

## BILLERICAY TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COACH HOUSE, CROWN YARD, HIGH STREET, BILLERICAY ON TUESDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2020 AT 7pm

#### Present

Cllr L Mitchelmore - Chairman	Cllr J Tutton – Vice Chairman	Cllr J Clark
Cllr R Clark	Cllr J Devlin	Cllr M Moore
Cllr D Spencer	Cllr A Talboys	

In Attendance Diane McCarthy – Committee Clerk

#### 146 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr M Dear and Cllr J Henshaw.

#### 147 Declarations of Interest with Regard to Agenda Items

Cllr Moore declared a non pecuniary interest in planning application 20/00049/FULL, 8 School Road as she lives close to the property.

#### 148 Public Participation Session with Respect to Agenda Items

There were none.

#### 149 Minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2020

**Resolved:** following approval, the minutes were signed by the Chairman as a true record.

#### 150 Planning Applications

20/00049/FULL	8 School Road	Removal of existing conservatory and construction of a proposed two storey side extension and part two storey and part single storey rear extension  <b>Resolved:</b> The Town Council had no objection to this application.
20/00076/FULL	305 Mountnessing Road	Alter roof from hip to gable, extend existing rear dormer and 3 rooflights to front elevation  <b>Resolved:</b> The Town Council had no objection to this application.
20/00095/FULL	40 Stansted Close	Ground floor front extension and ground floor rear extension  <b>Resolved:</b> The Town Council had no objection to this application.

20/00115/FULL	186 Norsey Road	Erection of single storey rear and side extension, alterations to roof of main property incorporating provision of dormer windows, re-roofing of garage and enclosing existing cloister walkway, erection of upper floor extension to living accommodation. Amendments to granted consent 19/00960/FULL to incorporate single storey lean to side extension for plant room and adjustments to the rear dormer windows  <b>Resolved:</b> The Town Council had no objection to this application.
20/00118/FULL	44 Scrub Rise	Demolition of existing bungalow and construction of a pair of 4-bed semi-detached houses  <b>Resolved:</b> The Town Council had no objection to this application.
20/00127/FULL	146 Western Road	Demolition of existing garage. Proposed garage with hipped roof over  <b>Resolved:</b> The Town Council had no objection to this application.

#### 151 Strengthening police powers to tackle unauthorised encampments

Members considered a consultation on strengthening police powers to tackle unauthorised encampments. Members discussed each question proposed by NALC (National Association of Local Councils) and agreed the responses to be returned to NALC (see Appendix 1). It was

**Resolved:** that the Town Council sends the responses to the Consultation (Appendix 1) to NALC.

#### 152 Road traffic regulation act 1984 - section 14(1)

Members noted details of the intended closure of Tye Common Road which is due to commence on 29th February 2020 for 2 days. The closure is required for the safety of the public and workforce while BT undertakes clearing one blockage in duct. It was

**Resolved:** that the information be noted.

#### 153 Questions from Press and Public

There were none.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.10pm.

The next Planning Committee will be held on Tuesday 25 February 2020.

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Chairman

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Date

Q1. To what extent do you agree or disagree that knowingly entering without the landowner's permission should only be made a criminal offence if it is for the purpose of residing on it?

**Strongly agree**

Q2. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the act of knowingly entering land without the landowner's permission should only be made a criminal offence if it is for the purpose of residing on it with vehicles?

**Strongly agree**

Q3. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the landowner or representatives of the landowner should take reasonable steps to ask persons occupying their land to remove themselves and their possessions before occupation of the land can be considered a criminal offence?

**Strongly agree**

Q4. To what extent do you agree or disagree that a criminal offence can only be committed when the following conditions have been met?

a) the encampment prevents people entitled to use the land from making use of it

**Disagree**

b) the encampment is causing or is likely to cause damage to the land or amenities

**Disagree**

c) those on the encampment have demanded money from the landowner to vacate the land; and/or

**Strongly disagree**

d) those on the encampment are involved or are likely to be involved in anti-social behaviour.

**Disagree**

Q5. What other conditions not covered in the above should we consider?

**Just a presence on the land is good enough.**

Q6. To what extent do you agree or disagree that police should be given the power to direct trespassers to suitable authorised sites in a neighbouring local authority area?

**Strongly agree**

Q7: Should this be subject to conditions around agreements being in place between local authorities?

Yes / **No**

Q8: Should there be a maximum distance that a trespasser can be directed across?  
Yes / **No** If yes, what distance should that be?

Q9: Should there be any other conditions that should be considered when directing a trespasser across neighbouring authorities. If so, what should these be?

**Yes**

If yes, what should these be?

**Advise neighbouring authorities that trespassers are being directed.**

Q10. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the period of time in which trespassers directed from land would be unable to return should be increased from 3 months to 12 months?

**Strongly agree**

Q11. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the number of vehicles needing to be involved in an unauthorised encampment before police powers can be exercised should be lowered from six to two vehicles?

**Strongly agree**

Q12. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the police should be granted the power to remove trespassers from land that forms part of the highway?

**Neither agree or disagree**

Q13: To what extent do you agree or disagree that the police should be granted the power to seize property, including vehicles, from trespassers who are on land with the purpose of residing on it?

**Agree**

Q14: Should the police be able to seize the property of:

i) **Anyone whom they suspect to be trespassing on land with the purpose of residing on it;**

Q15. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed amendments to sections 61 and 62A of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 contained in this consultation are sufficient measures to tackle the public disorder issues which are associated with unauthorised encampments without the requirement for introducing specific powers that criminalise unauthorised encampments?

**Disagree**

Q16. Do you have any other comments to make on the issue of unauthorised encampments not specifically addressed by any of the questions above?

**Comment re Question 10 – It is a criminal offence therefore trespassers shouldn't be returning to the land.**

**Comment re Question 15 – Specific powers to criminalise unauthorised encampments should be introduced.**