

PRESENT: Councillor Clayton in the Chair
Councillors: Sparkes and P. Symonds.
Also present: Cllrs. Richardson and Wallace

1 APOLOGIES

There were apologies from Cllr. Battle. These were also submitted by Cllrs. Hayfield and Reilly who had interests in the County Council application NWB20CC002 as County Councillors.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3 HS2 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PRESENTATION

The HS2 Community Engagement team had released a booklet on the viaduct arrangements at the Water Orton junction near the A446. Messrs. Andy Debell, Hayden Wright and Chris Humphreys of HS2, or its contractor BBV, all spoke about the detail. On behalf of the Special Management Zone, Messrs. Barry Moore and Peter Rafferty also joined the discussion.

There were to be three viaducts, two of around 8 metre height of piers and one of 17 metres in height as this was to run over the main line. HS2 were interesting in engaging with local authorities on the landscaping designs. There would be a pool as a balancing point and tree planting around the lines to soften the appearance. There was permission to use the land to the south of Water Orton between Gypsy Lane and the motorway as a compound. The construction would be using a suspension bridge type of system, with the suspension being moved as the construction was advanced. Operational hours were 8 am to 6pm.

Construction was expected to be from 2021 till 2025 with a programme update this summer. Although, four years would see completion of the BBV work, HS2 would then attend to the catenary, power supply and testing stages.

Members remarked that the guide booklets had not been seen by many of them and it was therefore difficult to comment fully. Mr. Wright was to arrange for 10 copies to go to the Town Hall for collection. Mr. Humphreys also suggested that councillors should register with the www.hs2.commonplace.is website for latest pictures and updates. Drop-ins would restart at the Hub, whenever guidelines allowed this again.

There were general concerns that pictures featured in the booklet showed only the lower viaducts and featured fully developed tree cover. Messrs. Barry Moore and Peter Rafferty were asked to update members on any responses they had to their 29 May letter to HS2 from the SMZ. They were thanked for their commitment to the monitoring of designs and development of the construction plans and for their attendance and participation in the meeting.

4 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

The minutes of the meetings of 29 January and 26 February were proposed by Cllr. P. Symonds, seconded by Cllr. Clayton and **ACCEPTED** unanimously as a true record, without amendment.

5 MATTERS ARISING

None.

6 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There has been a small number of minor planning applications sent out by the Borough Council. These had all been emailed by the Town Clerk to committee members during Covid-19 lockdown and no objections were raised to any of these.

However, High Meadow Community School had forwarded County Council application NWB20CC002 to be considered. This involved retention of one temporary classroom and the additional siting of another alongside it on the same corner of the site.

While committee members had sympathies with the County Council in trying to expand the number of Junior /Infants school spaces in the town, it did not think it had to be on the existing site, to the detriment of residents in the area. There were concerns that continued further school growth would exacerbate the issues such that a new build should be the option. Also, there were worries that temporary classrooms tended to become permanent.

Cllr. Sparkes proposed and Cllr. P. Symonds seconded that the Town Council should recommend rejection of the application. The grounds were that there were already highways disturbance with car movements along Norton Road and inadequate capacity for turning in the school car park or the road. Another 30 children being driven to and from school would make it worse. Other residents further afield were also being affected. In addition, it was felt that the site was not suitable for the expansion unless the huge expanse at the other end of it was used, although the land contours made this more difficult and expensive. Another ground was that, with only one entrance and exit into the car park, there were health and safety considerations for so many children crossing the roads with many vehicles manoeuvring in tight spaces.

There had previously been County Council consideration of encouraging parents to park at the Community Centre car park at Temple Way and walk in. Committee members thought this was non-viable for parents and, it should be added, this had never been agreed to be the Town Council as the landowner.

There was also a concern for the Planning Committee that the initial temporary classroom had not been 90 degree rotated, as agreed. The Covid-19 issues did not appear to be a valid reason for this not taking place as the contractors for this work were now back in operations. The committee wished the rotation to be pursued.

Members voted unanimously to recommend the **REJECTION** of the application. Furthermore, in relation to temporary classrooms, it was normal for planning permission be granted with retention for a finite period (e.g. 3 years). The original classroom was already well into this limited retention period and the committee wished to know when this expired.

It was also asked that the **Committee Chairman /Vice Chairmen** liaise with the **Town Clerk** to ensure a resident's letter received a reply on the Town Council's stance on the matter.

7 PLANNING DECISIONS

As there had been limited cover of the Council's administration during April and May, the summary had not been maintained. A summary would be sent shortly after the meeting, for information.

8 CORRESPONDENCE

None.

9 ANY OTHER MATTERS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION OF THIS COMMITTEE

There were no matters for future discussion relevant to this committee.

At this point, as there was no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45 p.m.

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Chairman