
STANDARDS COMMITTEE16 MARCH 2015

Present:- Councillor N R Stock (Chairman), Councillor R A Heaney (Vice-Chairman), Councillor J Hawkins, Councillor I Johnson, Councillor F H Nicholls, Councillor J F White

In Attendance:- Monitoring Officer (Lisa Hastings) and Senior Democratic Services Officer (Ian Ford)

Also in Attendance:- Reverend Doctor William Lock (Independent Remuneration Panel Member)

(10.04 a.m. - 11.16 a.m.)

27.. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

There were no apologies received but it was noted that Councillor P Honeywood was not in attendance.

28. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON 26 JANUARY AND 2 FEBRUARY 2015

The minutes of the meetings of the Standards Committee, held on 26 January and 2 February 2015, were approved as correct records and signed by the Chairman.

29. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest recorded at this time.

30. REVIEW OF INVESTIGATION AND HEARING PROCEDURES

There was submitted a report (A.1) by the Monitoring Officer which:

- (1) Reviewed the Investigation and Hearing Procedures and associated matters following the two recent Hearings conducted by the Committee;
- (2) Sought Members' input and consideration whether any amendments to those Procedures were required; and
- (3) Sought any further general feedback from the Committee.

The current Investigation Procedure (Annex E to the Complaints Procedure) and the current Hearings Procedure were before the Committee as, respectively, Appendices A and B to item A.1 of the Report of the Monitoring Officer.

The Committee was aware that, in January and February 2015, it had been convened to conduct two hearings; consider the outcome of investigations into two separate allegations involving District Councillors and decide whether the Members' Code of Conduct had been breached. During those hearings, feedback had been received from the Committee that the format of the second Investigator's report was preferable for Members and that this style should be adopted for future use. Members had felt generally that the procedures and the process had worked very well.

The Monitoring Officer reported that the Committee, District Councillors, one of the Complainants, the Independent Person and herself had all sought points of clarification during the process and it was considered appropriate to review those for inclusion within

the Council's procedures. Those points were summarised as set out below and it was the Monitoring Officer's recommendation that those amendments be incorporated into the Investigation Procedure (Annex E of the Complaints Procedure):

- The investigation procedure and instructions to the external investigator did not currently impose a timeline and whilst there was no prejudice to the parties from the delay in concluding one of the investigations, the instructions should impose a timeline (to be determined for each case) in which to complete the investigation and to ensure that the Councillor, the Complainant and the Monitoring Officer were regularly updated as to progress.
- It was not explicit that during the evidence gathering stage, if any new evidence was provided to the investigator to which the Councillor had not been able to respond to, or comment on, this should be provided to the Councillor to do so. This would include any verbal/oral information.
- The Councillor who was the subject of the complaint should be interviewed last, during evidence gathering, to ensure that all the allegations and information obtained were formally put to them to respond to, this would include specifically asking the Councillor concerned to respond to the alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct.
- The investigation report should clearly identify who had been interviewed and who had supplied information, whether through documentation or verbally.
- At the report stage, a draft report should be sent to the Monitoring Officer at the same time as the complainant and subject Member in order to ensure that the Monitoring Officer was satisfied that all aspects of the complaint had been addressed.
- The hearing procedures refer to the matter being conducted in public however, the Monitoring Officer should highlight at the outset of the investigation to both the complainant and the subject Member, that during the investigation the content/evidence was kept confidential however, once a hearing was convened, the report and its content would be published and be made available for both the public and press.

The Monitoring Officer also advised the Committee that, at a recent meeting she had held with the Independent Persons, the Independent Persons had suggested that, at a Hearing, the Chairman should highlight particular points that had arisen during the Committee's retirement once the Hearing resumed in public session. The Committee discussed this and agreed that, on balance, this was appropriate but stated that the Chairman should be guided by the Monitoring Officer in deciding the level of detail to be divulged.

The Committee discussed whether there were any other points which they wished to highlight, including whether the hearing procedure had been easy to follow. That discussion resulted in the following suggested changes to the Complaints Procedure:

- (1) That the Investigating Officer should make every effort to gather evidence from the Complainant and the Respondent by way of a face-to-face interview;
- (2) That there should be a three month timeline imposed for Investigations with appropriate deadlines imposed for each stage of the Investigation;
- (3) That, in response to concerns raised that the Media were prone to 'pre-judging' the outcome of the Hearing through headlines based on the contents of the Investigator's Report, those contents be treated as Exempt Information until the Hearing itself was commenced; and
- (4) That it be reinforced to Members that they should co-operate fully with the Investigation

process as part of their compliance with the Members' Code of Conduct.

Members placed on record their appreciation at the way in which the first two Conduct Hearings had been chaired by Councillors White and Stock respectively.

It was accordingly RESOLVED that though the Complaints system had worked very well the Committee agreed that it would be appropriate to put forward to Council "fine tweaks" to the system and it was therefore:

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL, that

(a) the Monitoring Officer's suggested changes to the Complaints Procedure, as detailed above, be approved and implemented together with those changes highlighted through Members' debate at the meeting and recorded above within this Minute 30; and

(b) the Monitoring Officer be authorised to amend the Complaints Procedure accordingly.

