

EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF THE COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING HELD AT 7.00 PM ON TUESDAY 27 JUNE 2017 AT COPYTHORNE PARISH HALL (REAR EXTENSION)

Present: Councillor Joseph Reilly (Chairman), Councillor Simon Lucas (Vice Chairman), Councillors Lady Kara Hawks; Sarah Coombs; John Goodwin and Mike Moriarty.

Also in Attendance: District Councillors Diane Andrews; Ten members of the public.

Clerk to the Council: Mrs Susan Brayley

34. Agenda Item 10 – To Receive the Affordable Housing Report

Cllr Lucas gave a brief presentation of the report, which had been widely circulated to Cllrs and published on the website.

Cllr Lucas advised that he had followed up on the question of additional funding availability and had established that nothing was on offer for actual building.

That the AHWP had had, thanks to assistance from District Cllr Andrews, had several meetings with the NFNPA Planning Authority, who were now proposing to take over the process.

This would be included in the NFNPA Local Plan Review, which, due to the requirement enforced by Natural England of a 400m “buffer zone” between new housing and the open forest lands, had reopened its consultation process. The enforcement of this buffer zone had also had a marked effect on a reduction of proposed Copythorne sites for development.

Cllr Lucas advised that there would need to be a collective Parish Council response to the plan as well as individual responses.

Cllr Goodwin advised that he had made several comments on the draft report and formally requested that the following comments be minuted: -

Cllr Goodwin’s former written comment that as Affordable Housing was not on the published Agenda for the meeting on 25th April 2017, and there was consequently no records of any discussion in the now approved minutes of that meeting, it is clearly inappropriate to mention it in the introduction section of the report.

Cllr Goodwin proposed that the final recommendation made in the report be replaced by the following: -

“The Affordable Housing Working Party (AHWP) is disbanded and all aspects of affordable housing are now dealt with by the full Council.”

This proposal was not seconded, so therefore no vote was taken on it.

Cllr Lucas advised that in future all communications would be through the Clerk, however the purpose of retaining the working party was to collect information to bring back to or advise Council as required and would only meet if necessary.

Cllr Lucas also reported that there was to be a NFNPA Consultation meeting held at Copythorne Parish Hall on the 20th July, so due to the very constrained timescale with the close on the 26th July, the Parish Council response would have to be agreed at the Council meeting on the 25th July and submitted to the NFNPA by the Clerk the following morning.

Cllr Goodwin raised concerns re the “Uncle Tom’s Cabin Site” and was advised that and any other concerns should be brought forward at the next meeting to be included in the Council response.

Finally, Cllr Lucas stated that the whole Affordable Housing process would be in future governed by the NFNPA in their role as the Planning Authority.

Cllr Lucas proposed; seconded by Cllr Coombs, acceptance of the report, in the subsequent vote Cllrs Reilly; Lucas and Coombs voted in favour, with Cllrs Hawks; Goodwin and Moriarty abstaining.

Cllrs Andrews and Tipp gave their apologies and left the meeting.

A member of the public queried where the Plan documents and Map were available to view, Cllr Lucas advised via the NFNPA website.

A member of the public asked where a site was rejected, how were the owners informed? Cllr Lucas advised was responsibility of the Planning Authority to administer planning applications. A member of the public asked if the AHWP would be contacting the Landowners to advise the changes? Cllr Lucas replied that the Parish Council had never entered negotiations with Landowners and was not their place to do so. This was up to the NFNPA as Planning Authority. A member of the public asked if a map demonstrating the 400m zone had been generated. Cllr Goodwin advised was available via the NFNPA Local Plan documents and that the concept had been around for many years.