

MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING HELD BY ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE

In accordance with (The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020)

Present: Councillors;

Annette Dunning, Peter Dutton, Anne Fleming, Rosemary Lewis, Karen Prime, Jill Reece, David Thomas, Jackie Wagner, David Wollweber (Chair).

In Attendance: Nick Rees (Town Clerk), 17 members of the public.

Minutes

The Chair, Cllr Dave Wollweber, welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that there would be an opportunity for residents to have their say during the public session.

1. Apologies: Cllrs; Tony Allen, Maureen Took
2. Declarations of interest: Non-pecuniary interests: Cllr Dutton (former HCSL trustee), Cllr Dunning (former Campus director & former HPFA trustee), Cllr Fleming (Trustee HCSL), Cllr Thomas (Chair of HCSL)
3. Public Session: To receive any comments from members of the public. Several members of the public expressed various concerns including; the current scheme differed a great deal from what residents had expected and hoped to see. There were concerns over the loss of the Youth Club building. The amount of time it had taken to get to this point and it still did not offer the facilities that residents had asked for during the consultation. There were concerns about the use of a plastic 3G pitch, the disposal, lifespan and justification for using this product in the current climate emergency. The loss of green space, which referred to the Castle Meadow Care application in particular but the two applications were very closely linked. Questions as to whether the cost of the pitch was good value and whether it would be utilised by a significant number of Halesworth residents and also concerns about the costs that Campus would be charging for using the pitch.
4. Review of information and questions from councillors: To review the information received since the last meeting and to raise any questions to Campus representatives before considering the application. It was noted that the Architect's had provided answers to some of the questions raised by the Council at the last meeting and this had been circulated to all the councillors.
5. DC/21/0007/FUL: To consider the Campus application which had been deferred at the meeting in February pending further information: Change of use to sports facilities comprising new grass football pitch adjacent to Harrisons Lane and construction of a new artificial football pitch with associated parking, access, lighting and drainage adjacent to the Apollo Youth Centre and adjacent field to the south Planning Application North Suffolk Skills Academy Harrisons Lane Halesworth, Suffolk, IP19 8PY

David Gallagher attended the meeting to answer questions on behalf of Campus. There followed a question and answer session. Mr Gallagher answered many questions from the Council and the Chair thanked him for taking the time to come to the meeting. However, it became apparent that some matters of concern that had been raised by the Council were still to be resolved and so there were no definitive answers to these questions, namely; the 3m high acoustic fence, the surface water drainage, the effective control of micro plastics, the noise and lighting from the pitch adjacent to the care home and the future of the Apollo Youth Club.

It was then RESOLVED that the Council recommended refusal of the planning application DC/0007/FUL for the following reasons

- 1. Noise and disturbance – The grass pitch next to the care home was considered to be unacceptable. The noise levels from the team sports to be played on the grass pitch would be very intrusive and damaging for the health and wellbeing of the care home residents, especially those undergoing palliative care.
- Concerns were expressed about the proposed 3m high wooden fence around most of the site as to whether it would be effective enough to reduce sound levels to a level which would not impact on the immediate neighbours.
- The requested flood lighting would be very intrusive to care home residents.
- 2. Infrastructure – the proposal fails to recognise the existing problem of surface water run-off flooding down Loam Pit Lane. The proposed mitigation measures will discharge into the existing ditch at the southern end of the field, a ditch which is already unable to cope with periods of wet weather.
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- 3. Environment – The environmental impact of the plastic 3G pitch was considered to be damaging from the point of view of its use; the leaching of micro-plastic fibres and toxic chemicals into the drainage water and the disposal of the redundant pitch. Also, the benefits of a 3G pitch for a relatively small number of users, of whom many are not Halesworth residents, were not in proportion to the cost.
- 4. Financial considerations – It appears that some aspects of the business model are still to be worked out and this was very concerning. There is a significant funding gap and fees to use the pitches are uncertain.
- 5. Unacceptable uses – The loss of open space in this location was a great concern to both many residents and the Town Council, although this is related more to the CMC application because both applications are intrinsically linked. Halesworth has very few open spaces left within its parish boundary.

The Council was however in full support of increasing sporting facilities and this was a very difficult decision to make. Unfortunately the Council and many residents felt that the whole project on this site, including the Care facilities had veered a long way from what was originally intended and more importantly a long way from what the residents had been expecting and what they had asked for during the consultation,

6. Correspondence: The clerk asked the Council if it would consider a Street name for the new road (a Close comprising 6 houses) off Fairview Road but with the caveat that half the site and the road entrance was in Holton and it would have a Holton post code. The Council voted in favour of 'Catalina' (a former flying boat that operated out of Holton Airfield) but agreed they would like to give the final decision to Holton Parish Council.
7. Items for the Website/Noticeboard/Newsletters/Library. To inform residents of the decision of the meeting.

8. Accounts for payment: The Council approved payment of the following accounts:

<u>4622.</u>	Waveney Norse – quarterly Market clean (Food Act 1984 s50)	174.99 + vat
<u>4623.</u>	N Rees – Zoom monthly subscription (Mar-Apr) (LGA 1972 s111)	11.99 + vat

From Neighbourhood Plan grants

<u>4624.</u>	Navigus – Invoice 6 Neighbourhood Plan support (Localism Act 2014)	3485 + vat
<u>4625.</u>	We Made That - Masterplanning (Localism Act 2014)	6777.10 + vat

DD/Standing Orders:

<u>4626.</u>	Barclays Bank charges (LGA 1972 s111)	6.70
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Bank & Cash Balances at 29th March, 2021

Current 728	£128,844.49
Unity Trust	£67,891.33
Community A/c	£5,296.20
Business Reserves 017	£92,699.93
Petty Cash	£71.83