31. DISCUSSION TOPICS AND/OR UPDATES FROM THE MONITORING OFFICER

(1) Work of the Standards Committee since November 2013

The Committee discussed its work since November 2013, as set out below, and considered whether there were any matters that needed to be highlighted with regard to Members' Induction/Training following the District Council Elections on 7 May 2015:

"Work of the Standards Committee since November 2013

November 2013:

- Consulted and commented on proposed new Standards Framework with a recommendation to Council, new Standards Committee formed once approved by Council.

March 2014:

- Outcome of complaint against Councillor Danny Mayzes
- Approved and adopted Hearing Procedures
- Independent Person Recruitment – recommendation to Council

June 2014:

- Six month review of conduct arrangements – recommendation to Council
- Agreeing a work programme
- Review of mandatory training requirements for Members

September 2014

- Town and Parish Councils Standards Sub-Committee conducted a hearing regarding Alresford Parish Councillor
- Agreed recording and reporting of mandatory training requirements
- Member and Officer Relations Protocol – recommendation to Council
- Feedback from Annual Standards Conference and TDC now in line with national good practice.

December 2014:

- Pre-election publicity guidance
- Members planning code/protocol – recommendation to Council

- Oral report from Independent Person workshop – John Wolton
- Consideration of Guidance document – Ethics in Practice: Promoting Ethical Conduct in Public Life

January 2015:

- Hearing to determine outcome of external investigation – failure to comply with the Members' Code of Conduct – Councillor Stephen Mayzes plus report back to Council

February 2015:

- Hearing to determine outcome of external investigation – failure to comply with the Members' Code of Conduct – Councillor Joy Broderick plus report back to Council

March 2015:

- Review of investigation and hearing procedures
- Report to Council

Regular quarterly updates from the Monitoring Officer on complaints received and progress”

RESOLVED that the contents of the Committee's Work Programme since November 2013 be noted.

(2) Questions to Council

The Committee discussed Questions on Notice from Members at meetings of the Council.

The Chairman expressed his concerns that, based on recent events, Members, in putting Questions on Notice to Council or through their supplementary questions were running a serious risk of being defamatory, discriminatory and/or offensive. Councillor Johnson also raised the issue of the repetitious nature of some Questions at Council.

The Monitoring Officer stated that it was very difficult for her to intervene if a Question was submitted shortly before the usual Noon deadline on a Friday when the Council Agenda had to be published the following Monday. The Monitoring Officer further stated that she had been able to work with Members to make appropriate changes to their Questions when they had been submitted earlier. The Monitoring Officer also expressed that a small number of Councillors had raised concerns about her right to intervene, even though a question could potentially result in a Member falling foul of the Code of Conduct. It was important to be proactive to prevent a breach rather than react to an actual one. The Monitoring Officer would always seek to ensure a question could be asked but with the appropriate content.

Councillor Hawkins suggested that the Monitoring Officer should have the right to intervene if the question was likely to lead to a breach of the Members' Code of Conduct. He also suggested that the deadline for the submission of Questions be brought forward to Noon on the Thursday before the Council Agenda was published.

Having discussed the matter it was unanimously:

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL that:

(a) Council Procedure Rule 10.5 (Scope of Questions) be amended to include a provision whereby the Monitoring Officer will reject a Question if in her judgement it is likely to lead to a breach of the Members' Code of Conduct; and

(b) Council Procedure Rule 10.3 (Notice of Questions) paragraph (a) be amended to state that the Question should be submitted no later than midday eight working days before the day of the meeting.

(3) Quarterly Update on Complaints etc.

The Monitoring Officer circulated to the Committee a written quarterly update, the contents of which, following discussion, was noted.

32. ORAL UPDATE OF STANDARDS COMPLAINTS RECEIVED IN THE LAST SIX MONTHS AND THE OUTCOME OF THOSE COMPLAINTS

The Principal Solicitor and Deputy Monitoring Officer advised Members of the number of complaints received over the last six months and the outcomes. Specifically, that there had been 8 complaints (7 arising from one complaint letter), about 4 District Councillors and 2 Parish Councillors; with 4 of the complaints referred for "other action" by way of training on the Code of Conduct, and 4 decisions that "no action" in the matter of the complaints was required.

He advised that there were currently no complaints outstanding.

33. ORAL UPDATE TO REPORT TO MEMBERS ON THE STANDARDS SEMINAR FOR TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS HELD ON 9 DECEMBER 2010 IN ORDER TO FACILITATE DISCUSSION ON THE WORK OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Chairman updated the Committee on the Standards Seminar held on 9 December 2010 for Town and Parish Councils and advised that the key points arising from that session were as follows:-

1. That there was general consensus on the principle of mediation.
2. There was a recognition that there needs to be some overseeing body to refer cases to as required.
3. These matters need to be pursued by further discussion.

It was noted that the Monitoring Officer had agreed to make any training literature available to Town and Parish clerks on request, following any Code of Conduct training which takes place after the May 2011 elections.

34. TO REVIEW THE NEW ITEMS RELEVANT TO THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE CONTAINED IN FORWARD PLAN NO. 109 IN ACCORDANCE WITH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULE 12.

The Committee noted the new item relevant to the terms of reference of the Committee contained in Forward Plan No. 109.

