



Present: Councillors;
P Dutton (Chair), J Reece, K Prime

In Attendance: N Rees (Town Clerk)

MINUTES

1. Apologies: Cllrs; M Took, D Wollweber, D Thomas, A Fleming
2. Declarations of interest: None
3. Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on the 20th January, 2020 was accepted as a true record.
4. Matters arising from the minutes: None
5. Planning Applications: To consider the following:
 - a) DC/20/0536/FUL: Refurbishment of Rayner Green Centre, it was RESOLVED that the Committee recommended approval.
 - b) DC/20/0476/FUL: Side extension to 1a Bungay Road, it was noted that the Council had previously recommended approval for this application and there had been no notable changes and so it was RESOLVED that the Committee recommended approval.

Additional applications received after the Agenda was published

- c) DC/20/0722/TCA: It was noted that the Planning Committee comments would not be taken into account by East Suffolk Council for these applications: It was therefore agreed that the Clerk would confirm 'no objections' rather than arranging another meeting.
 - d) DC/20/0731/LBC: The Committee considered that there would not be any reason to refuse an application to install sprinklers and associated fire prevention measures and therefore agreed that the Clerk would confirm 'no objections' rather than arranging another meeting
6. ESC's Referral process: In the past the Council had the option to ask District Councillors to 'call in' applications to ensure that they were not decided by one case officer but would instead be referred to a Planning Committee. Recently this system had been changed to include a referral panel which could then decide on applications that were at odds with the town/parish council's recommendations before it got to the Planning Committee. The Referral Panel had the power to decide to send the application back to the officer to make the decision. The Committee were exasperated with this additional means to ignore HTC's decisions and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk would write to invite the Chair of the Referral Panel to come and explain this to the Town Council. As other local councils were understood to have similar concerns

they would also be invited. Copies to Stephen Baker, Philip Ridley, District Cllrs and SALC.

7. Review of ESC's Planning decisions and Referral process: The Chair questioned the point of being consulted if HTC's recommendations were ignored by ECS. Action has noted under item 6
8. Update on the following applications:
 - a) DC/19/3914/FUL, Miles Ward Court: HTC had recommended refusal. This application was being considered by the Referral Panel and may not get to ESC's Planning Committee and therefore may be decided by the Planning Officer. This application was of special significance and sensitivity as it was gifted to the Town in support of local businesses and therefore should not be determined by an officer.
 - b) DC/19/4795/FUL, Bedingfield Crescent: HTC had recommended approval. This application had already been considered by the Referral Panel and was put back to the Planning Officer to make the decision and he had refused the application.

On both applications HTC had requested that the application be considered by ESC's Planning Committee and this Referral Panel was effectively blocking this request. Whilst the outcome of (a) Miles Ward Court was not yet known, (b) Bedingfield Crescent had been decided against HTC's recommendations. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk would write a second letter to express the Committee's frustration with this new method of dealing with planning applications and this would be copied to all those mentioned in the first letter under item 6 and to include Cllr Dutton's critique of the applicant's supporting statement.

9. Correspondence: None
10. News Items: The Clerk would try to find out when Badger Homes were planning to start on the Dairy Farm development.

The meeting was closed at 10.40am