

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOWLMERE PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE

which was held in the Pavilion Room, Village Hall

on **THURSDAY 15th July 2021 at 7:30pm**

PRESENT: Cllr P Burge (Chairman), Cllr D Roberts, Cllr L Wragg (who arrived at 19.53), Cllr P Collinson and Cllr R Lennon

IN ATTENDANCE Ms K Byrne (Clerk) and 6 members of the public (who left at 19.35)

Before the meeting, the Clerk advised the attendees that Covid-19 rules would apply. The Clerk also stated that the meeting would be audio recorded, and the recording would be deleted after the minutes had been approved; there were no objections.

As there were members of the public present, Cllr Burge explained the purpose of the parish council in the planning process, which is only as a consultee. South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) is the decision maker. Members of the public are able to make their own individual comments through the planning website.

1. Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence from Cllr J Hobro (personal commitment), Cllr S Mulholland (work commitment) and Cllr C Howe (personal commitment).

2. Declarations of interest (if any)

Cllr Burge made a declaration of pecuniary interest in item 6 as a close neighbour. Cllr Lennon had a pecuniary interest in item 4 as a resident of Apple Acre Park who would be affected by the application. Cllr Burge declared an interest in item 4, as a fellow councillor; Cllr Collinson also declared an interest in item 4, as a fellow councillor. Cllr Roberts declared that if any of the applications are placed before SCDC she will approach any new information afresh. Also, because Cllr Roberts is a District Cllr at SCDC, the same applies and she will look at any application, which goes to SCDC, afresh.

Cllr Roberts said regarding item 4, the Apple Acre site had been subject to numerous applications over the last few years but she will come afresh to this application. Cllr Roberts did not declare an interest in item 4. However, as she was the only parish councillor present who felt able to discuss the application, the Committee was not quorate for this item. (Cllr Roberts may later make representation on this application as district councillor.) Cllr Burge therefore declared that Fowlmere PC would not be commenting on item 4; the Clerk will inform SCDC of this.

The members of the public left the meeting at 19.35.

3. Minutes from Previous Meeting 24th June 2021 – Matters Arising

The minutes were agreed to be a true record, and were signed by Cllr Burge.

There were no matters arising.

4. 21/02610/FUL – Apple Acre Park, London Road, Fowlmere

Change of use of land for the siting of 19 No. static caravans for the purposes of human habitation in substitution for the existing 20 No. touring caravans

As discussed in item 2, the PC did not make any comments on this application.

5. 21/0760/TTCA – Holly Cottage, Rectory Lane, Fowlmere

Tree 1 – Sycamore, request to pollard back to saw marks. Tree 2 – Sycamore, request to remove this tree completely and replace with two native fruit trees

Cllr Burge summarised the application. Following discussion, the PC had no objections, therefore no comments were submitted to the tree officer.

6. 21/02726/HFUL – 6 Westfield Road, Fowlmere

Single storey rear extension replacing existing outbuilding with associated internal alterations

Cllr Burge left the room at 19.40; Cllr Roberts took over as Chairman for this item.

Cllr Roberts summarised the application, and the PC reviewed it.

Fowlmere PC had no objections to the application, but should officers be minded to approve the application then the PC would request a traffic plan be included which adequately manages vehicular access around school drop off and pick up times.

Cllr Burge came back into the room at 19.45.

7. 21/02683/FUL – The Butts Business Centre, The Butts, Fowlmere
Erection of Science Research & Development Office with associated external works

Cllr Burge summarised the application. The proposed site is inside the village envelope on the industrial site, the height was not considered to be excessive, the growth of the business was seen as beneficial to the community. There was some concern that the applicant should be required to follow the recommendations of the ecology report. The PC questioned whether there would be adequate cycling capacity for a business of this size, and it was felt that it would be beneficial if the gate to Butts View was re-opened.

Fowlmere Parish Council supports this application. If the application is approved, the PC would recommend increasing the capacity for cycling by providing more bicycle storage space, and requests that the gate between Butts View and the industrial Estate be re-opened to ease cycling and pedestrian access to the site. Also, the PC requests that officers make sure that the recommendations of the ecology report are applied.

8. 21/03095/PRI01A – Fieldside, Thriplow Road, Fowlmere

First floor extension

Cllr Burge summarised the plan. This was an application on the site of a previous application which had been refused. However, this application was for prior approval rather than full planning permission. The application was therefore assessed on permitted development rights criteria.

The following issues were raised: the floor to ceiling height measurement in the principal part of the existing house was not provided; the inclusion of an additional story that raises the height above the original ground floor extension to the garage, which would not be permitted; the possible loss of light to the window in the gable end of the neighbouring property; the external appearance of the house following the proposed extension, which may be out of keeping with the wider street scene, as it would become a two storey house on an approach to the village that is currently characterised by single storey properties with dormers.

Fowlmere PC unanimously objected to this application as it does not meet the permitted development criteria of the General Permitted Development Order England 2020.

ACTION – Cllr Burge to prepare a document clarifying the PC's comments alongside permitted development criteria; Clerk to submit on behalf of the PC

The meeting closed at 20.08.