

**WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE
HELD AT GROVE HOUSE ON
WEDNESDAY 13th January 2021**

Meeting Commenced: 7.00 pm

Meeting Concluded: 7.27 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Jan Holloway (Chairman), Dot Agassiz, Alan Peak and Tim Taylor.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Tania Middlemiss (Assistant Town Clerk) and Julie Smith (Admin Officer).

126	To receive Apologies for Absence and Notifications of Substitutions Apologies were received from Cllr Ray Armstrong.
127	To receive Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of interest received.
128	To approve Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 11th March 2020 The minutes had previously been circulated with the agenda. PROPOSED BY: Councillor Alan Peak SECONDED BY: Councillor Dot Agassiz RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 th March 2020 be approved.
129	Matters for Consideration a) Street Trading Applications The Committee noted that there were no street trading applications for consideration. b) Disabled Parking Bay Applications The Committee noted that there were no disabled parking bay applications for consideration.
130	Matters for Noting a) Enforcement Notices: September 2020 – December 2020 Details of enforcement cases in the last 6-9 months has been previously circulated to all Members prior to the meeting.

	<p>Members commented that a large number of panelled fences were being installed around properties after the removal of hedges and shrubs and wanted to be able to report them.</p> <p>Also there had been cases where HMOs in areas of conservation and/or in listed buildings which Members accepted provided much needed housing for homeless but also created anti-social behaviour issues for residents living in the vicinity and there were concerns as to whether planning consents had been given.</p> <p>The Assistant Town Clerk confirmed that this was a different area to planning applications where the Council had a clear pathway to comment as were a statutory consultee. Contact was possible via the relevant District Councillors for the area who would also have knowledge of enforcement issues in the area so were another channel of communication for reporting into North Somerset as the enforcement authority.</p> <p>The Vice Chairman added that the Town Council should be pleased to see more retrospective planning applications coming through also receiving the periodic enforcement lists which was feedback itself so did demonstrate in a lot of cases that enforcement was happening.</p> <p>The Assistant Town Clerk added that reporting issues such as those raised will have been exceptionally challenging for North Somerset in 2020 due to the pandemic restrictions which would affect the speed of action but would request quicker and more effective communication channels from Planning and Enforcement Officers.</p> <p>130.1 RESOLVED</p> <p>130.2 To contact North Somerset Council Planning and Enforcement teams to request a quicker communication pathway and a dedicated telephone number and email contact for our Members and the public to report planning concerns to NSC staff on matters relating to planning and enforcement applications.</p> <p>The up to date list of enforcement notices were noted.</p>
<p>131</p>	<p>Planning Applications and other Planning Matters submitted to the Town Council for consideration.</p> <p>The Chairman advised that in order to improve the efficiency of meetings it was necessary to re-emphasise the importance of the need for ALL Councillors to view the planning applications, particularly those on their own wards, <u>before</u> the date of the meeting on North Somerset Council's website.</p> <p>As of January 2021 <u>only</u> applications that are contentious and require Planning Committee deliberation <u>and have been</u> brought to the attention of the Chairman or Vice Chairman or Officers will be discussed at the Planning Committee itself. This was in line with North Somerset's call in system.</p> <p>Cllrs Peak, Taylor and Agassiz expressed concerned over the new Town Council email addresses they had now been asked to use from 1st January 2021, as it was not clear how to use them or even find them. This was resulting in communication issues with electronic forms of communication and invites to Committee meetings.</p>

	<p>The Assistant Town Clerk requested them to please contact either the Development Officer or Communications Officer who were happy to go through the procedure with them and she would also advise other relevant staff of the issues being experienced.</p> <p>The Committee considered applications in respect of the weekly lists provided by North Somerset Council dated 7th – 13th December, 14th – 20th December, 21st – 27th December 2020 and 28th December 2020 – 3rd January 2021.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Town Council’s comments on planning applications be directly uploaded to ‘Uniform’ website as part of the system of work requirement by North Somerset Council. This information would also be reflected on the Town Council’s website with hyperlink back to North Somerset Council’s website for referral purposes.</p>
	<p>There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.27 pm</p> <p>Signed.....Dated</p> <p>Chairman of the Planning Committee</p>