

Morpeth Town Council
Minutes of the Planning and Transport Committee
Wednesday 12th June 2019 at 6:30pm
in the Council Chambers at the Town Hall, Morpeth

Present:	Councillors:	N Best	- Chair
		J Wearmouth	- Vice Chairman
		A Byard (arriving at 6:54pm due to council business)	
		J Gebhard	
		A Tebbutt	
		J Tebbutt	
	Clerks:	Mrs J Wilson	- Deputy Clerk
		Miss K Carter	- Democratic Services Assistant
		Miss C Rowell	- Administration Assistant
	Absent Councillors:	N Bawn	- Illness
		J Parreira	- Business

One member of public was also in attendance.

24/19 **Committee Chairman's Announcements**

- Members were advised of the usual rules about the recording of meetings;
- Members were reminded that mobile phones should be turned on to silent and should not be used during the meeting.

25/19 **Mayoral Announcements**

- The Heart of the North Concert will be taking place on Saturday 22nd June 2019 at 7pm at Morpeth Methodist Church to raise money for the Mayor's charity. Tickets are on sale for £15 from the Town Hall.
- Over £200 was collected on Fair Day on Sunday 9th June 2019 for the Mayor's charity.

26/19 **Declarations of Interest**

The Chairman received no declarations of interest on this occasion.

27/19 **Public Participation Time**

Professor Andrew Hamnet addressed the committee regarding planning application 19/01298/FUL – St Georges United Reformed Church, Bridge Street, Morpeth. He provided a history of the church and reasons why he supported the application, including:

- During the Victorian period, the thick doors were used to keep members of the public separate from members of the church;
- Following World War II the community and the church forged a better relationship;

- In the 1960s the hall was created on the first floor to accommodate events held by none members of the church;
- The new glass doors would provide a more open and inviting entrance to members of the public and also let in natural light;
- Other churches in the area have changed to glass doors and are experiencing an increase in footfall.

Professor Hamnet left the meeting at 6:46pm.

Members unanimously agreed to bring forward item 9 (i) planning list for w/c 3rd June 2019 **19/01298/FUL – St Georges United Reformed Church, Bridge Street, Morpeth**

Cllr Byard arrived at 6:54pm

Cllr J Tebbutt raised concerns regarding potential fire, health and safety issues with the alterations to the front lobby, as Prof Hamnet confirmed that the number of available seats would not change.

Cllr Best advised that the church sits on the edge of the Conservation Area and until the Conservation Area Appraisal is complete we cannot comment as to what affect the change would have on the character of the area. As the proposal is similar to that of the doors at the Town Hall and the Chantry he would support this application.

Cllr Gebhard suggested that as the church is more prominent than the Town Hall and the Chantry it would not fit with the aesthetic of that area of the town. He also raised concerns that the glass doors could be used for advertising and light pollution may become an issue depending on how late the church is open.

Cllr Byard advised members that the Conservation Officer was strongly against the planning application. She also believes that the wooden doors are more in keeping with the surrounding area.

Cllr A Tebbutt suggested that the decision of the Conservation Officer should be supported.

RESOLVED

- a) Information duly noted.
- b) Morpeth Town Council (MTC) are minded to support the expert view of the Conservation Officer.

28/19

Minutes of the Planning and Transport Committee held on 8th May 2019

The minutes of the above meeting was approved as a true record.

RESOLVED

- a) That the minutes of 8th May 2019, a copy of which had been previously printed and circulated to each Member, be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chair.

29/19

Matters Arising

Cllr A Tebbutt informed members that planning application 19/00904/FUL - Land South of Bluebell Court, East Cottingwood, considered at the meeting on the 8th May 2019, was still out for consideration. The Case Officer at Northumberland County Council (NCC) will be conducting site visits and meeting with residents.

RESOLVED

- a) Information duly noted.

30/19

Licenses

There were no license applications to consider on this occasion.

31/19

Town and Country Planning Act 1990

- (i) Members were asked to consider the planning list for w/c 3rd June 2019 and requested planning applications from w/c 13th May 2019 and 27th May 2019, see Appendix B.

- (ii) Members noted the comments submitted to applications on planning lists for w/c 6th May, w/c 13th May, w/c 20th May, and w/c 27th May 2019.

- (iii) 19/00485/CCD – Morpeth Station, Coopies Lane

Members were advised that the above application has been granted planning permission.

RESOLVED

- a) Information duly noted.

- (iv) 16/04486/FUL – Land North of the Garth, Pottery Bank

A report produced by Cllr A Tebbutt was circulated to members, following his attendance at the recent inquiry for the above application. He advised members that the enquiry had been very thorough and that the Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan (MNP) had come under extreme scrutiny.

Cllr J Tebbutt expressed concern regarding the MNP and the need for it to be reviewed. She believes that every green space in Morpeth needs to be designated to protect it from development.

Cllr Best suggested that a review of the MNP should only be held following the outcome of the Northumberland Local Plan.

