

## **CHESHAM TOWN COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES** of the meeting of the **DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE**

held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2012

**PRESENT** Councillor Mrs P.R. Cherrill – Chairman (presiding)

Councillor	A. K. Bacon	Councillor	R. C. McCulloch
"	Miss R. K. Bhatti	"	Mrs C. M. Michael
"	N. L. Brown	"	Mrs A.M. Pirouet
"	T. Franks	"	M. W. Shaw
"	P. J. Hudson	"	C. H. Spruytenburg
"	D. J. Lacey	"	F. S. Wilson
"	Mrs C. Littley	"	P. W. Yerrell

**Officer:** W. Richards - Town Clerk

In Attendance: Mr Masud Ahmed, Chiltern Taxi Drivers' Association.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors V. M. Abraham, Ms J. E. Bramwell, M. Fayyaz and Mrs R. Juett.

#### 42. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Mrs Pirouet declared a non-pecuniary interest in planning application CH/12/1358/HB as her husband was involved assisting the charity with electrical works on a voluntary basis.

Councillors Brown and Mrs Pirouet declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 4 as Members of Chiltern District Council's Planning Committee.

Councillor Brown declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 6 as a Member of Buckinghamshire County Council.

Councillors Hudson, Lacey and Spruytenburg declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 6 as Members of Chiltern District Council's Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Sub Committee.

#### 43. **MINUTES**

It was

#### **RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Development Control Committee held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2012 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

44. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The Committee considered all planning applications received from Chiltern District Council since the last meeting of the Committee and made comments and observations thereon as set out on the attached schedule.

45. **DECISION NOTICES**

The Committee noted the Decision Notices received from Chiltern District Council since the last meeting of the Committee as set out on the attached schedule.

46. **CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE CONSULTATION**

Members discussed the current situation regarding taxis in Chesham following the circulation of Chiltern District Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire consultation document and a special meeting of the Town Centre Working Party and local taxi drivers.

Councillor Brown opened the discussion by saying that there was obviously differing views on the number of taxis in Chesham but it was clear that, for the ones that were licensed, there was inadequate taxi rank provision and suggested this Committee should at least be supporting the proposal to extend the rank outside the Nationwide Building Society. He added that there were other suggestions for additional bays in Star Yard, outside Sainsburys and in Station Road but reported that these were more contentious as far as the taxi drivers were concerned.

Councillor Spruytenburg advised the meeting that he had originally been approached by the local taxi drivers due to his position on Chiltern District Council's Licensing Committee and the fact that the drivers believed their relationship with the District Council needed to be improved.

Councillor Lacey expressed his disappointment that he had not been invited to the Town Centre Working Group since he had served on the Licensing Committee for many years. He opined that, since deregulation, there were simply too many taxis in Chesham and reported that, currently, there were 144 licensed taxis and another 104 private hire vehicles in Chiltern. He stated that, while he was keen to see proper regulation, the cost of this would be around of £15,000 and therefore unlikely to happen.

The Committee then briefly discussed options for accommodating the taxis that currently operated. There was widespread support for the proposal to increase the bays outside the Nationwide Building Society in the Broadway but it was agreed that further time was required to consider other options.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Cherrill, then invited Mr Masud Ahmed, Chairman of the Chiltern Taxi Drivers' Association, to address the Committee. Mr Ahmed advised that he had approached Councillor Spruytenburg as he did not feel that Chiltern District Council was entirely sympathetic to the taxi drivers and was looking for the Town Council to perhaps lobby on the drivers' behalf. He gave, as an example, the proposals in the consultation document that licensed taxis should be newer which, he opined, was

unreasonable in the current economic climate.

The Committee agreed it was important that the Council reply to the consultation document after giving it due consideration and further liaison with representatives of the taxi drivers. After noting that the closing date for comments was the end of the month, it was proposed and agreed that an extension to the consultation deadline be requested and, if not approved, the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee, respond after seeking the views of the taxi drivers and users as extensively as possible in the time frame.

It was

**RESOLVED**

That the Clerk be instructed to request an extension to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire consultation period so the Committee can consider the document in greater detail or, alternatively, if no extension is allowable, the Clerk, in liaison with the Chairman, be authorised to respond to the document after further discussions with the taxi drivers and users.

47. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

The items presented on the Information Sheet were received and noted.

48. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

CHAIRMAN

## CHESHAM TOWN COUNCIL PLANNING COMMENTS 24<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2012

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1) **CH/12/1183/AV** **Taxassist Accountants** **117 High Street Chesham** **ST. MARY'S**

**Description:** Internally illuminated fascia sign and two externally illuminated projecting sign

The Committee recommends **REFUSAL** in respect of an internally illuminated sign in the conservation area and requests that it be externally lit.

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2) **CH/12/1246/FA** **Chesham Cricket and Sports Club** **Amy Lane Chesham** **ST. MARY'S**

**Description:** Erection of cricket clubhouse and associated hardstanding

The Committee **WELCOMES** the principle of a new cricket clubhouse as an important community amenity for the town but notes some local residents' concerns.

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3) **CH/12/1277/SA** **5 Manor Road Chesham** **VALE**

**Description:** Application for a Certificate of Lawfulness for a proposed operation relating to the creation of a vehicular access and the laying of hardstanding

The Committee has no comments to make on the Certificate of Lawfulness but raises its concern on the loss of on-street parking and would wish to see the hardstanding being of a permeable material.

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4) **CH/12/1337/FA** **145 Chartridge Lane Chesham** **LOWNDES**

**Description:** Extension and pitched roof to two existing side dormers, photovoltaic panels on front roof projection, rendering and reroofing of existing dwelling, external flue and alterations to fenestration

The Committee raises **NO OBJECTIONS** to this application

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5) **CH/12/1341/FA** **219 Great Hivings Chesham** **RIDGEWAY**

**Description:** Part two storey, part single storey front/side extension and extension to front driveway

The Committee raises **NO OBJECTIONS** to this application subject to the driveway being constructed with a permeable material.

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6) **CH/12/1346/SA** **60 Chessmount Rise Chesham** **WATERSIDE**

**Description:** Application for a certificate of lawfulness for a proposed operation relating to the erection of a single storey rear extension

The Committee has no comments to make on the application

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## CHESHAM TOWN COUNCIL PLANNING COMMENTS 24<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2012

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7)      **CH/12/1358/HB**      Sue Ryder      16 High Street Chesham      ST. MARY'S

**Description:** Replacement non-illuminated fascia sign and projecting sign

The Committee raises **NO OBJECTIONS** to this application

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8)      **CH/12/1363/HB**           6 Missenden Road Chesham      ST. MARY'S

**Description:** New ground floor side window

The Committee raises **NO OBJECTIONS** to this application

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9)      **CH/12/1365/RB**      Endeavour Centre      Cameron Road Chesham      HILLTOP

**Description:** Refurbishment of the existing buildings, demolition of one block and the erection of new purpose built extension and external horticulture skills area to establish a vocational skill centre for key stage 4 (14-19)

The Committee raises **NO OBJECTIONS** to this application and welcomes the concept of a vocational skills centre in town.

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10)      **CH/12/1381/FA**           The New Surgery 2 Lindo Close Chesham      LOWNDES

**Description:** Extension to existing front canopy, alterations to parking layout and erection of 2.5 metre fencing to form childrens' play area

The Committee recommends **REFUSAL** due to the loss of six parking spaces; potential noise affecting nearby residents and health and safety concerns, particularly access for emergency vehicles. While the Committee would usually support an application for more nursery provision, it believes this application is poorly located and, accordingly, raises concern on the change of use request.

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11)      **CH/12/1396/FA**           57 Frances Street Chesham      NEWTOWN

**Description:** Single storey rear extension

The Committee recommends **REFUSAL** on the grounds of bulk and loss of light for the occupants of 59 Francis Street.

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12)      **CH/12/1397/FA**           21 Hillcroft Road Chesham      HILLTOP

**Description:** Single storey rear extension

The Committee raises **NO OBJECTIONS** to this application but raises its concern on its proximity to the boundary line.

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13) CH/12/1424/FA

56 Lye Green Road Chesham

HILLTOP

**Description:** Single storey rear extension

The Committee raises **NO OBJECTIONS** to this application.

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