

# LAUNTON PARISH COUNCIL

Members of the Parish Council and the Parish Clerk had been available before the start of the formal meeting from 7.00pm to meet the public. All plans and correspondence were available for viewing and comments. No members of the public attended the meeting.

## **Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2015 at 7.30pm in Launton Parish Hall**

**Present:** Councillors: Mr Chris Fox, Mr Ed Sanders, Mr Howard Hill, Ms Penny Stephens, Ms Wendy Foster, and Mr Simon Turner, Chairman.

**In attendance:** The Clerk, Mr Niall Campbell

### **1) To receive and accept apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Councillor Thompson

### **2) To receive any Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda**

There were none.

### **3) To facilitate public participation with regard to items on the agenda**

No comments.

### **4) To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> June, previously circulated**

**Proposed:** Councillor Turner  
All in favour, Councillor Stephens  
abstaining

**Seconded:** Councillor Fox  
**Motion carried.**

### **5) 2014/5 year end**

To review the Clerk's progress towards production of the Local Councils' Annual Return for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 for Launton PC and in particular the:

- a) Accounting Statement for Launton PC
- b) Annual Governance Statement for Launton PC year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015
- c) Annual Internal Audit Report to Launton PC

The Clerk reported that he had secured an extension from the external auditors, had posted the public notice of availability of accounting records for inspection, reflecting the new timetable, and had alerted the internal auditor. He expected to meet the new timetable and to have documents for approval at the July meeting.

### **9) Planning**

#### **a) Planning applications to consider**

- (i) Number: 15/01012/OUT  
Applicant: Albion Land Ltd  
Proposal: Development of up to 48 308 sqm of employment floorspace (B1c, B2, B8 and ancillary B1a), servicing and circulation areas, pedestrian and vehicular access and landscaping

Location: Land North East of Skimmingdish Lane, Launton

Closing date for comments: 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015

**Decision:** Object on three grounds:

**1. Traffic.** We accept that the land is designated for development for employment purposes but believe that a warehousing and distribution development will create large amounts of traffic and very few jobs. Existing roads are already busy and this will push even more traffic through the village of Launton.

**2. Excessive height (a).** The proposed maximum height of the buildings will be a danger to aircraft. The calculation of angle of descent of gliders and closeness of maximum height to existing trees we believe does not take account of a safe angle of approach of gliders - see paragraph 14.13 of the Design and Access Statement. And contact with a solid building would be a very different matter from brushing a tree top.

**3. Excessive height (b).** The proposed maximum height would be visually grossly intrusive from the adjoining roads and it would have a disastrous impact on the visual amenity of the conservation area of RAF Bicester. English Heritage commented on the significant value of the views over open countryside which the site currently provides.

**Comment:**

The quantity of documentation provided with this application seems to be an abuse of process. What parish or district councillor would have the time to scrutinise such a volume of material thoroughly? Indeed we wonder if Planning Officers would have time. Something significant could be missed amongst such a mountain of words.

**Proposed:** Councillor Turner  
**All in favour**

**Seconded:** Councillor Fox  
**Motion carried.**

(ii) Number: 15/00392/OUT  
Applicant: Mr Richard Howson  
Proposal: Outline plan for 8 houses plus informal open space  
Location: OS Parcels 3235 & 5021, West of West End, Launton

Extended closing date for comments: 26<sup>th</sup> June 2015

**Decision:** Object on two grounds:

1. **Traffic**, in West End and at Launton crossroads; and
2. The proposed development is **outside the built-up area of the village** and would have breached the Green Buffer Policy ESD 15 of the Emerging Local Plan. Planning applications in the area in the past have been denied on these grounds, and subsequent appeal denied, on these grounds.

**Comment:** The Council cannot take seriously the prediction of additional car journeys supposed to be generated by eight houses, extrapolated from data from a small number of villages in a very different part of the country.

**Proposed:** Councillor Turner  
**Four in favour** with Councillors Hill and Fox  
abstaining

**Seconded:** Councillor Sanders  
**Motion carried.**

(iii) Number: 15/00186/TCA  
Applicant: Mr Brian Pallet  
Proposal: Undertake various tree works for trees T1098, T1194, T1196, T1326, T1401, T1405, T1431, T1433, and T1520 as per the survey of all the trees at RAF Bicester  
Location: RAF Bicester

Closing date for comments: 6<sup>th</sup> July 2015

**Decision:** No objection and no comment

**Proposed:** Councillor Turner  
**All in favour**

**Seconded:** Councillor Stephens  
**Motion carried.**

(iv) Number: 15/00179/TCA  
Applicant: Mr Brian Pallet  
Proposal: Undertake various tree works identified as 6, 12, 18 months in the survey

Location: RAF Bicester

Closing date for comments: 6<sup>th</sup> July 2015

**Decision:** No objection and no comment

**Proposed:** Councillor Turner  
**All in favour**

**Seconded:** Councillor Stephens  
**Motion carried.**

**b) Planning decisions to note**

There were none

**c) To agree the Council's response to the Report into the Independent Examination of the Submission Cherwell Local Plan, previously circulated**

**Decision:**

Clerk to write to Cherwell District Council Planning Policy team to express the Council's extreme disappointment that the Inspector has struck out ESD 15 and to comment on the disappointingly low quality and clarity of the wording of his Modification 51.

**Proposed:** Councillor Stephens  
**All in favour**

**Seconded:** Councillor Hill  
**Motion carried.**

**10) Date of next meeting – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2015 in Launton Chapel.**

Meeting closed at 9.05 pm

**Notes on declarations of interest.**

Any Member arriving after the start of the meeting is asked to declare pecuniary interests, as necessary, as soon as practicable after their arrival, even if the item in question has been considered.

National rules about pecuniary interests are set out in Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011 and in secondary legislation made under the Act, in particular, The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012