35. FORWARD PLAN

The Committee reviewed, and noted, the new items relevant to the terms of reference of the Committee, contained in the Forward Plan 174, in accordance with Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 13.

36. ANY NEW ITEMS TO BE ADDED TO THE WORK PROGRAMME

There were none other than discussed in the item Review of the Year 2015/16 and Work Programme for the year 2016/17.

37. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee noted the items on the forward work programme and discussed the items which were due to be considered at the meeting of the Committee, scheduled for 28 January 2013. It was reported that the full Tourism and Regeneration Strategy was unlikely to be available for the meeting and the Chairman expressed his concern at the delay in bringing this matter before the Committee.

38. ANY OTHER ITEMS THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

There were none.

The meeting was declared closed at 10.03 p.m.

39. (A) PLANNING APPLICATION 11/00042/FUL AND (B) LISTED BUILDING CONSENT 11/00043/LBC

The Committee had before it the published Officer report containing an appraisal of the key planning issues, relevant planning policies, planning history, any response from consultees, written representations received and a recommendation of approval with a summary of recommended conditions. The recently published update sheet was also considered by the Committee and explained by officers at the meeting.

Mr Anthony Edwards, local resident, spoke against the application.

Councillor J Mathews, on behalf of Wix Parish Council, spoke against the application,

Councillor Patten, as Ward Member, spoke against the application.

Mr Russell Forde, the applicant's agent, spoke in support of the application.

It was moved by Councillor McLeod, seconded by Councillor Simons and:-

RESOLVED – (a) That application 11/00042/FUL be approved subject to an informative being attached to the permission regarding retention of the Cockpit and subject to conditions providing:-

Conditions

- Standard three year time limit
- List of approved plans
- Parking to be provided prior to occupation
- Details of boundary treatments
- Landscaping
- New and replacement window and door details
- Method of reinstatement of rear wall following demolition of rear extension
- Samples of construction materials

Reason for approval

The change of use to a single dwelling, including internal and external alterations, is considered to be in accordance with the development plan policies listed. The public house has been adequately marketed and there is another public house within 800 metres of the site. The proposed alterations blend with the scale, form and design of the listed building, and respect its setting. Furthermore, owing to siting, scale and fenestration layouts, the proposed alterations would not reduce the amenities enjoyed by occupants of neighbouring properties, would not result in the loss of any significant trees and are acceptable in terms of highway safety and convenience.

RESOLVED – (b) That application 11/00043/LBC be approved subject to conditions providing:-

Conditions

- Standard three year time limit
- List of approved plans
- Details of boundary treatments
- Landscaping
- New and replacement window and door details
- Method of reinstatement of rear wall following demolition of rear extension
- Samples of construction materials

Reason for approval

The change of use to a single dwelling, including internal and external alterations, is considered to be in accordance with the development plan policies listed. The proposed alterations blend with and compliment the scale, form and design of the listed building, and respect its setting.

40. PLANNING APPLICATION 11/00984/FUL

The Committee had before it the published officer report containing an appraisal of the key planning issues, relevant planning policies, planning history, any response from consultees, written representations received and a recommendation of refusal with reasons.

Councillors Candy and G V Guglielmi declared a personal interest in the application as Ward Members and remained in the meeting.

Councillor G V Guglielmi, as Ward Member, spoke in support of the application.

The applicant, Mr Neil Ellis, spoke in support of the application.

It was moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Turner and:-

RESOLVED – That application 11/00984/FUL be approved contrary to the officers' recommendation subject to such conditions as the Temporary Head of Planning considers appropriate in consultation with the Chair or Vice-Chairman and the Planning Portfolio Holder.

Conditions: (decided subsequent to the meeting in accordance with the above resolution)

1. The development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of three years from the date of this permission.

Reason - To comply with the requirements of Section 91 of the Town and Country Planning

Act 1990, as amended by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

2. The development hereby permitted shall not be carried out except in complete accordance with the details shown on the submitted drawings numbered NE/002/02 Revised, NE/002/04 Revised and NE/003/05 Revised.

Reason - For the avoidance of doubt and in the interests of proper planning.

3. Unless otherwise agreed by the Local Planning Authority, development other than that required to be carried out as part of an approved scheme of remediation must not commence until conditions (1) to (4) have been complied with. If unexpected contamination is found after development has begun, development must be halted on that part of the site affected by the unexpected contamination to the extent specified by the Local Planning Authority in writing until condition 4 has been complied with in relation to that contamination.

(1) Site Characterisation

An investigation and risk assessment, in addition to any assessment provided with the planning application, must be completed in accordance with a scheme to assess the nature and extent of any contamination on the site, whether or not it originates on the site. The contents of the scheme are subject to the approval in writing of the Local Planning Authority. The investigation and risk assessment must be undertaken by competent persons and a written report of the findings must be produced. The written report is subject to the approval in writing of the Local Planning Authority. The report of the findings must include:

(i) a survey of the extent, scale and nature of contamination;

(ii) an assessment of the potential risks to:

- human health,
- property (existing or proposed) including buildings, crops, livestock, pets, woodland and service lines and pipes,
- adjoining land,
- groundwaters and surface waters,
- ecological systems,
- archaeological sites and ancient monuments;

(iii) an appraisal of remedial options, and proposal of the preferred option(s).

