

STREET PARISH COUNCIL

Extraordinary meeting of the Council held on 29th January, 2018 at 8 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor V.A. Appleby (Chairman of Council)
Councillors: C.E. Axten, S. Dowden, P. Goater, L. Hughes, T.W.E. Napper, T. Rice, N.M. Swift and J. Wooldridge

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs. L.A. Ruff - Parish Clerk
Mr. A. Kinghan – Neighbourhood Plan, Funding and Projects Officer
Mrs. J. Marshfield – Assistant Clerk
Mr. A. Sestini – Principal Planning Policy Officer – Mendip District Council
District Councillor A. Sen
County Councillor E. Leyshon

APOLOGIES: Councillors: T.L. Emery, A. Leafe and L. Zaky – another engagement – reasons accepted

186. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th January, 2018 which had been circulated were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

187. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

In accordance with the Code of Conduct Councillors Hughes, Napper and Rice declared an other interest under Appendix B in any matters relating to the District Council and stated that he would keep an open mind when considering issues at either District or Parish level. Councillor Napper declared an other interest under Appendix B in any matters relating to the County Council and stated that he would keep an open mind when considering matters at either level. Councillor Hughes declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in development of land off Somerton Road as his house overlooked the site but did not leave the meeting.

188. DEVELOPMENT OF LAND WEST OF SOMERTON ROAD

The Clerk submitted the report considered by the Council in December for information which had been circulated again.

Members spoke for and against the proposed development. At the first meeting with the Ninesquare Trust 175 houses had been proposed for the site. It was felt that if the development did go ahead the Trust should retain control of the infrastructure, how far apart houses were, number of parking spaces etc. Members in favour of the proposals felt that more houses were needed including social housing and that the Trust was offering a lot to Street. They considered that all housing sites would be needed and that this was an opportunity to be involved in the planning of the site. Residents were reminded that any objections would need to be on planning terms and not house prices etc. Examples of other sites which had been developed such as Houndwood and Clockhouse View were given. Members who lived near these sites explained that the housing had not affected them very much. The meeting was adjourned from 8.15 p.m. to 8.17 p.m. to allow the public to comment.

Those against the development of the site felt that it was a desirable area which would be lost, that there was no guarantee that proceeds from the housing would be spent in Street and that the land to the west of Street in Walton should be developed instead. It was felt that starter homes of all types were needed and that it would be far better to develop the Walton site as there would be more houses and therefore a greater chance of the provision of a surgery, dentist surgery, school etc. A shopping mall like that at Langport might be built and as part of the plans, traffic could be taken away from Brooks Road.

Andre Sestini explained that the stated figure of 200 houses for the site off Somerton Road was an approximate figure. The Council and others could submit comments on any aspect of the Local Plan Part 2 by 12th February. The Council could say that it wanted more information on other sites. Detail was useful when formulating policy. There would be a specific brief for the site. Andy Kinghan felt that the Council should engage with the Trust and present the information gathered as part of the Neighbourhood Plan process.

RESOLVED

that any decision be deferred for further information from consultation with the Ninesquare Trust, another extraordinary Council meeting be held with actual plans to present to people and with a definitive answer about the Walton site also and, an extension of the consultation period be requested from Mendip District Council.

The meeting ended at 8.35 p.m.

Chairman _____

