

**Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2018 in The Cell, The Old Court House, Bridge Street at 8pm**

**1. Apologies:**

None

**Present:**

Cllr D Beal, Cllr P Collins, Cllr C Eastwood, Cllr S Garrett (Chair) and Cllr B Roberts

**In Attendance:**

Mrs E Coe (Town Clerk/RFO), Mr James Overbury (Deputy Town Clerk) and one member of the public

**2. Declarations of Interest:**

Cllr Beal declared an interest in items 6 DC/17/3654/VOC and item 9, Mount Pleasant compliance issues, and signed the Interest Book.

**3. Minutes of previous meeting:**

Cllr Garrett proposed that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2018, (Circulated in draft form prior to the meeting) be approved as an accurate record, which was seconded by Cllr Collins with all in favour. Cllr Garrett then signed the minutes.

**4. Public Comment:**

None

**5. The Following planning decisions were noted:**

**DC/18/0121/FUL 3 Howard Close** – Planning Permission

**DC/18/0748/FUL 21 Danforth Drive** – Planning Permission

**6. Planning applications received prior to the meeting:**

None

**7. SCDC Potential Referral of planning applications:**

None

**8. Correspondence received since the last meeting:**

**Suffolk Coastal District Council – Stephen Baker CEO**

Cllr Garrett read the response received from SCDC regarding the Town Council's letter of complaint relating to the Scheme of Delegation and DC/17/1853/OUT (land to the west side of Station Terrace). The Committee felt the response was somewhat unsatisfactory and there followed some debate about the right course of action to take next. It was agreed for Cllr Garrett and Cllr Beal to draft a further letter of complaint about the process that had resulted in the approval of DC/16/2115/FUL (White Horse PH) which the Town Clerk would send to SCDC. It was agreed that the current process was flawed and members believe that it was wrong to take a decision in private that resulted in the demolition of a listed building and replace by a super-sized replica. It was also noted that the only advice heard was presented by the author of an incorrect, unpublished report which the public had no opportunity to scrutinise. This was a clear failing of the democratic process as the only person presenting the case is the case officer. Had this application been referred to the SCDC Planning Committee as requested then the Town Council and members of the public would have had an opportunity to put a case forward based on local knowledge as well as valid material planning reasons for refusal of the demolition as it was an integral part of the town's heritage and was integral to the listing of the Coaching Inn.

It was also suggested to write to the Suffolk Association of Local Councils requesting support and advice on what to do next and whether contacting the Ombudsman would be an appropriate cause of action.

**9. Non-Compliance issues relating to Mount Pleasant development:**

The Town Clerk reported that there had been no response from the Case Officer to the email sent on 13<sup>th</sup> March regarding enforcement of conditions and referral to SCDC Planning Committee for the applications for variation of conditions for land south of Mount Pleasant Farm (Persimmon site) It was agreed to chase a response.

**10. 2018/2019 Action Plan:**

Cllr Garrett and the Town Clerk would amend the document for consideration at the next meeting Updates –

**11. Matters of report or items for next agenda:**

Cllr Eastwood suggested that the timing of the Planning Committee meeting could be moved to be equidistant from the Full Council meeting.

**Agenda item for next Full Council meeting:**

To approve a change of date for the Planning and Rights of Way, Highways and Lighting Committees from 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday to 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday each month starting on 18<sup>th</sup> June

**2. Next meeting date:**

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at 8.00pm** (*Approximate timing – to follow the Rights of Way, Highways & Lighting Committee meeting*)

The meeting closed at 8:50pm