

WOODBIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of an **EXTRAORDINARY MEETING** of the **TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Shire Hall, Market Hill, Woodbridge, on **WEDNESDAY, 29 MAY 2019 at 7.00p.m.**

Councillors:

Present: Councillors S Bale, Lady C Blois, S Evans, J Jewers, C Mapey, S Miller, E O’Nolan, S Rawlings, S Thompson, M Walsh

Apologies: P Gillard, G Holdcroft, M Sylvester (Personal reasons)

Absent without Apologies: A Semmens, M Wilks

In Attendance: Town Clerk and 14 members of the public.

68. **MEMBERS AND OFFICERS WERE INVITED TO MAKE ANY DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY OR LOCAL NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS THAT THEY MAY HAVE IN RELATION TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA AND WERE ALSO REMINDED TO MAKE ANY DECLARATIONS AT ANY STAGE DURING THE MEETING IF IT BECOMES APPARENT THAT THIS MAY BE REQUIRED WHEN A PARTICULAR ITEM OR ISSUE IS CONSIDERED, AND TO DEAL WITH DISPENSATIONS AS REQUESTED BY INDIVIDUAL COUNCILLORS IN LINE WITH S33 OF THE LOCALISM ACT 2011**

Cllr Mapey declared a Local Non-Pecuniary Interest in item xx as he was also an East Suffolk District Councillor.

69. **COUNCILLORS WITH A PECUNIARY INTEREST IN AN ITEM ON THIS AGENDA, WHO WISH TO REMAIN, SPEAK AND/OR VOTE DURING CONSIDERATION OF THAT ITEM, MAY APPLY FOR A DISPENSATION BY WRITING TO THE TOWN CLERK PRIOR TO THE MEETING. APPLICATIONS MAY ALSO BE CONSIDERED AT THE MEETING ITSELF SHOULD THE NATURE OF THE INTEREST BECOME APPARENT TO A COUNCILLOR AT THE TIME OF THE MEETING.**

There were none.

70. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Seven members of the public spoke; six against a Judicial Review of the East Suffolk Planning Department’s decision to permit change of use of the first floor of the Chandlery Building, and one in favour.

Those speaking against included a member of Woodbridge Riverside Trust and the Whisstocks Project, a resident of Deben Wharf, a representative of Penn Commercial who was the letting agent for the commercial buildings, the Architect of the scheme, the Developer and another member of FW Properties.

There was talk about the amount of consultation that had taken place with residents of Woodbridge about what was required before the project was started, how individuals and organisations were pleased to see the properties filling, and pleased to see the subdivision of the Chandlery to allow smaller restaurants being created and that one was under negotiation. It was stated that the Planning Application had been delegated to Officers for decision in accordance with the Development Plan.

The Town Council were urged by these 6 speakers not to support the campaign for a Judicial Review as this could put all the plans into jeopardy and hold the project up for up to two years. A Judicial Review would determine whether the District Council acted unlawfully.

One member of the public spoke in favour of a Judicial Review and urged the Council to support a campaign. He believed that the upper floor should not be made into a holiday let and that it should be made into a publicly accessible business so that everyone could enjoy the view. He stated that he believed that the Planning Department had not correctly dealt with the application.

71. **DISCUSSION OF THE REQUEST TO THE TOWN COUNCIL TO SUPPORT A CAMPAIGN FOR A JUDICIAL REVIEW**

The Chairman reported that the planning application for the change of use had come before the Town Council in January 2019. He said that the Town Council's Planning Committee had objected to the change of use, specifically in respect of any residential use.

The Chairman stated that the Town Council would not be making any financial commitment to any campaign.

It was restated that a Judicial Review could not automatically overturn the planning decision but only look into whether the process was unlawful.

It was resolved to support a campaign for a Judicial Review into the planning decision concerning the Chandlery Building (7 for, 2 against, 1 abstention).

Councillor O' Nolan
Chairman