

Needham Market Town Council

Planning Committee

6th February 2023

Attendees: Cllrs O'Shea in the chair, Ost, Lea, Darnell, Cave Lawrence, Stansfield, Annis, and District Councillor Norris.

1 member of the public

1. Apologies for absence. Cllrs A&J Reardon.
2. To receive and approve minutes of last meeting, Approved.
3. Any declarations of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests by Councillors. None.
4. To approve any dispensations in declared under Item 3. None of the above.
5. To consider Applications for Planning Permission
 - a) New Applications available at time of the agenda.

DC/22/05794 Householder application from 15 Phillips Crescent to erect a side extension over existing single storey extension.

As the deadline had expired, this application had been discussed on-line and a decision of approval sent to BMSDC.

DC/23/00119.Application to significantly reduce a Walnut in a Conservation Area.

Again, this had a response of 1st February so was discussed on-line and approved subject to the District Council's Arboricultural Officer's comments.

Comments from Committee members warned of other applications in the Town would see this as setting a precedent and want other trees 'pruned'. If this is a recurring problem, it may require action to remove the tree to prevent the ongoing property damage and inconvenience to neighbours and replant another Walnut in a more suitable location.

DC/22/05841.A further hybrid application for works on Phase 3 Lion Barn Industrial Estate.

The committee could see very little alteration to the previous application which we had previously opposed due to the perceived danger to HGV's exiting from the site onto the busy road to Gt Blakenham just below the brow of Gallows Hill. Although the Suffolk Highways acceptance of the application, local knowledge predicted there would soon be serious accidents because of new access.

We would still oppose this application.

DC/23/00530 Householder application 4 Chalkeith Road. To extend the existing property to the rear with a single storey extension. Existing conservatory to be demolished.

The committee decided not to oppose this application. However, comments were made regarding the size of the extension being nearly half that of the existing property.

6. Items from the Town Clerk.

This item took priority as Cllr Norris needed to be elsewhere on Council business.

Attendance and speaking at the Public Enquiry at Offton.

There was a lot of discussion with several prepared statements being read.

Cllr O'Shea was prepared to speak in the absence of our Planning Consultant and put forward a very concise argument against the application using much of the text supplied by our consultant.

It was decided that the Mayor, Cllr Lea, should address the hearing first and outline the Town Council's objection to the location of the hearing, hoping to get it rearranged more locally to Needham Market, possibly the Community Centre, which has the capacity to seat around 280 persons and ample parking spaces. This would give an opportunity of many more residents the ability to attend and show their opposition to this development. Democracy in action!

District Cllr Norris reminded the committee, speakers other than the Mayor and Cllr O'Shea, should introduce themselves as residents rather than Planning Committee members.

Cllrs. Terry, Lea, Cave, Stansfield, and Darnell expressed their intentions to attend in addition to Cllr O'Shea. They will pick up on themes from his speech and reinforce the opposition to this appeal. A minibus has been provided by BMSDC to travel to Offton leaving from the station yard at 9.15am.

The chair told the committee that he had been approached by a resident in Crown Street wishing to replant a tree to replace one recently removed from the roadside outside the garages. It was made clear that the removal of the tree was part of an improvement plan which had not yet been completed and that the rest of the area where the tree had been would have a membrane laid and gravel (low maintenance surface) applied. The householder was refused permission to interfere with the ongoing plan and will be informed of such officially by the Town Clerk.

7. To progress the Needham Market Neighbourhood Plan review

Nothing to report this month.

Meeting closed 8.15

Next Meeting March 6th at 7 pm in the Green Room

Afternote. (Wednesday 8th) After our mayor's contribution the Inspector informed the hearing that she had asked MSDC for a day at Needham Market to hear local representations. She was told in no uncertain terms that no-one from MSDC had contacted the Town Council with this wish.

It was decided that the hearing would move to Needham Market on Friday morning, 10th February to hear local submissions at 9.30 to 12.30.

The hearing would continue at Offton for the rest of this week and return to Offton the following Monday 13th to conclude as necessary.