



P1.

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL (EXTRA-ORDINARY PLANNING) 5 JUNE 2018

PRESENT

Councillor (Mrs) P M Webster (In the Chair)

Councillor: R Acres
P Adams
A Bishop
(Mrs) J H Bishop
(Mrs) J Clark
(Mrs) A M Durrant
G Edwards
N Gardiner
K Smith
(Mrs) L Vardy

IN ATTENDANCE

1 Member of the public

TO ELECT A CHAIRMAN

1. Resolved by Councillor (Mrs) L Vardy and seconded by Councillor A Bishop to elect Councillor (Mrs) P M Webster to be Chairman of the Full Council Planning Group. Councillors voted unanimously in favour. Councillor (Mrs) P M Webster was duly appointed and remained in the Chair.

APOLOGIES

2. Councillors (Mrs) M R Penny, C Adams, (Mrs) A Livall and S Weisinger.



Highworth is a Fair Trade Town



Twinned with Wassenberg



Twinned with Pontorson

TO ELECT A VICE-CHAIRMAN

3. Resolved by Councillor (Mrs) J Clark and seconded by Councillor (Mrs) L Vardy to elect Councillor (Mrs) J Bishop to be Vice-Chairman of the Full Council Planning Group. Voting was unanimous and the resolution was carried. Councillor (Mrs) J Bishop was duly appointed Vice-Chairman.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

4. None

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

5.
 - a. S/17/1771 Erection of class A1 food store and associated access, parking and landscaping. Land North of Blackworth Industrial Estate, Highworth Swindon. Councillors strongly recommend acceptance.
 - b. S/OUT/17/1772 Outline application for the erection of class B1, B2 and B8 employment uses plus new vehicular and pedestrian access - Access not reserved. Land North Of Blackworth Industrial Estate, Highworth Swindon. Councillors strongly recommend acceptance.

Councillors wish to add the following in support of their recommendation for acceptance for both these applications:

Councillors are well aware that the Planning Officer is preparing to refuse the foodstore application. Highworth Town Council (HTC) has requested that both of these applications not be decided under Delegated Powers but be called in by Swindon Borough Council (SBC Planning Committee for a decision. We have seen from the agenda of the meeting on 12 June 2018 that they have both been included. The Ward Councillors will be giving evidence before that Committee as will a Town Councillor, our Chairman of Planning.

HTC maintains its position and still strongly recommends acceptance of the application for a foodstore. Highworth, almost to a man, has insisted that it needs this second foodstore and is happy to accept the proposed site. Highworth desperately needs a second foodstore. The current Co-op is inadequate and does not provide residents with the shopping experience they expect and require.

Councillors hold completely opposite views to those of the Officer on the affect of this proposed food store on the town centre. Currently, the only store in the town centre that might be affected is a specialist butcher who has no opposition to the development. Highworth welcomes a new supermarket of this size and, far from expecting it to cause decline of the town centre, Highworth is looking forward to it rejuvenating the town centre. A Highworth Aldi will encourage people from neighbouring villages, Shrivenham and Stratton to come into Highworth and visit our town centre. Highworth Town Centre provides outlets mainly geared to the hospitality industry and these rely on other larger attractions to bring people into Highworth. They see the proposed Aldi as being an attraction, not a detraction and this is also mirrored in the Tourism Strategy currently being formulated.

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MEMBERS' BUSINESS

6. Councillor (Mrs) J Clark: The Town Clerk is to email Councillors Swinyard and Elliott, and invite them to Highworth to look at the proposed site and the current High Street.

Meeting closed 8.45pm