RESOLVED

- a) Information duly noted.

32/19 **Northumberland Local Plan – Submission for Independence Examination**

Members were advised that the Northumberland Local Plan has been submitted to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Cllr A Tebbutt suggested that Rob Murfin be invited to a pre-meeting before Full Council on the 17th July 2019 to discuss housing developments in Morpeth and the MNP.

RESOLVED

- a) Information duly noted.
- b) To invite Rob Murfin to a pre-meeting prior to Full Council on the 17th July 2019.

33/19 **Housing Strategy for Northumberland 2019-2021 Consultation**

Members were asked to consider the draft response to the above consultation.

Cllr J Tebbutt suggested a few minor changes, including the reference to 'affordable housing' amended to 'affordable homes'.

RESOLVED

- a) Information duly noted.
- b) To submit the draft response with minor amendments.

34/19 **Coopies Way & Coopies Field**

Members were advised of the carriageway works at the above locations.

Cllr J Tebbutt suggested that the notification be posted on the MTC website to alert residents.

RESOLVED

- a) Information duly noted.
- b) To post the notification on the MTC website.

35/19 **Morpeth to Berwick Local Rail Feasibility Study**

Members were advised that funding for the above study has been granted.

RESOLVED

- a) Information duly noted.

36/19 **Road Closures**

Members were advised of the following road closures:

1. C363 Station Road, Stannington
2. U6116 Coopies Way/Coopies Field, Morpeth
3. U6109 Spelvit Lane, Morpeth
4. U6110 Chantry Place, Morpeth
5. U6106 Howard Road, Morpeth

RESOLVED

- a) Information duly noted

37/19 **Local Council Issues**

There were no issues raised on this occasion.

RESOLVED

- a) Information duly noted

There was no other business to discuss and the meeting concluded at 7:40pm with Councillors N Best, A Byard, J Gebhard, A Tebbutt, J Tebbutt and J Wearmouth present.

APPENDIX B - PLANNING APPLICATIONS W/C 3rd June 2019

PLANNING REF	NAME & LOCATION	PROPOSAL	MTC RESPONSE	MIN NO	NCC DECISION
19/01298/FUL	<p>Requested to be brought to committee by Cllr J Wearmouth from planning list w/c 13th May 2019. Extension granted to 14th June 2019.</p> <p>Mr Ken Anderson St Georges United Reformed Church, Bridge Street, Morpeth, NE61 1PD</p>	Proposed replacement of existing main entrance timber doors, with fully glazed doors, within a slim timber frame (resubmission).	Morpeth Town Council are minded to support the expert view of the Conservation Officer.		Application Granted
19/01362/REM	<p>Requested to be brought to committee by Cllr J Wearmouth from planning list w/c 27th May 2019. Extension granted to 14th June 2019.</p> <p>Mr Samuel Kenny Land West of Lancaster Park, Pinewood Drive, Lancaster Park, Morpeth</p>	Reserved matters application for appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for proposed 150 residential dwellings (use class C3) including 30% affordable housing, pursuant to approved outline planning application 16/00078/OUT.	<p>Morpeth Town Council object to this application on the following grounds –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Given that a single outline permission was granted covering both housing and employment elements and that the housing element was only permitted because of the promised economic benefit from the employment element, the reserved matters planning application for housing should not be considered separately from that of the employment land application and we therefore request that a joint application is submitted for consideration; As well as the “procedural” grounds for not splitting a single outline permission, the infrastructure (road access etc) required for the housing element relies on delivery of the employment element, and separate delivery will pre-empt or prejudice a separate application for the employment element. 		

PLANNING REF	NAME & LOCATION	PROPOSAL	MTC RESPONSE	MIN NO	NCC DECISION
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The rationale for housing in the area is dependent on the employment element of the original joint application; The cycleway did not form part of the original application and there are concerns that this will not only have an adverse effect on the wildlife corridor and green space but also the privacy and security of existing residential properties (Policy Des1 – D, F, H, Policy Env1); There are concerns with regards to flooding on the site and potential pollution of the Scotch Gill water course (Policy Des1 – L, Policy Inf1). 		
19/01586/FUL	Mr Kev Robson Hepscott House, Coopies Lane, Morpeth, NE61 6JT	Change of use to convert the ground floor of the industrial building from a B8 use to a B2 use.	Morpeth Town Council have no comment to this application.		Application Granted
19/01624/FUL	Mr Cameron Brown 3 Longleat Gardens, Brocksburn Park, Pegswood, NE61 6TQ	Conservatory to rear.	Morpeth Town Council have no comment to this application.		Application Granted
19/01555/FELTPO	Mr Suki Singh Site 2, Seaton Ryde, Tranwell Woods, NE61 6AQ	Tree Preservation Order Application – Proposal to fell Oak (T1), Tsuga (T2), Goat Willow (T3), Birch (T4) – refer to tree report.	Morpeth Town Council have no objection to this application, however would request that felled trees are replaced with a suitable species.		Application Withdrawn