**APPENDIX 1.**

**Minutes of a meeting of the Planning and Highways Committee held at 7:30 pm on Monday 27th March 2023, in the Council Chamber, Newbury Town Council, Town Hall, Market Place, Newbury,**

**Present**

Councillors Phil Barnett, Jeff Beck, Jo Day, Billy Drummond, Nigel Foot,

Roger Hunneman, Pam Lusby Taylor, David Marsh, Andy Moore and Gary Norman.

**In Attendance**

Hugh Peacocke (Chief Executive Officer)

1. **Apologies**

Apologies received from Councillors Vaughan Miller and Tony Vickers.

1. **Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**

The CEO declared that Councillors Phil Barnett, Jeff Beck, Billy Drummond, David Marsh and Andy Moore are also Members of West Berkshire Council, which is declared as a general interest on their behalf and a dispensation is in place to allow them to partake in discussions relating to West Berkshire Council business.

Councillor Phil Barnett and Billy Drummond are also Members of Greenham Parish Council.

The CEO made the following statement on behalf of Councillors Phil Barnett and Jeff Beck who are members of West Berkshire Council Planning Committee and Councillor Andy Moore, who is a Substitute Member: "I wish to make it clear that any comments I make tonight are only being made in relation to the formulation of the Town Council's view and is not in any way prejudging the way that I may vote when any application is considered by West Berkshire District Council. At that time, I will weigh up all the evidence.”

Councillor Andy Moore declared an interest in Planning Application ref. No. 23/00424/Adv as a member of St Nic’s Church.

1. **Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning and Highways Committee held on Monday 6th March 2023.**

**Proposed:** Councillor Roger Hunneman

**Seconded:** Councillor Billy Drummond

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 06/03/2023,

be approved and signed by the Chairperson.

1. **Actions from previous meetings**

Consultation responses sent to West Berkshire District Council- Planning applications and Station Road parking.

1. **Questions from members of the public**

There were 2 questions received from Mrs. Paula Saunderson relating to the Cold Ash Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan which were taken when that item was reached on the agenda.

1. **Members’ Questions and Petitions** Question received from Councillor Billy Drummond:

*“I get many complaints from local resident’s complaining about the use of electric scooters on local roads, with no insurance, training or wearing helmets, and speeding. I had one last week, explaining that she had just left the local Greenham gym, by Burger King and had to brake at the last minute to miss a speeding scooter, dressed in dark clothing and no lights, crossing the mini round a bout at speed. Members of the public should not have the death of a young person on their conscience.*

*Could I please ask you to write to the Chief Inspector in your capacity as CEO of NTC to come the Planning and Highways Committee and address the Members with your views on this subject and to take any questions from members.”*

The Chairman replied that the CEO would write as requested to the Chief Inspector of Thames Valley Police

1. **Suspension of Standing Orders**

**Proposed:** Councillor Nigel Foot

**Seconded:** Councillor Jeff Beck

**Resolved:** That standing orders be suspended to receive the presentation from Vodafone and Cornerstone re the siting of 5 G masts.

1. **Positioning of 5G masts**

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Rob Matthews from Vodafone and

Mr. Richard Knowles from Cornerstone to the meeting and invited them to present to members on the Code of Good Practice for the siting of 5G masts.

Mr. Matthews explained that Cornerstone was Vodafone’s contractor for the provision of infrastructure services for mobile technology.

Mr. Knowles gave a presentation on the Code of Good Practice for Wireless Network Development in England. He also outlined the criteria for site selection and the practices followed by Cornerstone and Vodafone. They answered questions from the meeting and also from members of the public.

A member of the public raised issues regarding a mast at Stoney Lane/ Kiln Road junction and it was agreed that the Council would write to the provider about the colour of the mast.

The meeting thanked Mr. Matthews and Mr. Knowles for attending and for their very useful presentation.

The following actions were agreed:

* To write to Mr. Matthews and Mr. Knowles to thank them for their attendance and the presentation
* To send a copy of the presentation to each member of the Committee
* To add this item to the next agenda so that members could agree a protocol for responding when consulted regarding mobile mast applications.

1. **Schedule of Planning Applications**

Resolved that the observations recorded as Appendix 1.2 to these minutes be submitted to the planning authority.

1. **Schedule of Applications for Prior Approval**

The meeting resolved that planning permission should be sought for application Ref. No. 23/00611/PASSHE.

1. **The Cold Ash Neighbourhood Development Plan**

The meeting heard that the Council had been invited by Cold Ash Parish Council to respond to their draft Neighbourhood Development Plan.

The Chairman invited Mrs. Paula Saunderson to submit her questions to the meeting:

*1. Please will the Committee consider* *carefully its response with regard to the establishment of green gaps between Cold Ash Parish and Clay Hill Parish/Ward in relation to the West Berks Appropriate Countryside Designations Study (Nov 2022) & various Landscape Character Assessments and ask for Parcel 9 which includes these areas below to be designated as Local Green Gap/Wedge.*

*a. Stoney Lane, Stone Copse & Ashmore Green*

*b. Messenger Wood & Copse between Pear Tree Lane & Stoney Lane*

*c. Area North of Shaw Cemetery between Long Lane & Pear Tree Lane*

**Proposed:** Councillor Jeff Beck

**Seconded:** Councillor Roger Hunneman

**Resolved:** That the Council requests Cold Ash Parish Council to consider these matters when preparing their Neighbourhood Development Plan.

*2. Please will this Council* *endorse the request by Cold Ash NDP in Appendix C, Local Green Spaces , to designate No.6 - Waller Drive Recreational Park - as a Local Green Space on the basis of recreational and tranquillity value.*

**Proposed:** Councillor Nigel Foot

**Seconded:** Councillor Jeff Beck

**Resolved:** That the Council endorses the request by Cold Ash NDP in Appendix C, Local Green Spaces , to designate No.6 - Waller Drive Recreational Park - as a Local Green Space on the basis of recreational and tranquillity value.

1. **Update from the Heritage Working Group**

The meeting received the minutes of the Heritage Working Group held on 9 March. As requested, it was agreed to ask the Conservation Officer at WBC to review The Thai Restaurant on Bartholomew Street and look to see if something can be done as a matter of urgency, and also to look at the other buildings highlighted to be at risk:

• 3 & 9 London Road.

• Eight Bells.

• URC Hall, Cromwell Place.

• 41 Cheap Street.

• 58 Cheap Street (damage to the foundation stone).

1. **Update on Newbury’s Neighbourhood Development Plan**

The Chairman reported that the Steering Group met on 20 March to consider the consultants’ report on the survey. This included a very helpful spreadsheet which set out how the NDP policies and objectives aligned with the Local plan review and the National Planning Policy Framework. It was agreed to request that members put themselves forward to work on specific topic groups regarding the various policy options arising. Also noted that there was a vacancy for a lay member on the Steering Group.

1. **Update from The Western Area Planning Committee**

No meetings held.

1. **Forward Work Programme for Planning & Highways Committee**

Noted. Agreed to add the item re 5 G masts (see Minute No. 179 above)

**There being no other business, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 9.30 pm**

**Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Chairperson**