Alton Parish Council

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 28th August 2019 at 7pm
At Alton Village Hall

Present:Councillor J. Shepherd, Councillor (Chair), Councillor A. Forrester, Councillor P Ballard, Councillor E Bailey, Councillor R. Wood, Councillor E. James, Councillor E.Brindley, Councillor M.Worthington (SCC), Councillor H. Plimley (SMDC), Councillor S. Hollins, Councillor P.Gwinnett.

Mr S.J. Burton (Clerk)

Apologies: None

In Attendance: 17 members of the public.

The meeting was opened by Cllr Shepherd at 7pm. Cllr Shepherd explained that the only agenda item was the planning application SMD/2019/0486 and that would be the only subject discussed.

EM 1/19. Declarations of Interest.

i. Cllrs Gwinnett and Brindley declared an interest as their properties are adjacent to the development and so they are directly affected by the work, both stated they would not speak or vote during the meeting. Cllr Plimley stated that although not really an interest she wished to mention that a member of her team has a partner who owns the land in question.

EM 2/19. SMD/2019/0486. Mrs Claire Mellor, Walton Homes, land adjacent to 17, Saltersford Lane, Alton.

i. Cllr Shepherd explained that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the outline planning permission with all matters reserved save for access under the appeal. To be discussed was the development of 22 dwellings for the appearance of landscaping, layout and scale. He proposed that he outline his own thoughts and then the council comment which was agreed.
ii. Cllr Shepherd then outlined his views on the layout of the development and access, including the distance of the properties from existing houses. Cllr Forrester commented that he felt there are too many 5/6 bedroom homes and more should be 3/4 bedrooms. Cllr Ballard stated she felt there should be bungalows included in the plans. Cllr Worthington remarked that if there are more than 9 houses in a development then a third should be affordable housing. A possible access near to Woodbine Cottage was discussed, this had no support. The width of the access road for fire appliances was discussed, the council wishing to be reassured all regulations were complied with. It is known that the fire service have contacted the planning department. Parking of vehicles and security was also discussed, with Cllr Shepherd outlining parking should be in well lit areas and not secluded to counter vandalism, fly tipping and dumping of old vehicles.
iii. Cllr Shepherd went on to discuss lighting stating he felt street lights should be timer controlled to reduce light pollution, this was voted on with 6 councillors being in favour and one against. Cllr Shepherd also felt that there should be a restriction on security lights so they are not intrusive or

also cause light pollution. This was also voted on with 3 councillors being in favour and one against, with 3 abstentions.

iv. Solar panels were also discussed and Cllr Wood felt that brickwork should be local and have a handmade appearance. Landscaping ideas were discussed with reference to trees and hedging and the proposed pond within the development, which the council felt they needed more information on.

v. Affordable housing was discussed with the council preferring that smaller properties be built once 25% of the dwellings had been completed. After a discussion on affordable/social housing the council decided that at this location they would prefer housing be made available to local people first or as shared ownership. Affordable/social housing was not supported.

EM 3/19. Cllr Shepherd opened the meeting so the public could speak.

i. A member of the public mentioned that the SMDC planning design document should be considered regarding the parking of vehicles, Cllr Shepherd stated he would include this in the councils comments.

ii. Other issues that had already been discussed were mentioned, including fire service access, all of which were supportive of the councils proposals.

EM 4/19. Conclusion.

i. The council asked Cllr Shepherd to prepare a letter to be given to the clerk and then forwarded to SMDC Planning department outlining the councils proposals and that a copy of the letter be appended to these minutes.

Cllr Shepherd closed the meeting at 8pm.

Signed..... Chairman 11th September 2019

Signed..... Clerk