This must be conducted in accordance with DEFRA and the Environment Agency's 'Model Procedures for the Management of Land Contamination, CLR 11'.

(2) Submission of Remediation Scheme

A detailed remediation scheme to bring the site to a condition suitable for the intended use by removing unacceptable risks to human health, buildings and other property and the natural and historical environment must be prepared, and is subject to the approval in writing of the Local Planning Authority. The scheme must include all works to be undertaken, proposed remediation objectives and remediation criteria, timetable of works and site management procedures. The scheme must ensure that the site will not qualify as contaminated land under Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 in relation to the intended use of the land after remediation.

(3) Implementation of Approved Remediation Scheme

The approved remediation scheme must be carried out in accordance with its terms prior to the commencement of development other than that required to carry out remediation, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The Local Planning Authority must be given two weeks written notification of commencement of the remediation scheme works.

Following completion of measures identified in the approved remediation scheme, a verification report (referred to in PPS23 as a validation report) that demonstrates the effectiveness of the remediation carried out must be produced, and is subject to the approval in writing of the Local Planning Authority.

(4) Reporting of Unexpected Contamination

In the event that contamination is found at any time when carrying out the approved development that was not previously identified it must be reported in writing immediately to the Local Planning Authority. An investigation and risk assessment must be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of condition (1), and where remediation is necessary a remediation scheme must be prepared in accordance with the requirements of condition (2), which is subject to the approval in writing of the Local Planning Authority.

Following completion of measures identified in the approved remediation scheme a verification report must be prepared, which is subject to the approval in writing of the Local Planning Authority in accordance with condition (3).

(5) Long Term Monitoring and Maintenance

A monitoring and maintenance scheme to include monitoring the long-term effectiveness of the proposed remediation over a period of 2 years, and the provision of reports on the same must be prepared, both of which are subject to the approval in writing of the Local Planning Authority.

Following completion of the measures identified in that scheme and when the remediation objectives have been achieved, reports that demonstrate the effectiveness of the monitoring and maintenance carried out must be produced, and submitted to the Local Planning Authority.

This must be conducted in accordance with DEFRA and the Environment Agency's 'Model Procedures for the Management of Land Contamination, CLR 11'.

Reason - To ensure that risks from land contamination to the future users of the land and neighbouring land are minimised, together with those to controlled waters, property and ecological systems, and to ensure that the development can be carried out safely without unacceptable risks to workers, neighbours and other offsite receptors in accordance with policy COM10 of the adopted Tendring District Local Plan (2007).

4. Notwithstanding the submitted details, no development shall be commenced until precise details of the manufacturer and types and colours of the external facing and roofing materials to be used in construction of the dwellings and garages have been submitted to and agreed, in writing, by the Local Planning Authority. Such materials as may be agreed shall be those used in the development.

Reason - The site is publicly visible and therefore quality materials are an essential requirement. Insufficient information has been submitted within the application for full consideration of these details.

5. No development shall take place until there has been submitted to and approved, in writing, by the Local Planning Authority a scheme of hard and soft landscaping works for

the site, which shall include any proposed changes in ground levels and also accurately identify spread, girth and species of all existing trees, shrubs and hedgerows on the site and indicate any to be retained, together with measures for their protection which shall comply with the recommendations set out in the British Standards Institute publication "BS 5837: 2005 - Trees in Relation to Construction."

Reason - To ensure that the development compensates visually for the loss of open area and soft landscaping and to ensure that the site has a satisfactory appearance in the interest of visual amenity, in accordance with Policies QL9 and QL11 of the Tendring District Local Plan.

6. All changes in ground levels, hard landscaping, planting, seeding or turfing shown on the approved landscaping details shall be carried out during the first planting and seeding season (October - March inclusive) following the commencement of the development or in such other phased arrangement as may be agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Any trees or shrubs which, within a period of 5 years of being planted die, are removed or seriously damaged or seriously diseased shall be replaced in the next planting season with others of similar size and species, unless the Local Planning Authority agrees in writing to a variation of the previously approved details.

Reason - To ensure that the development compensates visually for the loss of open area and soft landscaping and to ensure that the site has a satisfactory appearance in the interest of visual amenity, in accordance with Policies QL9 and QL11 of the Tendring District Local Plan.

7. No development shall take place until precise details of the provision, siting, design and materials of screen walls and fences have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The approved screen walls and fences shall be erected prior to the hereby approved dwelling being occupied and thereafter be retained in the approved form.

Reason - The site is publicly visible and therefore quality materials are an essential requirement. Insufficient information has been submitted within the application for full consideration of these details.

8. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 3, Schedule 2, Part 1 Classes A and B of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (or any Order revoking and re-enacting that Order with or without modification), no enlargement, improvement or other alteration to the dwelling shall be erected or carried out except in accordance with drawings showing the siting and design of such enlargement, improvement or other alteration which shall previously have been submitted to and approved, in writing, by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason - In the interests of the amenities of the occupants of neighbouring properties.

9. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 3, Schedule 2, Part 1 Class E of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (or any Order revoking and re-enacting that Order with or without modification), no provision of buildings, enclosures, swimming or other pool shall be erected except in accordance with drawings showing the design and siting of such building(s) which shall previously have been submitted to and approved, in writing, by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason - In the interests of the amenities of the occupants of neighbouring properties.

10. Prior to the occupation of the proposed development, the access to the existing and proposed dwelling shall be provided in strict accordance with the details shown in drawing number NE/002/02/REVISED and shall be provided with an appropriate dropped kerb

vehicular crossing of the highway verge.

Reason: To ensure that all vehicles using the private drive access do so in a controlled manner and to ensure that opposing vehicles may pass clear of the limits of the highway, in the interests of highway safety and Policy DM 1 of the Highway Authority's Development Management Policies February 2011.

11. Prior to the proposed access being brought into use, vehicular visibility splays of site maximum by 2.4m by site maximum, as measured along, from and along the nearside edge of the carriageway, shall be provided on both sides of the centre line of the access and shall be maintained in perpetuity free from obstruction clear to ground.

Reason: To ensure adequate intervisibility between drivers of vehicles using the proposed access and those in the adjoining highway, in the interests of highway safety Policy DM 1 of the Highway Authority's Development Management Policies February 2011.

12. The development shall not be occupied until such time as the car parking area, indicated on the approved plans has been hard surfaced. The car parking area shall be retained in this form at all times and shall not be used for any purpose other than the parking of vehicles related to the use of the development.

Reason: To ensure that on-street parking of vehicles in the adjoining streets does not occur, in the interests of highway safety and Policy DM 1 and 8 of the Highway Authority's Development Management Policies February 2011.

13. No unbound materials shall be used in the surface treatment of the proposed vehicular access within 6m. of the highway boundary.

Reason: To ensure that loose materials are not brought out onto the highway, in the interests of highway safety and Policy DM 1 of the Highway Authority's Development Management Policies February 2011.

14. Prior to commencement of the proposed development, a vehicular turning facility, of a design which shall be approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority, shall be provided within the site and shall be maintained free from obstruction at all times for that sole purpose.

Reason: To ensure that vehicles using the site access may enter and leave the highway in a forward gear, in the interests of highway safety and Policy DM 1 of the Highway Authority's Development Management Policies February 2011.

15. All new driveways and parking areas shall be made of porous materials, or provision shall be made to direct run-off water from the hard surface to a permeable or porous area or surface within the curtilage of the dwelling.

Reason - In the interests of sustainable development and to ensure that run-off water is avoided to minimise the risk of surface water flooding.

Reason for approval:

This site lies outside of any defined settlement limits in the Tendring District Local Plan (2007) where planning permission for new residential development would not normally be permitted being contrary to the guidance in PPS1 (Delivering sustainable Development), PPS3 (Housing), PPS4 (Planning for sustainable economic growth), PPS7 (Sustainable Development in Rural Areas) and Local Plan policies that seek to secure sustainable development and protect the amenities and character of the countryside. Policy QL9 requires that all new development relates satisfactorily to its surroundings in terms of siting,

appearance in the locality and relationship with neighbouring properties.

However, the site lies within a line of loosely spaced residential development along the Clacton Road that forms the hamlet of Horsley Cross Street. The proposed development, would, therefore, not be isolated from existing residential development. The application site comprises the car park of the adjacent public house that has planning permission for conversion to residential use. The proposals would, therefore, bring about material improvements to the street scene and to the environment within the local area. Having regard to this pattern of existing development and the improvements the development would bring about the local planning authority considers that, on balance and subject to compliance with the conditions attached to this permission the development is acceptable. Furthermore, the proposal would not reduce the amenities enjoyed by occupants of neighbouring properties and would not have a materially adverse impact upon the character of the surrounding area or be detrimental to highway safety.

41. PLANNING APPLICATION 11/00628/FUL

The Committee had before it the published Officer report containing an appraisal of the key planning issues, relevant planning policies, planning history, any response from consultees, written representations received and a recommendation of approval with a summary of recommended conditions.

Councillor Nicholls declared a personal interest in the application as one of the Ward Members and remained in the meeting.

It was moved by Councillor Candy, seconded by Councillor Simons and:-

RESOLVED – That application 11/00628/FUL be approved subject to conditions regarding:-

- Time Limit
- Materials
- Soft Landscaping Scheme Implementation
- Hard Landscaping Submission
- Porous Driveway
- Access Layout
- Pedestrian Visibility Splays
- Unbound Materials
- Siting of Gates
- Front Hedgerow Siting
- Contaminated Land Survey
- Trees Protection Measures
- Protected Species Mitigation Measures
- Approved Plans

Reason for Approval

In approving this application the local planning authority has taken account of the development plan policies and/or proposals listed above. The quality of the design, the enhancement to the setting to the adjacent listed building and the significantly reduced intensive use of the site outweighs the fact the site is located outside of the defined development boundary. Residential development on this plot would not seriously undermine the council's housing settlement policies and would not set a harmful precedent for the surrounding area. Furthermore, neighbouring amenity is not adversely affected and the impact on highway safety is acceptable.

42. PLANNING APPLICATION 11/00823/FUL

The Committee had before it the published officer report containing an appraisal of the key planning issues, relevant planning policies, planning history, any response from consultees, written representations received and a recommendation of refusal with reasons.

