

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 4th May 2016 at Retford Town Hall

Present:

Councillor H Richards (Chair)

Councillors H Burton, G Freeman, K H Isard, G A N Oxby, D G Pidwell, M Richardson and S Scotthorne.

Officers in attendance: B Alderton-Sambrook, C Crossland, F Dunning, K France and I Kennedy.

(Meeting commenced at 6.30pm.)

(The Chair welcomed all to the meeting, read out the Fire Evacuation Procedure, and also enquired as to whether any member of the public wished to film the meeting or any part thereof, this was not taken up.)

75. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S Fielding, M W Quigley MBE, A K Smith and T Taylor.

76. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

(a) Members

There were no declarations of interest by Members.

(b) Officers

There were no declarations of interest by officers.

77. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9TH MARCH 2016

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 9th March 2016 be approved.

78. MINUTES OF PLANNING CONSULTATION GROUP MEETINGS HELD BETWEEN 29TH FEBRUARY AND 11TH APRIL 2016

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Planning Consultation Group meetings held between 29th February and 11th April 2016 be received.

79. OUTSTANDING MINUTES LIST

RESOLVED that the Outstanding Minutes be received.

SECTION A – ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION IN PUBLIC

Key Decisions

None.

Other Decisions

80. REPORT(S) OF THE HEAD OF REGENERATION

(a) Public Interest Test

The Head of Regeneration had deemed that all Items on the Agenda were of a non-confidential nature.

(b) Planning Applications and Associated Items

<u>Reference No</u>	<u>Proposal</u>
B000530	Confirmation of provisional Tree Preservation Order at York House, High Street, Blyth, Worksop, S81 8EQ

Members were advised that in October 2014 the Council received a Section 211 notice to fell eight trees and prune one tree in the grounds of the property. The Council agreed to the felling of a number of trees as they may have been contributing towards damage to a boundary wall or lack of public amenity value. The pruning of a tree was also agreed due to the proximity to the dwelling.

The Council did not agree with the removal of a further four trees as they were considered to be healthy and contribute to the amenity of the area. These trees along with other trees that form part of the group were included in a provisional Tree Preservation order.

The report recommends the confirmation of the Tree Preservation Order with modification to remove two holm oak.

A location plan and photographs were shown.

Mr B Anderson spoke in objection to the item. He advised that he felt the concept of Section 211 notices and Tree Preservation Orders has been missed. He commented that the Item should be looked at as an application made by the Council. He advised that the trees are within the Conversation Area and are already protected, if the Order was not confirmed the trees would still remain protected. The Orders have been a mess and this order remains a mess. The trees are not cohesive; they are a collection of species of trees and are not all in good form and some are not particularly visible. Part of the group of trees are hidden by the front trees and to say the trees are in good condition is a stretch. He added that the individual trees should be looked at rather than a group.

Members asked questions regarding:

- How many trees would be included in the Order?
- Does the Tree Preservation Order confer additional protection to the Conversation Area?
- The condition of the trees.

In response to questions raised the Tree Consultant advised that six trees would be protected by the Order. The Tree Preservation Order does confer more protection than the Conservation Area as the Council for example can stipulate the level of pruning.

An elected Member commented on the beech tree close to the dwelling and that it may have to be looked at again in the future due to its proximity.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE HEAD OF REGENERATION – That the TPO is confirmed with modification to remove two holm oak that allegedly died since the TPO was made.

No more modifications are made because the trees have been assessed in accordance with Department for Communities and Local Government Planning Practice Guidance.

COMMITTEE DECISION – That the TPO is confirmed with modification to remove two holm oak that allegedly died since the TPO was made.

No more modifications are made because the trees have been assessed in accordance with Department for Communities and Local Government Planning Practice Guidance.

(c) Development Management Performance Report 2015/16 Quarters 2 and 3

Members were presented a quarterly performance report for the Development Management function for quarters 2 and 3 2015/16, which covered the period between 1st July to 30th September 2015 and 1st October to 31st December 2015. Figures for 2014/15 were provided for comparison.

Members were given a summary of the report. The measures of performance outcomes and current position for determining 'major', 'minor' and 'other' applications was given. The outcome of appeals against refused applications allowed was also given; details of the applications were included within the report.

It was noted that local targets had been exceeded and the Council is performing well. The number of appeals received during the period was low considering the number of applications. Members were advised that a new Planning Officer would be starting next week and a position for a Trainee Planner is being created.

RESOLVED that:

1. The report be received and the Committee note the current performance.
2. That the Quarter 4 and End of Year Comprehensive Performance Summary be presented to the June 2016 meeting of the Committee.
3. Details of costs allowed in relation to appeal decisions be circulated to the Committee.

SECTION B – ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION IN PRIVATE

Key Decisions

None.

Other Decisions

None.

74. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT

As there was no other urgent business to be considered, the Chair closed the meeting.

(Meeting closed at 6.55pm.)