

**STRADISHALL PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the planning meeting held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

**Councillors present: Ady Swift (Chairman), Adrian Lee (Vice Chairman), Ian Hutchinson and Jonathan Masefield and Robert Deeks**

**Also present: Joanne Kirk (clerk) and two members of the public**

The following issues were raised during the Open Forum:

- Objections to DC/19/0540/TCA
- A possible breach of DC/19/1265/FUL

**1. Acceptance of apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Debbie Gates.

**2. Declaration of Interest in items on the agenda and dispensation requests**

No councillors declared an interest in any items on the agenda and no dispensation requests were made.

**3. Planning**

**a) DC/19/0540/TCA - Land adjacent to 29 St Margaret's Place - Fell one ash and prunus**

It was resolved that the Parish Council would object to this application for the following reasons:

- **DM 12 – Mitigation, Enhancement, Management and Monitoring of Biodiversity.**

The AGB environmental report submitted as part of the previous application for this site DC/18/1265/FUL states that *'the area of dense scrub and scattered trees on the western boundary would be retained'* and P20 of the report states that all trees would be retained under the current plans.

It was a planning condition in the Decision Notice that *'All ecological measures and/or works shall be carried out in accordance with the details contained in AGB Environmental - Extended Phase I Habitat Survey as already submitted with the planning application and agreed in principle with the Local Planning Authority prior to determination.*

The applicant has already breached this condition as a large proportion of the hedge along the western side adjacent to the playing field has been removed in the last few weeks. It was also a condition that a 5m biodiversity strip be retained on the site and that no clearance should take place after 1<sup>st</sup> March, again this condition has been breached as clearance work commenced after this date. Planning was notified of this breach by a resident but the work has continued.

The application is for the removal of two mature trees which contribute to the visual amenity of the area. No reason is given in the application form as to why the trees are being removed. Stradishall Parish Council believes that allowing the removal of these trees conflicts with the previous consent as the original application may not have been approved if the intention to remove the trees had been included as part of the original application.

The Parish Council requests that consistency be applied by Planning in how applications for trees in a Conservation Area are processed. When a neighbouring property contacted planning about a removal of a tree in the hedge line along the boundary with the playing field, he was told that the application would be refused and a TPO applied to the tree. The application was withdrawn as a result. It would seem unfair if the same rigorous approach were not applied to this applicant, particularly when there is already evidence that planning conditions have been ignored.

The justification for the removal of a healthy ash tree is also questionable at a time when numerous ash trees have been lost due to ash die back.

Although no evidence of bats and owls was found by AGB in 2015, the Parish Council requests that a more detailed study be carried out to assess the impact of bats and owls if the trees are removed as there are bats and owls in the vicinity of this site.

- **DM 13 – Landscape features**

DM 13 states that all development proposals should demonstrate that they will protect the character of the landscape. The decision notice for DC/18/1265/FUL states that no development should take place until a landscaping scheme has been submitted. There is no information on the West Suffolk website about a landscaping scheme having been submitted. Despite this clearance work has already taken place on the site.

- **DM 17 – Conservation Areas**

DM 17 states that development within a Conservation Area should retain trees and hedges which contribute to the special character of the area. Both trees contribute the character and visual amenity of the area as they have been a feature of this site for many years.

#### **4. Date for the installation of the play equipment and removal of existing equipment**

Sovereign has suggested the week ending 10<sup>th</sup> May for a pre-installation survey and an installation date of 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019.

Original design has been amended to take into account space for the grass to be cut and proximity to properties in St Margaret's Place. The adult gym equipment will be positioned on concrete pads near the basketball court.

It was resolved that the quote of £350 from Adrian Lee Contract Services would be approved to remove the Multiplay which has been condemned as unsafe, the two rockers, which are too high and will be moved nearer the cradle swings and the football goals which will be repositioned.

It was also resolved that Jonathan Masefield and Adrian Lee would be authorised to make any amendments to the position of the new equipment following the pre-installation survey and that the clerk and Chairman would be authorised to make any additional payments required to enable the work to take place up to a limit of £200.

#### **5. Approval of payment for the deposit for the new play and gym equipment**

It was resolved that the deposit payment of £6,300.55 would be approved and that the clerk would make the payment following confirmation from Jonathan Masefield that he has confirmed the amendments to the plans with Sovereign.

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.35pm.**

Signed ..... (Chairman) Dated .....