Councillors Candy and G V Guglielmi declared a personal interest in the application as Ward Members and remained in the meeting.

Mr Tim Snow, the applicant's agent, spoke in support of the application.

It was moved by Councillor McLeod, seconded by Councillor Bragg and:-

RESOLVED – That application 11/00823/FUL be approved contrary to the officers' recommendation subject to such conditions as the Temporary Head of Planning considers appropriate in consultation with the Chair or Vice-Chairman and the Planning Portfolio Holder.

Conditions: (decided subsequent to the meeting in accordance with the above resolution)

1. The development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of three years from the date of this permission.

Reason - To comply with the requirements of Section 91 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as amended by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

2. The development hereby permitted shall not be carried out except in complete accordance with the details shown on drawing no. 652/04A and 652/03A.

Reason - For the avoidance of doubt and in the interests of proper planning.

3. The site shall only be open for deliveries or for the movement of goods into and out of storage between the hours of 8:00am and 17:30pm Monday to Saturday and no working on Sundays or Public Holidays. The hereby permitted sales use shall only operate between the hours of 09:00am and 17:30pm Monday to Saturday and 11:00am to 16:00pm on Sundays and Public Holidays.

Reason - In the interests of neighbouring residential amenity.

4. This permission shall only authorise the use of the premises in the manner described in the application and no sub-division of the premises to form additional units shall be carried out without the express consent of the Local Planning Authority first having been obtained on an application made in that behalf.

Reason - To ensure the development is satisfactory in relation to the premises and its surroundings and neighbouring residential amenity.

5. No floodlighting or external illumination shall be installed unless details of the illumination scheme have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Development shall only be carried out in accordance with the approved details.

Reason - In the interests of amenity to reduce the impact of night-time illumination on the character of the area and upon residents living close to the site.

6. No development shall be commenced until precise details of the manufacturer and types and colours of the external facing and roofing materials to be used in construction have been submitted to and agreed, in writing, by the Local Planning Authority. Such materials as may be agreed shall be those used in the development.

Reason - The application site is publicly visible and therefore suitable materials are required in order to maintain the character and appearance of the countryside location of the site.

7. Notwithstanding the submitted details, no development shall take place until there has been submitted to and approved, in writing, by the Local Planning Authority a scheme of hard and soft landscaping works for the site, which shall include any proposed changes in ground levels and also accurately identify spread, girth and species of all existing trees, shrubs and hedgerows on the site and indicate any to be retained, together with measures for their protection which shall comply with the recommendations set out in the British Standards Institute publication "BS 5837: 2005 - Trees in Relation to Construction."

Reason - The site lies in the countryside and it is considered an essential part of the development to retain and reinforce landscaping of the site to safeguard the countryside character.

8. All changes in hard landscaping, planting, seeding or turfing shown on the approved landscaping details shall be carried out during the first planting and seeding season (October - March inclusive) following the commencement of the development or in such other phased arrangement as may be agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Any trees or shrubs which, within a period of 5 years of being planted die, are removed or seriously damaged or seriously diseased shall be replaced in the next planting season with others of similar size and species, unless the Local Planning Authority agrees in writing to a variation of the previously approved details.

Reason - To ensure that the approved landscaping scheme is provided and maintained for an appropriate period in the interests of the visual amenity and character and appearance of the countryside.

9. Prior to the commencement of the proposed development, details of an on site parking facility for construction workers and vehicles, a loading and unloading area for demolition and construction materials and a turning facility suitable for the largest vehicle attracted to or generated by the sites activities during the demolition and construction phases being provided entirely clear of the limits of the highway, shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason - To ensure that on-street parking of these vehicles in the adjoining streets does not occur, in the interests of highway safety.

10. Prior to the commencement of the proposed development, details of a wheel and underbody cleaning facility within the site and adjacent to the egress onto the highway shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority and that facility shall be maintained during the periods of demolition / construction.

Reason - To ensure that loose materials and spoil are not brought out onto the highway, in the interests of highway safety.

11. Prior to commencement of the proposed development, loading, off-loading and manoeuvring facilities for service and delivery vehicles, the details of which shall be approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority, shall be provided within the site and shall be maintained free from obstruction at all times for that sole purpose.

Reason - To ensure that the adjoining highway is not obstructed by servicing activity, in the interests of highway safety.

12. Prior to commencement of the proposed development, car parking facilities for employees and visitors, in accordance with a scheme to be approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority, shall be provided and maintained for that sole purpose.

Reason - To ensure that on-street parking of vehicles in the adjoining streets does not occur, in the interests of highway safety.

13. Unless otherwise agreed by the Local Planning Authority, development other than that required to be carried out as part of an approved scheme of remediation must not commence until conditions (1) to (4) have been complied with. If unexpected contamination is found after development has begun, development must be halted on that part of the site affected by the unexpected contamination to the extent specified by the Local Planning Authority in writing until condition (4) has been complied with in relation to that contamination.

