

Dorchester-on-Thames Parish Council

A Special Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 19th November 2014 commencing at 7.30 p.m. The Chairman, Cllr Margot Metcalfe, presided; present were Cllrs. Maurice Day, Chris Hill, Mike Hill and Mark Stevenson, with G Russell in attendance.

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs Sue Graney and Ken Bryan

2 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None.

3 Planning Application

P14/S3110/HH 47 Watling Lane (Amended)

After a detailed discussion the Council agreed that the Clerk should send the following response to the Planning Officer:

My Council has now met to consider the revised proposals and has also noted the comments made by the Conservation and Design Officer in her statement dated 14th November.

While welcoming the revision in the location of the parking spaces, my Council still believes that the proposed building would be an overdevelopment and, in fact, disagrees with the comments made by the Officer on 14/11/14.

Specifically: the conservation officer says: "Revised plans have been submitted which show an extension subservient in ridge height and footprint. The revision of the front elevation of this extension is to be welcomed and places greater emphasis on retaining the existing dwelling as the main structure"

Although she is right with regard to ridge height, the measurements show she is wrong with regard to footprint. At ground floor level it is both longer and wider, and at first floor level it is equal. Whilst she is also right that the revised design places greater emphasis on the existing dwelling, my Council's argument is that it is not sufficiently greater.

The two key points are, first, that the proposal still projects forward from the original building line (an issue identified in the Conservation Officer's comments [dated 23rd October] on the initial application, where she said the projection "should be reconsidered in order to respond to the linear plan form of the original dwellings" and, second, that it is sited on the principal aspect of the original building.

Further, with regard to the character of this part of the Conservation Area, where there are small, brick built farm cottages, my Council's main concerns are the relative size of the old and new portions, and the need to retain the character of the original by having the new portion in no way dominant or out of keeping, an effect which the protruding element and its proposed materials create.

My Council would be pleased to argue these points before a meeting of the Planning Committee should the need arise

4. Any Other Business

i. A cheque for £50.00 to Sarah Pickford was signed. This money is to assist her in the purchase of bulbs to plant along the School wall in Manor Farm Road.

- ii. The Clerk said that County Highways has received a complaint about the use of plastic cones to discourage people from parking on the grass bank by St Birinus in Bridge End. The cones are considered unsightly and detrimental to the area. Mandy Bell, the Local Highways Representative, has asked the Clerk to let her know why this method of discouraging parking had been adopted and the Clerk asked Cllr Stephenson to assist him in drafting the reply.
- iii. The meeting noted that the hole for the Village Christmas tree had been located within the York stone area outside the Co-Op.
- iv. There was some concern about the method being used to lay the cobbled area at Crown Cottage, High Street. It was suggested that the Council should seek the advice of Professor Malcolm Airs.

The Meeting closed at 8.50 .p.m.