Area of Local Separation'.
5. The proposed site is outside the limits of development of Rothley.
6. The need for 6 extra classrooms is questionable. The predicted entrance figures available to RPC suggest that 4 would be sufficient.
7. The 78 additional houses would create around 300 more vehicle movements per day on Warren Way, all at peak times. The cross roads at Loughborough Road, Hallfields Lane & Cossington Lane are already well over capacity. The Broadnook development will put more stress on this junction. This development is an unnecessary step too far.

Cllr's Ferguson and Mitchell abstained from voting.

It was agreed to request an extension for submissions on this application due to the extenuating current circumstances so that residents can form a response. Cllr Brettle requested we ask Cllr Osborne for the comments he made at a previous council meeting regarding funding for the school be submitted to the Parish Council in writing for clarification. These comments when received will be uploaded to the planning portal as evidence to support our comments.

20/182 Covid – 19

To consider key functions of the Council during Covid-19 and approve proposed delegation

Resolved to approve in response to the Covid-19 outbreak in the UK and in the event that it is not possible to convene a meeting of the council in a reasonable time, the Clerk shall have delegated authority to make decisions on behalf of the council where such decision cannot reasonably be deferred and must be made in order to comply with a commercial or statutory deadline. In the case of the Clerk being incapacitated Councillor Hartshorn shall become the temporary unpaid Responsible Financial Officer and delegated authority shall pass to them in this role. The delegation does not extend to matters expressly reserved to the council in legislation or in its Standing Orders or Financial Regulations. Any decisions made under this delegation must be recorded in writing and must be published in accordance with the relevant regulations. This delegated authority ceases upon the first meeting of the council after the meeting at which the delegation was put in place.

20/183 Financial Items for consideration

To approve schedule of payments due for month (Appendix 4)

Resolved to approve the amount of £20,420.78 for the month of April as tabled in Appendix 4.

20/184 Date of next meeting – Monday 18th May 2020. It was agreed to hold this meeting virtually at 6:00pm.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm.

Signed: Date: