

THE LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ADDITIONAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8th April 2015 AT 7.30PM AT THE LEIGH PARISH CHURCH

Present: J. Arkell (Chair), P. Harvey, B. Stephens

In attendance: K. Tilling (Parish Clerk),

Apologies: P. Howse, A. Hawksworth, M. Chandler, J. Wand and J. Wand

This was an additional meeting arranged for the discussion of a planning application received since the last Parish Council meeting and the Parish Council's response to the draft Tewkesbury Borough Plan.

JA announced that Cllr Tucker has resigned from the Parish Council with immediate effect. This was accepted with regret as GT has undertaken much work for the Parish and will be sorely missed especially with Highways issues. As regards the issues that were raised at the start of the last meeting, JA has spoken directly with Sarah Freckleton, Borough Solicitor at TBC. The PC was commended for their approach to openness and transparency in dealing with a planning application where the clerk has a personal interest in a specific planning application. To further support this action it is suggested that the PC include this in the Standard Orders. Parish Councillors have a legal obligation to declare personal interests but the code of conduct does not cover paid staff. By providing an independent note taker it removes the possibility of manipulating *the minutes and the consultation response*. JA spoke to all Cllr's after the last meeting and remarked that it was interesting to note that all gave varying accounts.

15/00258/ADV – Knightsbridge Business Centre, Tewkesbury Road, Elmstone Hardwicke. 1 no. main sign and 24 no. signs advertising the separate businesses at Knightsbridge Business Centre (content to be flexible)

Signs – discussion about the location of signs

Concerns about traffic around the entrance site

Appreciate the need for a large 'centre' name

Illumination of the sign – suggest restricting the time it is on – e.g. dawn to dusk. Consider the houses nearby. 2 minor signs should be moved to inside the railings.

Remove all other signage and ensure none creeps back

In favour of the main sign – just concerns regarding any disruption/light pollution caused by the illumination in an area that it without main street lights. Not needed to be on 24 hours per day.

Minor signs to be moved inside the entrance – ensures that traffic has pulled well off the main road to read the signage

Several of the signs have been there for some time but have been subject to enforcements and complaints.

Original sign was inside the railings/gate

Lettering and logos – appreciate the need to be flexible – if set back off the road.

As this application borders the neighbouring Parish of Elmstone Hardwicke the clerk was asked to contact them and share this planning application information. It will give them the opportunity to comment on behalf of the houses nearby

Response to the Tewkesbury Borough Plan

Tewkesbury Borough Council has approved a draft version of the Tewkesbury Borough Plan for Public consultation. This document, once adopted, will form a key part in the TBC development plan 2011 – 2031. TBC have arranged a number of public consultation events in March and the consultation period comes to an end in April. All responses are to be submitted by Monday 13th April.

Coombe Hill has been identified as a Service Village and Parish Councillors have been attending meetings with other Parishes and staff from TBC to understand the full implications for Coombe Hill. The figures published in the draft document are much higher than the Parish Council were led to believe. There are background papers that support information contained within the main draft. The TBC Background paper –Approach to Rural Sites finally contains data which is accurate showing that there are 39 houses in Coombe Hill. The initial figure was in the region of 145! Parish Council concerns have been constantly expressed about the poor quality of information being used to make ill-informed decisions.

As a whole the Parish Council strongly opposes the idea of any development within its Parish. Development will spoil its small hamlet appearance. The lack of facilities and no real suitable sites within the Parish have been raised with TBC whenever the opportunity has arisen. Development requires better facilities, improved access, no obvious detrimental physical or visual impact on the area and there are better more suitable sites within a few miles. A letter to TBC containing these comments will be submitted before the consultation deadline.

The comments/notes will be available to view on the TBC planning portal.