

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EMPINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL (EPC) HELD ON WEDNESDAY 3rd AUGUST 2016 FROM 7PM IN THE AUDIT HALL

- 1) **PRESENT:** Councillors V Pheasant (Chairman), J Corby, N Johannessen, P Ecclestone and Mrs C Saunders. Ward Councillors K Bool and Gale Waller.

Eight members of the public.

- 2) **APOLOGIES** (accepted): Councillors D Duffin and Mrs M Pollard.

3) **PUBLIC QUESTIONS:**

A member of the public asked EPC to discourage parking on the grass verges on Willoughby Drive near the entrance to the School and to establish progress further to the legal notice of 4 July requiring the owner to cut the hedge near the public right of way and stile at the eastern end of Willoughby Drive. The Chairman said on return from annual leave the Clerk would take appropriate follow up action on these issues.

In response to a question about the present position in respect of Planning Application 2015/1075/MAJ for affordable housing at Bayleys Close and Beckworth Grove, the Chairman said the applicant had given modified proposals for a significantly reduced number of new affordable and social housing to Rutland County Council. These had not been formally submitted and are not in the public domain e.g. not on the RCC Planning Portal. When the modified proposals are published they will be subject to a further 21 day consultation period.

EPC will arrange for public discussion either at a regular monthly meeting, or if necessary at a special meeting of the Parish Council before formally commenting on these proposals.

Members of the public related expressed concern about whether the services to the site e.g. drainage (both foul and clean water) would be adequate and the efficacy of demolishing sheltered accommodation at Beckworth Court. It was noted that the independent Consultants report on transport and traffic had been sent with Dr Peter White's comments to RCC and is recorded on the RCC Planning Portal.

4) **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

None

5) **MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 6 JULY 2016:**

Agreed as a true record.

6) **MATTERS ARISING (not covered by other agenda items):**

Cemetery - the size of the WW11 plaque is 950cm by 205cm to fit exactly the space on the south facing side of the monument. It is currently at the stonemason's yard.

7) **PLANNING**

Validations noted:

2016/0493/FUL: Prebendal House, Church Street, Empingham,

20166/0430/CAT: Home Farm, 4 Main Street, Empingham.

2016/0474/FUL: 9 Audit Hall Road, Empingham.

2016/0401/FUL: 21 Audit Hall Road, Empingham.

2016/0256/LBA: Aveland House, 8 Main Street, Empingham.

2016/0552/FUL: Foxley Farm, Whitwell Road – Solar Panels.

8) **Planning Applications:**

EPC endorsed Councillor Johannessen's comments by e-mail direct to RCC about 2016/0333/FUL (to which there has not yet been any response) and had no observations on the other applications below:-

2016/0544/FUL: 12 Highfield Close, Empingham: Conversion of existing single storey garage into two storey annex.

2016/0661/FUL: Foxley Farm, Whitwell Road: extensions.

2016/0333/FUL: Cross Roads Farm, Grantham Lane, Empingham: Construction of outdoor riding arena with perimeter fence.

2016/0646/CAT: The Wilderness, 50 Main Street, Empingham: 1 No. Beech Tree-reduce lateral spread back to boundary.

2016/0657/CAT: The Old Forge, 5 Main Street, Empingham. Remove false Acacia tree to ground level. 1 No. Lime tree-reduce epicormics growth from lowest 4m.

The Clerk will advise RCC accordingly and seek a response to points raised by Councillor Johannessen.

2015/1075/MAJ: Bayleys Close/Beckworth Court. The present position is recorded at 3 above. EPC welcomed the significant reduction to the proposed number (42 initially) of dwellings which addresses EPC's concerns about density of housing on the site.

9) TREES AND HEDGES

Noting the Judges report on the 2016 Gardens Competition, circulated by e-mail 1 August, EPC decided, as two small gardens were considered of equal merit there should be joint winners in that class, and the prize for the large garden class should be awarded to the best eligible garden.

After brief discussion it was agreed there is merit in continuing to encourage presentation of front gardens visible from the public highway (including pavements and verges) and EPC would continue to sponsor the competition.

10) HIGHWAYS

Ward Councillor Bool had raised with RCC the poor visibility from the road from Exton at junction with Grantham Lane. RCC had asked the landowner to trim the hedgerow and the landowner duly complied despite the fact that hedge cutting is not normally undertaken at this time of year. This action has done little or nothing to improve visibility. Ward Councillor will revert to RCC.

11) CORRESPONDENCE

Documents circulated by the Clerk were noted.

12) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

13) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 7 September 2016 from 7pm in the Audit Hall

Date:

Signed:

Chairman of Empingham Parish Council