

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE OF
BROCKENHURST PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 24th SEPTEMBER 2019 AT 7.00 PM
AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present: John Korbey Chairman
 Russell Horne Pauline Mueller
 John Wingham

 Mina Beckett Administration Assistant

Pete Wales, Michael Harris, Harry Oram and 9 members of the public.

Public Presentments:

19/00623 New Forest Activity Centre, Rhinefield Road:

The Applicant outlined the complex history of the site, its ecology (it is previously developed brownfield land including foundations from previous buildings and asbestos), previous Planning applications for housing and other activities on the site, and the design and review process which had led to the current proposal, the aim of the scheme being to improve both the ecology and aesthetics of the setting.

Mr Masefield spoke in support of the application on behalf both of himself and residents of the other neighbouring properties. It is their belief that the proposal will do much to enhance the appearance of the area whilst removing the existing derelict buildings and bringing an end to the uncertainty and risk of undesirable development on the site. Discussions are ongoing with the Applicant to determine the best way to preserve emergency access to Black Knoll Cottage which both parties are confident will soon be resolved but Mr Masefield asked that this be noted as a condition of Planning Permission.

Michael Harris expressed support for application which he believes offer a potential resolution of a number of issues relating to the use of the site as an activity centre.

19/00670 West Beams Farm, Sway Road:

The Architect and Applicant outlined the purpose of the Planning Application to segregate the tree care and forestry activities on the site from the livery and farming functions. The tree care business takes up only a small proportion of the site from which it has operated since 2007 and provides employment for seven staff as well as being critical to supporting the ongoing viability of the farm.

In response to concerns raised by a neighbouring resident the Applicant confirmed that burning of waste wood is not a regular occurrence taking place approximately once per fortnight. He also clarified that working hours are weekdays only until 5.30pm and equipment is not in use outside of these times. There is gated access to the track from Sway Road which serves not only West Beams Farm but also the livery stables and adjacent fields. Options for replacing the gate with a cattle grid and/or electric gates are currently being explored.

Michael Harris declared an interest as a customer of West Beams Tree Care and, as NFDC Cabinet Member with responsibility for Economic Development, stated his support for this application which promotes local business.

19/67 Apologies for Absence: Kevin Whittle, Richard Wolstenholme

19/68 Declarations of Interest: None

19/69 Minutes of last meeting:

The Minutes of the meeting held on 27th August 2019 were signed as a correct record.

19/70 Matters Arising: None

19/71 Planning Applications:

Appl. No: 00623

Proposal: New Dwelling; 2 No. Outbuildings; Creation of Wildlife Pond; Jetty; Creation of Ha-Ha; Creation of Courtyard; Associated Landscaping; Demolition of Existing Equestrian Centre and Holding Shed; Infill of Existing Manège; Removal of Existing Bund

Property: New Forest Activity Centre, Rhinefield Road

Comments: 3. We support this application provided that emergency access to neighbouring properties is preserved.

Appl. No: 00670

Proposal: Change of Use of Land to Commercial Tree Care and Forestry Business Use

Property: West Beams Farm, Sway Road

Comments: 1. We support this application provided that operations are restricted to normal working hours to preserve local amenity. We would be happy to accept the Planning Officer's decision.

19/72 Correspondence:

(a) NALC Policy Consultation on 5G Mobile Coverage:

The Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) is leading a joint consultation with the Department for Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) on extending 5G mobile provision in rural areas. NALC will be responding on the questions below. **Action: Admin. Assistant to submit response to NALC by 11th October deadline date.**

Q1. If the in principle proposals were taken forward, what impact would they have on meeting the Government's ambitions in relation to mobile coverage including addressing 'total not-spots' and 'partial not-spots'?

A. *It is not possible to answer this question, other than to say that the Parish Council is supportive of the Government's aim to provide greater connectivity across the country and particularly in underserved rural areas, but this should not be at the expense of the local environment.*

Q2. Do you agree with the principle of amending permitted development rights to allow an increase in the width of existing ground-based masts by more than one third, to support 5G deployment and encourage greater utilisation of existing sites?

Q3. Do you agree in principle with amending permitted development rights to increase the height of new masts, subject to prior approval?

A. We do not agree with increasing either the width or height of new masts under permitted development. It is our view that some control is needed over this given the context of the sensitive environment of the New Forest National Park and to this end we suggest maintaining the requirement to apply for full Planning Permission. We also believe that by not relaxing controls this will encourage mobile networks to find more innovative solutions rather than simply erecting larger, taller masts.

(b) NFDC Housing Project Manager – Letter of Introduction:

The Committee noted the letter of introduction and asked for the Officer's contact details to be shared with all Parish Councillors. **Action: Admin. Assistant to ask Parish Clerk to circulate.**

19/73 Consideration of Change of Day for Planning Committee Meetings

It was agreed that Planning Committee meetings would move to the fourth Monday of each month with effect from January 2019. **Action: Admin. Assistant to advise Parish Clerk.**

19/74 Consideration of Development of a Neighbourhood Plan

It was agreed that there is a need for clarity on the likely benefits and resource overheads of producing a Neighbourhood Plan before making a definitive decision. **Action: Harry Oram to raise with Steve Avery for discussion at forthcoming SW Quadrant meeting.**

19/75 Any Other Items

Councillors expressed their disappointment that NFNPA Development Control did not give prior notice that their website would be unavailable on the day of the previous Planning Committee meeting. It was suggested that this issue could be raised at the forthcoming SW Quadrant meeting.

Councillors noted that a recent episode of the Netflix series "The Crown" was recently filmed at Rhinefield House and is due to be screened in November. Michael Harris advised that there has been a significant amount of filming in the New Forest in recent years which he hoped would continue. This may in time have an impact on tourism which will need to be balanced with the impact of increased traffic (including coaches) the village.

19/74 Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 22nd October 2019 at 7.00 pm.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.