(1) Site Characterisation

An investigation and risk assessment, in addition to any assessment provided with the planning application, must be completed in accordance with a scheme to assess the nature and extent of any contamination on the site, whether or not it originates on the site. The contents of the scheme are subject to the approval in writing of the Local Planning Authority. The investigation and risk assessment must be undertaken by competent persons and a written report of the findings must be produced. The written report is subject to the approval in writing of the Local Planning Authority. The report of the findings must include:

- (i) a survey of the extent, scale and nature of contamination;
- (ii) an assessment of the potential risks to:
 - human health,
 - property (existing or proposed) including buildings, crops, livestock, pets, woodland and service lines and pipes,
 - adjoining land,
 - groundwaters and surface waters,
 - ecological systems,
 - archaeological sites and ancient monuments;
- (iii) an appraisal of remedial options, and proposal of the preferred option(s).

This must be conducted in accordance with DEFRA and the Environment Agency's 'Model Procedures for the Management of Land Contamination, CLR 11'.

(2) Submission of Remediation Scheme

A detailed remediation scheme to bring the site to a condition suitable for the intended use by removing unacceptable risks to human health, buildings and other property and the natural and historical environment must be prepared, and is subject to the approval in

writing of the Local Planning Authority. The scheme must include all works to be undertaken, proposed remediation objectives and remediation criteria, timetable of works and site management procedures. The scheme must ensure that the site will not qualify as contaminated land under Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 in relation to the intended use of the land after remediation.

(3) Implementation of Approved Remediation Scheme

The approved remediation scheme must be carried out in accordance with its terms prior to the commencement of development other than that required to carry out remediation, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The Local Planning Authority must be given two weeks written notification of commencement of the remediation scheme works.

Following completion of measures identified in the approved remediation scheme, a verification report (referred to in PPS23 as a validation report) that demonstrates the effectiveness of the remediation carried out must be produced, and is subject to the approval in writing of the Local Planning Authority.

(4) Reporting of Unexpected Contamination

In the event that contamination is found at any time when carrying out the approved development that was not previously identified it must be reported in writing immediately to the Local Planning Authority. An investigation and risk assessment must be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of condition (1), and where remediation is necessary a remediation scheme must be prepared in accordance with the requirements of condition (2), which is subject to the approval in writing of the Local Planning Authority.

Following completion of measures identified in the approved remediation scheme a verification report must be prepared, which is subject to the approval in writing of the Local Planning Authority in accordance with condition (3).

(5) Long Term Monitoring and Maintenance

A monitoring and maintenance scheme to include monitoring the long-term effectiveness of the proposed remediation over a period of 2 years, and the provision of reports on the same must be prepared, both of which are subject to the approval in writing of the Local Planning Authority.

Following completion of the measures identified in that scheme and when the remediation objectives have been achieved, reports that demonstrate the effectiveness of the monitoring and maintenance carried out must be produced, and submitted to the Local Planning Authority.

This must be conducted in accordance with DEFRA and the Environment Agency's 'Model Procedures for the Management of Land Contamination, CLR 11'.

Reason - To ensure that risks from land contamination to the future users of the land and neighbouring land are minimised, together with those to controlled waters, property and ecological systems, and to ensure that the development can be carried out safely without unacceptable risks to workers, neighbours and other offsite receptors in accordance with Policy COM10 of the adopted Tendring District Local Plan (2007).

Reason for approval:

This proposal is for a new building to replace existing buildings that have lawful use for business purposes, including retail sales. The main policy considerations are QL9, QL11,

ER7 and EN1 of the Tendring District Local Plan (2007) and the guidance in PPS4. The proposed building would have some impact on the locality, but having taken into account the poor condition and appearance of the existing buildings and the lawful use of the site for car breaking and repairs, and the quality and design of the proposed building the Local Planning Authority considers, on balance, that the proposal is acceptable subject to compliance with the conditions attached to this permission. The proposal will protect existing employment and create further employment opportunities in this rural location and would accord with the principles for economic development set out in PPS4. The development would also extinguish an un-neighbourly use that has significantly greater adverse impact on the countryside and is not subject to planning controls over its operation.

43. URGENT ITEM

PLANNING APPLICATION 11/00037/FUL – LAND ADJ. 142 HARWICH ROAD, MISTLEY – CONSTRUCTION OF 15 AFFORDABLE RURAL DWELLINGS WITH ASSOCIATED PARKING, CARPORTS, CYCLE STORES AND NEW VEHICULAR ACCESS

The Committee was informed that a further extension of time for completion of a legal agreement was required until 18 November 2011 (minute 22, 28/6/11 and minute 51, 23/8/11 referred).

It was moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor McLeod and:-

RESOLVED – That the time be extended accordingly.

44. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

There were none.

45. SUB-COMMITTEES OF THE LICENSING AND REGULATORY COMMITTEES AND THEIR CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN

To avoid the need for formal meetings of the Licensing and Regulatory Committees to be held to appoint their Sub-Committees and the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of those Sub-Committees:-

It was moved by Councillor Stock, duly seconded and:-

RESOLVED – (a) That the Appeals Sub-Committee be, and is, hereby appointed and that the members thereof for the 2011/2012 Municipal Year be as follows:-

Councillor Aldis
Councillor Bragg
Councillor S A Honeywood
Councillor Nicholls
Councillor Platt
Councillor Simons

(b) That Councillor S A Honeywood be elected Chairman of the Appeals Sub-Committee for the 2011/2012 Municipal Year.

