

STOCKSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation & Environment Committee of the Town Council, held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Stocksbridge on Tuesday, 4th February 2025

PRESENT:- Cllr. J Wood (Chair), Cllrs. M Whittaker, K Davis, A Law, R Crowther, J Grocutt, J Staniforth and C Wilson

7 Members of the Public – Item 4

1. Chairman's Remarks and Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Exclusion of Press and Public

There were no items for exclusion of press and public.

3. Declarations of Interest

Cllr. M Whittaker declared an interest in agenda item 4 – Planning Application 24/00357/OUT.

4. Planning Application – 24/00357/OUT

Members discussed the under mentioned planning application:

Land between Manchester Road and The Rookery and Rookery Vale

Outline application for the erection of up to 22no. dwellings (use class C3) with means of access from Manchester Road (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale reserved matters).

An Appeal has been made to the Secretary of State against SCC's failure to give notice of its decision within the appropriate period on an application for permission or approval.

Any comments/representations must be received by the deadline of 18th February 2025.

Members of the public raised concerns over the process used by SCC Planning resulting in the developers taking the application to an appeal. In particular it was noted that a traffic assessment had been required in order for SCC Planning to make a considered decision. It was unclear if such an assessment had been carried out and ignored or not carried out at all.

There appeared to be a complete lack of transparency and mis-information with the Planning department and the developers and it was noted that attempts to involve the local MP had been to no avail.

Cllr J Grocutt noted her intention to raise a question on the matter at the City Council meeting the following day. Councillors informed members of the public that they would further discuss the matter with a view to submitting an objection to the appeal and writing to the Head of Planning at SCC regarding the process

The Chairman thanked members of the public for attending and for the informative discussion on the matter.

Following further discussion between Councillors it was:

RESOLVED:-

- a) That the Clerk write to the Head of Planning, SCC, requesting clarity on whether a developer has the absolute right to refer to appeal for non-determination of an application given that information requested by the Planning department from the developer had not been forthcoming.
- b) That a letter of objection from the Town Council be formulated for inclusion in the appeal process.
- c) That approval be given for conducting a traffic assessment at a cost of £200.

5. Volunteer Hub

This item to be deferred to the next Committee meeting to be held in March.

There being no further business the meeting closed.