

**HUNTINGDON TOWN COUNCIL****PLANNING APPLICATIONS PANEL**

A meeting of the Planning Applications Panel was held in the Town Hall, Market Hill, Huntingdon on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023 at 6:30pm.

Present: Councillors: K Brockett; D Cole (Ex-Officio); C Doyle (Chairman); P Kennington; A McAdam (Ex-Officio); G Shiels and P Pearce.

In attendance: 2 members of the public.

1. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

It was proposed, seconded and

**RESOLVED** that Cllr C Doyle be elected Chairman to the Planning Applications Panel for the local government year 2022-23.

2. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

It was proposed, seconded and

**RESOLVED** that Cllr K Brockett be elected Vice Chairman to the Planning Applications Panel for the local government year 2022-23.

3. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were none.

4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

5. **PUBLIC ADDRESS/ADDRESS BY OTHER TOWN COUNCILLORS TO PANEL**

A member indicated that they wished to speak. It was therefore proposed, seconded and

**RESOLVED** to adjourn the meeting.

Cllr D Cole raised concerns that Planning Applications Panel, along with some other Sub-Committees, had not been meeting regularly. It was explained that as of 2020, the planning applications process had been changed to Officers making recommendations to be approved by Members via email, with in-person meetings being called when required at the request of the Chairman. It was queried if this decision had been voted on by the committee.

*Clerk's Note: A report on changes to the planning process was considered by the Planning Applications Panel at a meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020 (M20), where the decision was deferred.*

Some Members requested a return to regular meetings, as it was felt that Members should be making planning recommendations instead of Officers. It was noted that this would be discussed further at a future meeting.

It was then proposed, seconded and

**RESOLVED** to reconvene.

6. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Members of the Panel considered the planning applications received from Huntingdonshire District Council contained in a list dated 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023 as set out on the attached schedule.

7. **PLANNING APPEALS**

Members were asked to consider planning appeals for developments at 99 Sparrowhawk Way (23/00001/REFUSL) and 97 Sparrowhawk Way (22/00040/REFUSL). It was noted that the information provided on both applications was unclear. Residents from both properties were in attendance, and explained that the boundaries of the properties were not clearly defined, and disputed that the land in question was owned and managed by HDC. It was also pointed out that the site was not previously accessible by the public due to the existing wire fence.

HTC previously had no objections to both developments. A concern had been raised regarding potential loss of trees in the area, and the residents clarified that they did not intend to remove any.

Members requested that the original 'no objections' comments were resubmitted for both appeals, with the comments for 99 Sparrowhawk Way amended to reflect that the concerns about loss of trees had been addressed.

8. **DATE & AGENDA OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was noted as to be confirmed.

**CHAIRMAN**