(c) That Councillor Platt be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Appeals Sub-Committee for

the 2011/2012 Municipal Year.

(d) That the Licensing (General Purposes) Sub-Committee be, and is, hereby appointed and that the members thereof for the 2011/2012 Municipal Year be as follows:-

Councillor Casey
Councillor De-Vaux Balbirnie
Councillor Downing
Councillor Fawcett
Councillor V E Guglielmi
Councillor Powell
Councillor Pugh
Councillor Skeels

(e) That Councillor Downing be elected Chairman of the Licensing (General Purposes) Sub-Committee for the 2011/2012 Municipal Year.

(f) That Councillor Fawcett be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Licensing (General Purposes) Sub-Committee for the 2011/2012 Municipal Year.

(g) That Premises/Personal Licences Sub-Committee 'A' be, and is, hereby appointed and that the members thereof for the 2011/2012 Municipal Year be as follows, with the appointment of a third member from the Labour Group, which appointment to be dealt with by the Chief Executive in accordance with the authority delegated to him to appoint a member at the request of the Group Leader:-

Councillor Downing
Councillor Powell

(h) That Councillor Downing be elected Chairman of the Premises/Personal Licences Sub-Committee 'A' for the 2011/2012 Municipal Year.

(i) That Premises/Personal Licences Sub-Committee 'B' be, and is, hereby appointed and that the members thereof for the 2011/2012 Municipal Year be as follows:-

Councillor V E Guglielmi
Councillor G L Mitchell
Councillor Shearing

(j) That Councillor V E Guglielmi be elected Chairman of the Premises/Personal Licences Sub-Committee 'B' for the 2011/2012 Municipal Year.

(k) That Premises/Personal Licences Sub-Committee 'C' be, and is, hereby appointed and that the members thereof for the 2011/2012 Municipal Year be as follows:-

Councillor De Vaux-Balbirnie
Councillor Fawcett
Councillor Platt

(l) That Councillor Platt be elected Chairman of the Premises/Personal Licences Sub-Committee 'C' for the 2011/2012 Municipal Year.

46. TENDRING DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN PREFERRED OPTIONS CONSULTATION

Council's approval was sought in respect of the Tendring District Local Plan Preferred Options Consultation.

The Local Plan Committee had considered the consultation document at its meeting held on 9 June 2016 and Council had before it the Committee's recommendations.

Council also had before it a report of the Head of Planning Services which informed Members of major as well as minor changes to the consultation documents in order to make the Plan up-to-date prior to public consultation and to be consistent in not allocating sites for housing which had been refused permission. Some of those changes were a result of decisions made by the Planning Committee at its meeting held on 14 June 2016. The changes had been made to the Plan attached as Appendix A to the report of the Head of Planning Services and a schedule of those changes was provided in Appendix C thereto.

Members had had circulated to them prior to the commencement of the meeting amended maps in relation to Great Bentley and Frinton, Walton, Kirby-le-Soken, Kirby Cross and Great Holland. Those maps had been altered as a result of the recent refusal of related planning applications.

Councillor Stock, Chairman of the Local Plan Committee, thanked the Members of that Committee and the Officers, particularly the Head of Planning Services (Cath Bicknell) and the Planning & Regulation Manager (Simon Meecham), for their hard work and dedicated effort in getting the Local Plan to its current position. He also thanked the members of the public and representatives of parish councils who had participated in the public speaking scheme at meetings of the Local Plan Committee.

Councillors Stock, Turner, Scott, Winfield, Parsons, Stephenson, Calver, Bray, V E Guglielmi, Howard, G V Guglielmi, Coley, Broderick and M Brown participated in the debate.

It was moved by Councillor Stock, seconded by Councillor Turner and RESOLVED that Council:

(a) approves the content of the Tendring District Local Plan Preferred Options consultation document, attached as Appendix A to the Report of the Head of Planning Services, which incorporates the changes set out in Appendix C thereto and including the amended maps for Great Bentley and Frinton, Walton, Kirby-le-Soken, Kirby Cross and Great Holland, as circulated, for public consultation for a period of eight weeks;

(b) delegates authority to the Head of Planning Services, in consultation with the Chairman of the Local Plan Committee, to make minor amendments to the text of the Local Plan consultation documents up to the point of publication for consultation purposes. Such amendments are to be circulated to all Members of the Council prior to the commencement of the public consultation; and

(c) delegates authority to the Head of Planning Services, in consultation with the Chairman of the Local Plan Committee, to agree the content of the Sustainability Appraisals for the Local Plan Consultation Documents for public consultation for a period of six weeks. The content of the Sustainability Appraisals are to be circulated to all Members of the Council prior to the commencement of the public consultation.

NOTES: (1) in accordance with the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 18.5, Councillors Bray, Broderick, Parsons and Whitmore each requested that they be recorded in the minutes as having voted against the above decisions; and

(2) in addition, Councillor G V Guglielmi requested that he be recorded in the minutes as having abstained from voting on the above decisions.

47. URGENT MATTERS FOR DEBATE

There were none on this occasion.

48. URGENT MATTERS FOR DEBATE

There were none on this occasion.

Chairman