

**ELSTREE AND BOREHAMWOOD TOWN COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**

MINUTES of a meeting held in the Meeting Room of Fairway Hall Offices, Brook Close, Borehamwood on **Tuesday 19 September 2023** at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllr P Kaza - Chair
Cllr T Kumar – Vice Chair
Cllr A Collins
Cllr D Ozarow

In attendance: T Malton – Town Clerk
S Hall – Lead Site Warden
J Simon – Admin Assistant

Members of Public: 2 Members of Public.

17. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were received from Cllr F Turner. Cllr A Collins joined the meeting at 7.15pm.

18. DECLARATIONS OF COUNCILLORS' INTERESTS

There were none.

19. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Planning Committee held on Tuesday 18 July 2023 were signed as a true record by the Chair.

20. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Two Members of the public were present to report from Barnet and District Beekeepers' Association and gave a short presentation.

They commented that in recent years there had been a rise in interest in beekeeping and this had led to too many hives stating that Honeybees are very voracious and collect pollen/nectar at the expense of wild bees and other insects which are vital to the ecosystem. They advised that extra hives be discouraged at allotment sites. However, other methods should be used that encourage wild bees, of which there are over 270 species, and other pollenating insects such as sandy areas for bees that live underground and wildflower areas etc.

They also reported that due to the ambient rise in temperatures we have seen the migration of the very aggressive Asian Hornet to our local Towns and Cities. They can decimate whole hives in a very short time and have been spreading from the south coast following roads and rivers and have reached parts of London. They nest very low to the ground and move higher. They have a dark body one orange band and yellow legs. If spotted, they should be reported to the relevant ministry dealing with ecology. (Poster included with minutes).

It was noted that Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council had received 4 to 5 requests for hives and that the Youth Council has initiated a sponsor a bee box initiative. Guidelines from the National Allotment Society and British Bee Keeping Association should be followed. North Herts Beekeepers have offered to assess the Council's sites and risk assessment but input from Barnet and District would be welcome. It was noted that policies and procedures were currently being reviewed.

21. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

A total of 43 planning applications had been received, 25 of which were outside the deadline for comment. Comments were made on 3 of the applications available for comment and 5 applications which had passed the consultee comment date and are not available on the Hertsmere Borough Council portal.

23/1114/FUL	31-33 Theobald Street WD6 4RN Application supported. (Unable to post comment on HBC portal).
23/1123/FUL	Land North of Watford Road and West of High Street Elstree Application apposed due to protected green belt land, existing traffic congestion. (Unable to post comment on HBC portal). EBTC agreed to register as a ACV as agreed at Full Council 6 Sept 23.
23/2149/OUT	Organ Hall Farm and Land, Theobald Street Unable to comment. Further information regarding housing type and medical centre required. (Unable to post comment on HBC portal).
23/1142/FUL	Elle-Dani Farm, Allum Lane, Elstree Application apposed due to loss of greenbelt and loss of equine facilities. (Unable to post comment on HBC portal).
23/1160/OUT	37-38 Ayot Path Borehamwood Application Supported. (Unable to post comment on HBC portal).
23/1191/HSE	55 Horizon Place Studio Way Loss of car parking.
23/1202/HSE	14 Lodge Avenue Loss of car parking.

22. PLANNING DECISIONS

A total of 18 Decisions on which comments had been made were received.

23. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

No update received. The CIL money had been granted to pay Alison Eardley but no information was forthcoming from her regarding meetings etc. Communication was regarded as poor.

24. SITE WARDEN UPDATES

Members received an update report from Lead site warden regarding the following:

i) Section 106 Funding – May 2023

All works on the list were due to start soon following a delay in funding applications except the Allum Lane water leak – funding of which could take some time in order for it to be dealt with.

ii) Section 106 – pending

Applications yet to be made following delays in the process at HBC.

iii) Beekeeping Review

Dealt with under public participation.

iv) Stapleton Allotments

Landowner currently in discussions with EBTC and HBC Planning – communication channels open.

v) Homeless in All Saints Churchyard

Meeting held with Police (Sgt Cann). Removing belongings is unlawful. Without an eviction order or Public Space Protection Order nothing can proceed.

Cllr Newmark has provided contact details of the person dealing with Public Spaces Protection Orders at HBC. The Churchyard can maybe be included in the HBC Order or they would advise how to apply. Town Clerk and Lead Site Warden progressing this.

EBTC had written to the Diocese, Church Warden, HBC Environmental Health and Police on 11 August 2023. Only response was from the Police. The Church owns the land and, with the support of the Diocese, can apply for an eviction order or PSPO and then, if breached, the police can act.

EBTC receive at least two complaints a week about the Churchyard and there is comment on social media. It was suggested that wording for a EBTC standard response was agreed. Town Clerk and Lead Site Warden to draft this.

A member of the public had, apparently, offered to the church to pay for higher gates and fence. We have requested details of this offer – yet to be received.

Cllr Butler had offered to lock and unlock the gates – a personal offer (question as to what happens when he was unavailable). Unlocking had to be when the public would want to visit the graves – most likely morning to sunset. This would not be a Town Council responsibility unless it was agreed to add it to the Warden's duties (incurring extra hours).

Councillor Collins said the Church should be a place of solace and not involved in litigation or conflict.

vi) Tree works All Saints

CIL Money approved by GMC for works – subject to quotes.

vii) Groundworks All Saints

CIL Money approved by GMC for works – subject to quotes.

It was asked if All Saints could be cleared but this could not be done while the homeless person was in situ.

viii) Tree works St Nicholas

CIL Money approved by GMC for this works – subject to quotes.

25. POLICIES

i) Allotment Shed Policy

Rewritten and now refers to Structures on Allotment Plots. Approved.

ii) Beekeeping Policy

Under review - deferred

26. CIL FUNDING REQUESTS

Elstree Lawn Tennis Club - £3,900 for road repairs

Cllr Ozarow pointed out that the road may be on private land and not our responsibility. In addition, the Club had reserves of £160k. It was considered not to be a good use of CIL funds.

It was RESOLVED that:

- (i) Elstree Lawn Tennis Club CIL request is not considered for consideration at GMC on 12 October 2023.**

The meeting closed at 9.40pm

The next meeting of the Environment and Planning Committee is scheduled for Tuesday 27 November 2023, 7.00pm at Fairway Hall.

Date:.....

CHAIRMAN.....