

Planning

A meeting of the Council was called for Saturday 17 November to discuss the planning application received for Lower Manor Farm. As there were insufficient Councillors present to form a quorum, the following informal comments were passed to Saffron Garner at SCDC Planning:-

“No objections to the proposal provided that the conversion is not used for a residential dwelling once the house is completed, and the light industrial use is not inappropriate for the location.”

A meeting of Croydon Parish Council was held on Wednesday 21 November 2007 in the Reading Room at 8.00pm.

Apologies: Mr Wittey – away. Mr Hancock - UDS

Present: Mr Martin, Mrs Hurst, Mr Sole, Mr Friend, Mr Wheeler, Cllr Kindersley, Cllr Elsby, one member of public and the Clerk.

Minutes: of the last meeting, previously circulated, were agreed and signed.

Matters Arising:

Footpath 11: Deferred to December meeting.

Footpath Cutter: Deferred to December meeting.

High Street Sign: Clerk to write requesting two replacement signs.

Remembrance Sunday: Clerk would like to thank everyone who attended the ceremony at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday. Apparently Croydon is the only village in the group which attends to lay their wreath.

Village Matters:

Cemetery: Mr Martin has contacted John Cobbs, and the work is due to commence in November 2007.

Cold Calling Zone: Deferred to December meeting.

Bales and 4 x 4 Days: Council has written to both SCDC Environmental Health and Planning for clarification of various points. Letters have been received which indicate that the Parish Council has no jurisdiction over the matters in question, and describing the action that SCDC is taking. Council has been advised to leave this with SCDC, so any correspondence should be addressed to SCDC direct.

Woods: The roadway was not part of the planning permission, however Mr Hancock has spoken to the family and discovered that the road is laid on a membrane and is not permanent, so is probably not subject to planning permission .

Reading Room: Mr Friend reported that the Reading Room is to be checked for asbestos, have a Risk Assessment undertaken for the site, put up a “Deep Water” notice by the pond and have the boundary fenced. The Trustees had also asked that the Parish Council considered moving the notice boards to a site outside the Reading Room, as there will be reports to display which pertain to it. Council considered this and it was proposed by Mr Martin and seconded by Mr Wheeler that the plastic notice board be moved to the Reading Room, leaving the original wooden board where it is. All in favour.

Councillor Kindersley gave his report to Council:-

Planning: Councillor Kindersley suggested that Croydon Parish Council should apply to SCDC for a dispensation so that Council may vote on planning applications on which they might otherwise be deemed unauthorised to vote. Clerk to action.

CCC Staffing: The Leader of Cambs County Council has resigned, as has the Chief Executive and a member of the Cabinet.

Congestion Charge: Councillor Kindersley agrees that something needs to be done about traffic in Cambridge, but the Congestion Charge is not the answer. No importance has been given to public transport in rural areas. Where is the £30 million estimated profit from the scheme to be spent? If SCDC residents pay 75% of the charge, then 75% of the profit should be ploughed back into South Cambs. Also the climate change issues are not addressed in the scheme.

Traffic: Councillor Kindersley is hoping to arrange a meeting with both CCC Highways and the Police in January 2008.

Police Panel: Neighbourhood policing – following the requests from every village on the patch for speed checks, the police managed to do 10 hours of speed checks in 3 months over 15 parishes. Please continue to lobby the police panel at its meetings.

SCDC: A tenant consultation is taking place regarding the sale of remaining Council houses to a Housing Association. Otherwise things at SCDC are very quiet. The number of meetings has been reduced and District Councillors are not receiving as much information as perhaps they might.

Northstowe: Councillor Kindersley reported that the proposed design of properties is looking like houses in Germany or Holland!

Correspondence:

Councillors Professional Development: No interest.

Assessment of East of England Plan: No comments.

CALC: Mr Wheeler expressed an interest in attending the Planning Workshop, if his diary allowed.

North West Action Plan: Will include accommodation for up to 2000 students, hotels, academic facilities, recreation space and nature and conservation areas. Information is with the Clerk.

Dog Bins: As a result of the recent consultation, SCDC has to provide the full service. It was agreed that, following a request from parishioners, Clerk would write to SCDC and request dog bins for Croydon, suggesting that they are sited where footpaths exit onto the High Street.

SCDC Parish Plan Statement: To go onto the website.

New Planning Application Form: The 1APP form will be assessed for comments at the December meeting. Deadline for comments is 21 December.

Finance:

Bank Statement: The balance at 30 October was £2201-86.

Items for next agenda:

British Legion: It was resolved that, in pursuance of the power conferred by Section 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and being of the opinion that the expenditure satisfies the requirements of that section, the Council approves the payment of the sum of £16-50 in respect of a wreath for Remembrance Sunday. Proposed Mr Friend, seconded Mrs Hurst - all in favour.

Parking: Council was asked to remind villagers to park on their drives in order to keep the road clear for use by larger vehicles.

Mr Richard Farrer said that recent complaints made to the Parish Council regarding activities on the farm and surrounding land were unfounded, and the family is entitled to

make use of their own land. Mr Wheeler reiterated that the Parish Council has no powers to deal with these complaints, and any correspondence should be addressed to SCDC.

Mr Friend gave his apologies for the December meeting.

Date of next meeting - Wednesday 19 December in the Reading Room at 8.00pm, followed by nibbles in the Queen Adelaide.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Signed

Date

A Planning Meeting was held on Monday 10 December 2007 in the Reading Room at 8.00pm

Present: Mr Hancock, Mr Martin, Mr Wheeler and the Clerk.

Apologies: Mr Wittey – away, Mrs Hurst – other engagement.

Lower Manor Farm – S/2191/07/F

Change of use of barns to B1 business use. No objections – proposed Mr Hancock, seconded Mr Martin, all in favour.

Valley Farm – S/2199/07/PNA

Council commented that the proposed building seems surprisingly spacious for the amount of storage suggested in the letter, and wonders why it is so large. Council suggested that if there is to be a new access to the fast and dangerous B1042, then perhaps one of the accesses to the existing industrial complex could be amalgamated with it. This would keep the number of accesses on the site to two, instead of increasing it to three. There have already been problems with light pollution from the industrial development at Valley Farm, so Council requests that any lighting on the site is not visible from Croydon village.

If these points can be conditions of any planning permission that may be granted, then Council has no objections.

Proposed Mr Martin, seconded Mr Wheeler, all in favour.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Signed

Date

