

SOUTH SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL
(CENTRAL SWINDON SOUTH PARISH COUNCIL)

PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2019 at 7.15pm
in the Council Chamber, Parish Council Offices Gladstone Street

- Present** Cllr T Philpot Chair
Cllr D Griffiths Sub Cllr P Herring
Cllr S Ahmed
Cllr D Griffiths
Cllr N Hopkins
Cllr J Firmin
Cllr M Strinkovsky
Cllr C Watts
Cllr N Watts
- Cllr S James Not Committee Member
- Officers** Rob Core Clerk
Jake Mee Deputy Clerk
- Public** Four
- Public Session** A member of the public said that the light outside the parish council office needed adjusting.
The Clerk said that the issue had been noted and would be dealt with.
- 972** **Apologies**
Cllr M Hamid
Cllr P Herring Sub Cllr D Griffiths
Cllr J Milner-Barry
- 973** **Declaration of Interest & Applications for Dispensation**
None.
- 974** **Pre-Application Presentation – The Sidings, Wootton Bassett Road**
Turley Developers gave a presentation to the Committee.
The Committee received an update presentation regarding the Sidings, Wootton Bassett Road. The presenter said that there had been a series of significant surveys carried out to inform the plan seen at present. The redesigned development will consist of 368 new homes made up of houses and a mix of 4 Storey and 7 Storey apartments. A railway theme would run throughout the site and two entrances to the site would consist of one pedestrianised route and a traffic route via Wootton Bassett Road.
The development would provide landscaping, which included tree planting to reduce on street parking and a cycle link to the wider Swindon network. Also being considered is a retail unit, a cycle hub and small café. The presenter said that there would be a public residents workshop held on the 17th December 2019. A full application would be brought in early 2020.
Cllr N Watts and a member of the public left the meeting.
The Committee discussed the pre-application and thanked the developer for the presentation and looked forward to the full application.
- 975** **Planning Applications to be Examined**

- 975.1** S/19/0288
Land to the rear of 30 Marlborough Road
Swindon
SN3 1QY
- Erection of a two storey coach house, to accommodate 2 no. apartments and associated works.

DECISION No objection

976 **Planning Applications delegated to the Chair and Vice Chair**

The Deputy Clerk submitted a report containing the delegated responses of the Chair and Vice-Chair, a copy of which appears as Appendix A in the Minute Book.

RESOLVED that the responses of the Chair and Vice Chair be approved.

977 **Planning Decisions**

The Deputy Clerk submitted for information a report containing the decisions made by Swindon Borough Council, a copy of which appears as Appendix B in the Minute Book.

NOTED

978 **Update from Swindon Borough Council regarding South Swindon Parish Council's responses to Planning Applications**

The Deputy Clerk Tabled a report regarding a meeting he had recently attended a copy of which appears as Appendix C in the Minute Book.

The Deputy Clerk went to a meeting with the Chair of the Parish Council the Swindon Borough Council leader and other senior officers. The deputy clerk once again raised concerns that the borough had not been paying any heed to planning application objections made by the parish council and that previously one of the officers had indicated that they could not take objections to appeal as they did not have the power to do so and no finance backing to fight appeals. The borough leader said that was no longer the case and believed that they were not approving applications that contravened policies. The deputy clerk said that he had offered to provide case studies where the borough council had done exactly that and that the parish wanted the borough to back a proposal pushing for greater power in localism and planning for local government bodies to help deliver quality developments on behalf of the residents and to also encourage the borough council to adopt a stronger stance against poor planning, without fear of the financial burden in doing so. The borough council would not commit to doing what had been asked and at the moment there had not been a good enough response from them, therefore the deputy clerk suggested that the issue be taken to the parish full council who may wish to consider how the parish currently review planning applications and the need to concentrate so much effort on the planning applications.

Cllr J Firmin said that the parish council need to keep pushing and if a case study shows the borough council have overridden a number of their own policies ask them how that is compatible with what they have previously said.

Cllr D Griffiths said that this issue had been brought up before and said that he and Cllr P Herring are attending a Swindon area committee meeting on 19th March 2019 and It would be helpful if they could take some case studies with them as all the local parish councils would be involved and as a smaller body could meet the borough council who are not adhering to policy the outcome of which affects all parish councils in the borough.

Cllr T Philpot said that in the short term, she, Cllr P Herring the Clerks and the Parish Council Chair Cllr C Watts will be looking at the processes and what options there are, and this will be arranged very soon.

Cllr N Hopkins said that if the borough council are not adhering to their own guidelines the parish have to point it out to them each time they do not. The parish have a communications officer starting very soon who can use all available media to identify and publicise the borough's failure to follow their own standards and guidelines.

The meeting closed at 08:18pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chair of the Council