



Present: Councillors;
A Fleming, A Baldwin, P Dutton, A Payne, D Thomas, M Took

In Attendance: Mr N Rees (Town Clerk), 6 members of the public

DRAFT Minutes

1. **To Elect a Chair:** RESOLVED that Cllr P Dutton would be Chair of the Planning Committee.
2. **To Elect a Vice-Chair:** RESOLVED that Cllr A Baldwin would be Vice Chair of the Planning Committee.
3. **Apologies:** Cllr R Lewis
4. **Declarations of interest:** All Cllrs for item 6a only in the sense that they all possessed mobile phones.
5. **Waveney Local Plan Review:** It was confirmed that Cllrs; Fleming, Baldwin and Thomas would attend the session at 2pm on the 7th September, remaining Cllrs to contact the Clerk to book alternatives dates if required.
6. **Planning Applications:** To consider the following:
 - a) DC/15/2164/FUL Station Yard, Replacement mobile phone mast. This application was deferred from the last monthly meeting pending further advice and information from WDC on concerns over health issues.

The meeting was opened to hear concerns from a resident of Station Road, Mr Edmund Wilson. Mr Wilson explained that he lived in Station Road and had concerns, as he and his family lived within 20m of the proposed new 4g phone mast. He also wished to advise the Committee that the mast was within the Conservation area and that it appeared from WDC's website that no consultation had taken place. Mr Wilson asked the Council whether it could be proactive in asking the applicant to consider other non-residential sites in the area.

The Chair, Cllr Peter Dutton informed the Committee and members of the public that he had spoken to the agent, Mr Matt Silverwood, who had informed him that this was a upgrade and that this mast would emit non-iodising radiation, which the Chair was informed, didn't damage human cells. The assumption is that the planning applications for these masts would be automatically accepted provided it met current planning regulations and ICNIRP public exposure guidelines. The applicant had apparently searched their database for alternatives sites at some point previously and found that there wasn't any suitable. However in the supplemental information provided online for this application, it stated that there had not been any research in to any other sites. Furthermore the agent advised that notices would need to be given for a 20m exclusion zone. It was immediately apparent that Halesworth Scaffolding and other small business would fall within this zone, which may also include the Museum and HACT office. The Chair however, informed the Committee that it was not possible to reject the application on health grounds.

RESOLVED that this application be rejected on the following grounds:-

1. The applicant had not considered the businesses which operated within the exclusion zone, it is not clear whether this was 10m or 20m or some other figure.

2. The applicant failed to follow proper procedures to consult with Conservation officers as the location lies within the Conservation area.
3. The applicant failed to investigate alternative and more suitable sites which were not in residential areas.

It was also noted that the applicant had failed to consult or inform residents and businesses and declined an invitation to send a representative to the meeting. It was agreed to inform the County and District Councillors and ask that they exercise their powers to have this application considered by a Committee and that the Town Council is also informed when the meeting is scheduled in order to inform residents, businesses & Cllrs so that they may attend.

- b) DC/15/2347/TCA 62 Thoroughfare, Fell 1 x Spruce 5 x Cypress hedges, 2 x Leylandii and trim 1 x Beech Tree: The Chair had visited the site and advised the Committee that these trees and bushes in question were very overgrown and that the removal would allow more light in to the garden. RESOLVED that the Committee recommend approval.
7. **Training:** Salc Planning training day was confirmed as Monday August 3rd at 6.30pm
 8. **Any other Planning business:** There was no other business and this item was only included as this was the first meeting of the Planning Committee.
 9. **Date of next meeting:** 14th September 2015 at 7.30pm (unless required to meet before).

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