

# AWBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

## **Minutes of the meeting of the Council Planning Committee held at 8.00pm on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> November 2019 in Awbridge Village Hall, Romsey Road, Awbridge SO51 0HG**

**Present:** Cllrs Jackson (**GJ**) (Chair) Allen, (**PA**) Coggon (**DC**), Sheppard (**AS**)  
7 members of the public, Planning Application Representative Paul  
Airey (**PAI**) , Fred Tucker (**FT**), Warden, All Saints Church, Awbridge.

**Apologies:** Cllrs Adams-King, Legon

**Clerk:** Ian Milsom

**17/044p Welcome, introductions and apologies for absence**

**17/045p Declarations of interest**  
No declarations were made.

**17/046p Minutes**  
It was proposed by **DC**, seconded by **AS** that the minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2019 be accepted as an accurate record of the business conducted. **Resolved.**

**17/047p Proposed development at Church Lane**  
To receive information about the proposed development, take views from the public and to decide Council's position.

**FT** provided contextual background to the current outline planning application for the erection of four detached houses, provision of a car park and extension of the graveyard on land adjacent to All Saints Church, Church Lane, Awbridge.

All Saints Church has been searching for several years for a piece of land to enable the church graveyard to be extended, and a few potential sites have been explored without success. There is capacity at the graveyard for around seven more years, assuming 4 burials per year. Parking at the church is also problematic and vehicles are forced to park on the roadside. This practice inhibits access for larger vehicles, which could include ambulances and fire appliances. Plans to extend the use of the Church as a community hub is likely to increase the incidence of road-side parking.

Linked to the proposed development of houses in Church Lane is an offer from the developer to gift to the community land to extend the church graveyard and to provide parking for church users.

Earlier in the year around seventy parishioners attended a public presentation about the proposed development. It was reported that around 83% of those attending were in favour of the development.

The land which will be used for the proposed development is classified as countryside as it lies outside the development envelope. In accordance with Policy COM9 (Community Led Development) of Test Valley Borough Council Local Plan 2011-2029, it can only proceed if it is demonstrated that the community has been involved in the preparation of the proposal and supports it.

For the benefit of members of the public present, **GJ** explained the Parish Council's role in the planning process.

Several queries were raised by the Parish Council regarding the level of public support indicated by attendees at the public meeting and the preceding consultation questionnaire. Council questioned the number of occasions when Church Lane is congested with vehicle traffic.

Council requested sight of the questionnaires that have been completed in order to satisfy itself as to the level of community support, to determine if such support relates to the whole of the proposed scheme or just the graveyard extension and the car park; and how many of the respondents live in Church Lane.

**PAI** advised that the public meeting was just one part of a wider consultation. Need to get whole community on board. Will discuss with the Parish Council how further engagement of the community can be affected.

**PAI** offered to provide Council with a copy of the project feasibility study, which the Parish Council welcomed.

Comments from the public present:

A member of the public resident in Church Lane expressed a negative view about housebuilding to fund the church graveyard extension, and car park.

Another member of the public said that they had never experienced a problem when driving through Church Lane.

A member of the public expressed concern that if successful, the proposed project would set a precedent.

Council decide to postpone any decision on 'in principle' support for the proposed project until it has received and considered the information referred to above.

**17/048p To consider planning applications notified to Council**

**Squab Wood Landfill Site, Salisbury Road, Shootash SO51 6GA**  
<https://planning.hants.gov.uk/ApplicationDetails.aspx?RecNo=20741>

Following a general discussion with background information from **DC** and **GJ**, it was concluded that Council is not competent to comment on this application.

It was agreed to review the application at a future meeting of Full Council and to request if appropriate details of Test Valley Borough Council Planning Department's response. The Parish Council would wish to completion of the proposed works in good time.

**17/049 Date of next meeting**

Planning meetings will be held on an ad hoc basis when applications are received outwith the schedule of Full Council meetings. Meeting closed at 9.05pm