

THAME TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Thame Town Council held on 24 June 2014 at 6.30pm in the Upper Chamber, Thame Town Hall

Present: Cllr D Bretherton, A Dite, N Dixon (Deputy Mayor), D Dodds, M Dyer, L Emery, H Fickling, V Humphries, P Lambert, D Laver, J Matelot Green (Town Mayor), M Stiles and M Welply.

Officers

H Stewart, Town Clerk

A Oughton, Committee Services Officer

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Butler (Personal) and Champken-Woods (Holiday).

2 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Dodds declared an interest in Item 7 in that he was related to the owner of the land and left the meeting after item 6.

3 Public Participation

There were no applications to address the Council.

4 Minutes

The minutes of the Council meetings held on 13 May 2014 and 10 June 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 13 May 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

5 Internal Auditor's Report

There were no matters for concern and the report confirmed that the Council operated a good system of internal control.

RESOLVED that:

- i) The Internal Auditor's Report for 2013-2014 be duly received.*

6 External Audit – Annual Statement

Members received the financial statement (un-audited) for the year ended 31 March 2014 and the Annual Return for 2013-2014.

Having reviewed the figures in Section 1 of the Annual Return and agreed the responses to the internal control objectives in Section 4 the form was duly completed.

RESOLVED that:

- i) The financial statements (unaudited) ending 31 March 2014 be approved.*

- ii) The Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2014 be signed and submitted for audit.**

7 P14/S1619/O – Land East of Thame Park Road

Councillors received a report from Mr Collinge, Planning Consultant to the Town Council. Following discussion it was agreed that a recommendation of refusal be sent to the District Council detailing the following reasons for the recommendation:

An objection be raised to the detail contained in Element A of the application in respect of the following:

- The proposed housing mix would fail to provide an appropriate mix of units, especially in respect of the private units and did not demonstrably follow a Thame-specific study, contrary to the requirements of the Thame Neighbourhood Plan.
- The layout, form and design of the proposed scheme failed to create a development that reinforced the locally distinctive layout and design qualities of Thame.
- The affordable housing mix should be ‘peppered’ across the whole site.

In addition, the following required further examination and consideration and gave rise to a holding objection until such matters were resolved:

- The routes to be provided through the controlled publicly accessible open space to the south of Element B.
- Further interpretative material to demonstrate how building form, design, layout and enclosure on Element B would reinforce the distinctive design qualities of Thame.
- Pedestrian and cycleway improvements to Dormer Road/Chinnor Road.
- Biodiversity improvements along the fully accessible open space adjacent to Cuttle Brook.
- The provision of burial space on Site C.
- Information in respect of ground conditions on Element B that ensured strip foundations were suitable and that development was thus acceptable in terms of the relationship with regard to the pipeline that ran through the site.

RESOLVED that:

- i) The planning application P14/S1619/O – Land East of Thame Park Road be refused.**

Cllr Laver entered the meeting during this item.

The meeting concluded at 7.10pm

Signed
Chairman, 22 July 2014