

PLANNING PANEL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 25 JUNE 2008

Councillors M McVeigh (Chairman); W Southward (Deputy Chairman); A Carroll; Mrs M Docherty; J Jackson; A Jacob; G Garrity; J Bowman; Mrs J Williams and D Wilson.

Apologies for absence: None

Officers: T Pomfret, Development Services Manager; H Morrison, Senior Planning Officer; M Jepson, Head of Legal and Democratic Services; L Cockroft, Planning Officer and C Willoughby, Member Services Technical Support Officer.

Also present: Councillors H Wormstrup and P Whalley.

PP07 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 28 May 2008 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

PP08 Declarations of Interest

(Note: A Prejudicial Interest in application **4/08/2120/0** – Alteration to Existing Asphalt Playground To Form Multi-Purpose Sports Surface and Associated Floodlighting for School, After School Clubs & Community Use at Saints Gregory & Patrick, Catholic Infant School, Esk Avenue, Whitehaven - was declared by Councillor Mrs M Docherty due to her being a Governor at the School and she left the room during discussion of this item.

A personal interest was declared by Councillor G Garrity due to him knowing an Objector.

A Prejudicial Interest in application **4/07/2735/0** – New Housing Development of 81 Dwellings at Poolside, Port Haverigg, Millom, Cumbria - was declared by Councillor D Wilson due to him being a Director of Millom and Haverigg Economic Development Group and his Wife being Chair of Haverigg Residents Association. Councillor Wilson was permitted to address the panel as Ward Councillor, he then left the room during discussion of this item.

A Personal Interest in application **4/08/2155/0** – Change of Use From a Coach House to 2 Bedroomed House and Erection of Garage/Covered Way Extension at The Coach House, Cleator Gate, Cleator Cumbria - was declared by Councillor D Wilson due to him knowing an Objector.

A Personal Interest in application **4/08/2254/0** – Bedroom and Living Room Extension, Including Internal Alterations at 10 Fern Way, The Highlands, Whitehaven, Cumbria – was declared by Councillor M McVeigh who vacated the Chair during its consideration and took no part in the debate. Councillor W Southward took the Chair.

A Personal Interest in application **4/08/2197/0** – Excavate and Erect Slurry Lagoon & Associated Pipe Trenchwork From Farm Complex at Field 0751, Yeorton Hall Farm, Oaklands, Egremont, Cumbria - was declared by Councillor W Southward due to him knowing the Applicant.

A Personal Interest in application **4/08/2218/0** – Outline Application for demolition of Church and Replace with Residential Development at Lowca Methodist Church, East Croft Terrace, Lowca, Whitehaven, Cumbria - was declared by Councillor J Bowman due to him being a Parish Councillor.

Councillors W Southward and G Garrity declared a Personal Interest in application **4/08/2245/0** – Change of Use From Grazing to Garden at Rear of 1, 2 & 3, Johnson Close, Sandwith, Whitehaven Cumbria – due to them knowing one of the Applicants.

PP09

Planning Applications

Due to members of the public being present (some of whom exercised their right to speak) the following applications were dealt with at this point of the meeting.

4/08/2120/0 – Alteration to Existing Ashphalt Playground To Form Multi-Purpose Sports Surface and Associated Floodlighting for School, After School Clubs & Community Use at Saints Gregory & Patrick, Catholic Infant School, Esk Avenue, Whitehaven.

This application was considered at the previous meeting when the Panel were Minded to Refuse and was brought back to the Panel for final determination in accordance with paragraph 9.2 of the Council's Planning Code of Conduct.

During discussion of this item, Mr Tait, Mr Leech, Mr Kane, Mrs McKeown and Councillor H Wormstrup (as the Member for Harbour Ward) spoke in objection to the application. Councillor P Whalley (as the Member for Mirehouse Ward) spoke in support of the application and the Agent, Miss Stanger, exercised her right to respond.

It was suggested that over zealous lobbying had taken place in respect of this application and Members requested it be recorded, that no Member of the Planning Panel had been approached, lobbied or bullied in order to influence their decision.

Prior to the vote being taken the Chief Legal Officer advised Members on the legal and financial implications. It was requested that the vote be recorded and the voting was as follows:-

For the Development Services Manager's recommendation to approve the application:- Councillors M McVeigh, W Southward, A Carroll.

Against the Development Services Manager's recommendation to approve the application:- Councillors J Bowman, G Garrity, J Jackson, A Jacob, Mrs J Williams, D Wilson.

RESOLVED that the application be Refused contrary to officer recommendation on grounds that the proposed development would result in undue disturbance to nearby residents by way of noise, light pollution and loss of privacy at variance with policies SVC14, ENV21, ENV22 and DEV6 of the adopted Copeland Local Plan 2001-2016.

4/07/2735/0 – New Housing Development of 81 Dwellings at Poolside, Port Haverigg, Millom, Cumbria.

During discussion of this item, Mr Jackson and Mrs Brown spoke in objection to the application. The applicant, Mr Burgher, exercised his right to respond.

RESOLVED that the application be Approved

4/08/2155/0 – Change of Use From a Coach House to 2 Bedroomed House and Erection of Garage/Covered Way Extension at The Coach House, Cleator Gate, Cleator Cumbria.

During discussion of this item, Ms Sim, Mr Crichton and Ms Lygo spoke in objection to the application. The agent, Mr Nagle, exercised his right to respond.

RESOLVED that the application be Approved

4/08/2197/0 - Excavate & Erect Slurry Lagoon & Associated Pipe Trenchwork From Farm Complex at Field 0751, Yeorton Hall Farm, Oaklands, Egremont, Cumbria.

RESOLVED that the application be Approved subject to the amendment of the following condition:-

“2. The security fence around the perimeter of the lagoon shall be erected strictly in accordance with the details set out in the applicant’s email to the Local Planning Authority dated 19 June 2008 before the lagoon is brought into operational use and so maintained thereafter.”

Reason for the condition “In the interests of safety and visual amenity”.

The remaining applications were dealt with at this point of the meeting.

RESOLVED – That applications for planning permission be determined as shown on the schedule hereto, subject to conditions of approval and reasons for refusal as set out in the report of the Development Services Manager dated 25 June 2008.

PP10 **Time Limit on Meetings**

During consideration of Applications, the time limit on meetings was reached. In accordance with Standing Order 13.1.a, it was moved, duly seconded and;

RESOLVED to continue in the normal manner and complete the business remaining on the agenda.

PP11 **Development Control Quality Review**

Consideration was given to a report seeking Members approval to carry out a review of recent development control decisions in the Borough in accordance with best practice

RESOLVED – That the review be undertaken on Wednesday 9 July 2008 to look at recent/ongoing developments

PP12 Development Control Performance Monitoring 2007/08

Members were informed of the Development Control Performance Monitoring results for 2007/08 against national Best Value Performance Indicators.

RESOLVED – that

- a) the report be noted and
- b) the Development Control department be congratulated on their achievement.

PP13 Planning Appeal Decision

Members were informed of the Planning Inspector’s decision to ALLOW an appeal in respect of an application at Duddon Youth Hostel, Borwick Rails, Millom, Cumbria.

RESOLVED – that the decision to ALLOW the appeal be noted in the context of the Council’s Local Plan Policies and also in relation to performance monitoring.

PP14 Planning Panel Site Visits

Members were advised that four applications had been deferred to allow for site visits.

RESOLVED – that Site Visits would take place on Wednesday 9 July 2008 and would be included on the programme along with those sites identified in the Development Control Quality Review.

The meeting Closed at 6:00pm

Chairman.....

Date.....