

## **RINGMER PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF PLANNING MEETING**

**Held on Thursday 22 January 2009 Ringmer Village Hall**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs J E Kay (Chairman); Mrs J Fordham; Mrs V Humphrey; Ms P Lewis; P Longhurst; A R Peters; Mrs E L Pitts; R B Truman; K White; R Wilcox; I P Wilson and Mrs J Woollons.

There were 3 members of the public present.

#### **1. APOLOGIES ACTION**

1.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Grindley.

#### **2. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

2.1 Cllr Mrs Humphrey declared that she had a personal and prejudicial interest in planning application reference LW/2008/1392, re Holm Lodge and would leave the room for the consideration of that item.

#### **3. MINUTES**

3.1 The Minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings of 27 November and 11 December 2008 and 8 January 2009 were agreed.

#### **4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS**

4.1 The Chairman suspended Standing Orders, drew attention to the planning applications to be considered and invited questions or comments from the members of the public present in relation to the applications before the Meeting and other planning matters.

4.2 Mr Cooper referred to a book by Mr Hunt from which he concluded that Ringmer Football Club should always retain a football ground given that the land was intended to be used only as recreational open space. He was therefore concerned that it had been redesignated under the Local Plan. Cllr Wilson added that under a planning agreement, provision was certainly made for part of the land to be only used as open space. Mr Cooper also referred to the approved plans for the new doctors' surgery and to the desirability of providing more toilet facilities accessible off the public waiting area.

4.3 Mrs Clement spoke in connection with the planning

application relating to Holm Lodge and elaborated on the objections that she and Ms Morris had submitted, adding that the existing extension had been built closer to the boundary than approved.

4.4 Cllr Mrs Humphrey also spoke in opposition to this application, adding that the site had already become too over-developed, particularly to the side and rear. The development adversely affected several adjoining residential properties, particularly to the rear.

4.5 The Chairman reconvened Standing Orders.

## **5. ACTION POINTS – Appendix 1**

08/06/08 Strategy for residential development consultation: the Chairman reported that there had been no further progress with the questionnaire.

08/07/12 Carys Cowshed, Broyle Lane: situation to continue to be monitored pending enforcement action. It was advised that the matter was shortly to be taken to magistrates' court.

08/09/15 The Forges: progress on the site to continue to be monitored and reviewed in the new year.

08/09/17 Response to proposed changes in the South East Plan: the Chairman advised that it had been ascertained that the representations proposed had been found to be unnecessary and the action point could therefore be treated as no longer required.

## **6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED – Appendix 2**

6.1 The Committee considered the Planning Applications that had been received and its recommendations are set out in the attached updated version of Appendix 2, as forwarded to Lewes District Council, entitled 'Recommendations from Planning Committee.'

6.2 Cllr Mrs Humphrey left the room and took no part in discussion or voting upon application ref LW/2008/1392.

## **7. PLANNING CONSENTS, REFUSALS & APPEALS – Appendix 3**

7.1 The Committee noted a report of recent decisions by Lewes

District Council as set out in Appendix 3.

## **8. RINGMER- LEWES CYCLEWAY**

- 8.1 The Committee discussed Cllr Grindley's circulated summary of his meeting with Mr Clarke of East Sussex County Highways Dept, and expressed appreciation for the contribution made by his efforts which particularly served to open the debate, stressed various important safety principles and measures to be followed, and emphasised the need to consider the design of the whole cycle link rather than just parts of it.
- 8.2 Various points arose from discussion including concern that yellow lines in Harrisons Lane would divert on street parking problems to other streets; any widening of Gote Lane would increase vehicle speeds; a route joining Mill Road, Lewes would be too steep and would introduce conflict with residents' parked vehicles; the route suggested in paras.P8/9 would be too circuitous; a bus priority system would increase tailbacks; and there was concern that if impractical and therefore underused the project would become an expensive white elephant.
- 8.3 It was generally agreed instead that a more practical solution would appear to involve investigating a route on the north side of Lewes Road which could utilise the track through Upper Stoneham Farm, apparently now in separate ownership. Such a route could enter the village in a better location and could also cross or bridge the A26 at a point having satisfactory visibility in both directions.
- 8.4 It was agreed to invite the designers for the Highway Authority to meet Committee Members for an informal discussion of these ideas prior to the February or March Committee Meeting.

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## **9. CORRESPONDENCE**

- 9.1 The Committee considered the following correspondence:

### East Sussex County Council Draft Cycling Strategy

It was reported that correspondence had been received inviting stakeholders to comment, by 20 February, on this strategy which put greater emphasis on utility cycling (i.e. to work or school) rather than recreational cycling. It was agreed to respond by supporting this shift particularly since, in relation to the Ringmer- Lewes Cycleway, this would lend

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further weight to that project, especially enabling Lewes based students to get to Ringmer's Community College and Ringmer residents to get to shops such as the proposed expanded Tesco store in Lewes.

**10. ANY REPORTS (by leave)**

- 10.1 Oral reports were received from Cllrs. including Cllr Peters who advised that he had received concerns that Lewes District Council was no longer advertising details of all applications in the local newspaper. The Clerk responded that he had checked this and it had been confirmed that only major and certain special forms of application were now included in the newspaper for cost effectiveness reasons, and he proposed, with Committee agreement, that forthwith details of applications for consideration be included as far as practicable on the agenda sheet and that details of applications awaiting parish consideration be displayed on the notice board. Arrangements have now been made for these initiatives to be announced in the Parish Pump. (It remains the District's practice to both display site notices and consult adjoining property owners.)

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

- 11.1 Thursday 26 February 2009  
At 7.30pm, The St Mary's Room, Ringmer Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.02 pm.