

LITTLEMORE PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE
HELD ON THURSDAY 26TH NOVEMBER 2020 at 7.45pm
VIA ZOOM VIDEO LINK**

Present:

Councillors: Sue Stewart (Chair), Lynda Comber, Gill Sanders, Maggie Willis.

Officers: Richard Wilkins (Parish Clerk & RFO)
Daniela Harrison (Assistant Clerk)

One member of public in attendance.

Meeting opened 1945hrs

PL 79/20 Chairs Welcome

Cllr Stewart welcomed everyone to the meeting.

PL 80/20 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Macer Wicker Cllr Michael Evans

RESOLVED: To receive and note the above apologies for non-attendance at the meeting.

PL 81/20 Declarations of Interests

Members were asked to declare any pecuniary or non-pecuniary declarations of interest and the nature of that interest which they may have in any of the items under consideration at this meeting.

No Declarations received, Cllr Stewart reminded Cllrs that they can declare interest at any part of the meeting.

PL 82/20 Acceptance of Minutes of Last Meeting

RESOLVED: To agree and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on

Tuesday 2nd November 2020

PL 83/20 New Planning Applications

20/02672/FUL SAE Institute Oxford Littlemore park, Armstrong Road, Oxford

Littlemore Parish Council has no objection to the use of this site for two office buildings, and we welcome the new employment opportunities which will be created. However, the council shares the concern of many residents of Littlemore and neighbouring Sandford-on-Thames about the ever increasing traffic in our area.

Signature.....

Without meaningful efforts to improve access to public transport this development will damage the quality of life of residents in the surrounding area.

There are so many inaccuracies on the transport survey that doubt is cast on its conclusions. There is reference to Little London, an area not known to councillors. The spelling of Sandford-on-Thames varies randomly. More significantly, the report states that a medical centre is located within 10 minutes' walk of the site. Littlemore Mental Health Centre is nearby, but the nearest GP surgeries are at Donnington Bridge and Temple Cowley, both at least 30 minutes away by foot.

The applicants have stated that because of Covid they have had to base their traffic survey on data in the traffic surveys carried out on behalf of Catalyst who are building new housing on the opposite side of Armstrong Road. We are not sure whether any attention has been given to traffic increases since August 2018 when the study was conducted.

The application admits that the number of on-site parking places is lower than would normally be required. There has been mention of a financial contribution towards an improved bus service on Sandford Road. Catalyst, the developers of Littlemore Park on the other side of Armstrong Road, is already committed to paying for more buses for a one-year period. If, however, an improved bus service is not permanent, the lack of car parking will lead to more on street parking on surrounding roads. The parish council is already attempting to limit parking on the pavement at Sandford Road, which blocks the pathway and has ruined the grass verges. We support measures to reduce car use, on safety, health, and sustainability grounds.

The documents refer to pedestrian access to Oxford Science Park. The Science Park is at present unwilling to allow a right of way from Armstrong Road and wishes to limit the use of the path to 7 am to 7 pm Monday to Friday. Unless this can be resolved, employees in the new premises may be unwilling to use any new station there, as they would need to be sure that they could leave work in time to access the station. The future of the Cowley line is unclear, but its prospects have just become brighter with its inclusion in a report commissioned by Network Rail and the Oxfordshire Growth Board. Pedestrian and cycle access to any new station and the wider rail network would be of immense benefit to residents of this part of Littlemore. Without full access, the station will serve mainly the Science Park. We do not believe that this is the intention of the rail company and other stakeholders. Evening and weekend access to the Kassam Stadium, the Vue cinema and leisure facilities will also be blocked.

Littlemore roundabout on the Eastern Bypass is admitted to be above capacity. Every new development adds incrementally to pressure there, but County Highways never consider the increase high enough to warrant objection. There are two large developments in progress in Littlemore at the moment, and several smaller ones in the pipeline. The impact on the roundabout and its approaches already causes danger, noise and pollution.

We urge that these issues are resolved before this application is approved.

Signature.....

20/02654/CT3 Land to rear of 1 And 3 Thomson Terrace

Littlemore Parish Council considers this to be a well designed proposal and a good use of this site. We appreciate the thought which has been given to energy saving measures, and the ease of conversion of the properties for residents with disabilities. A street light will be needed to serve the properties along the approach drive and the new houses. At present there is a movement activated light paid for by the Baptist Church. Something more permanent will be required when the footfall is higher.

20/02739/FUL | Erection of a first-floor rear extension and replacement of windows. | 9 Giles Road Oxford OX4 4NN

No Objection

20/00934/FUL Land to The Rear Of The George Inn 5 Sandford Road Littlemore Oxford Oxfordshire OX4 4PU

Littlemore Parish Council wishes to make the point that this second amendment to the application fails again to meet any of our objections. We urge rejection.

20/02873/FUL Sandford Lodge 24 Lawn Upton Close, Oxford, OX4 4QF

Further information required. To be added to the next meeting for discussion.

PL 84/20 Planning Applications Approved

20/00803/FUL Rear of 39 Champion way OX4 4NS
18/02231/CND5 Site of Armstrong Road Oxford Oxfordshire, OX4 4XG
20/02394/H42 54 Bodley Road Oxford, Oxfordshire, OX4 3UA
20/02534/H42 44 Giles Road, Oxford, Oxfordshire OX4 4NL

PL 85/20 Planning Applications Withdrawn

Nothing to report.

PL 86/20 Planning Applications Refused

20/02281/FUL 32 Grange road

PL 87/20 Planning Appeals

Nothing to report.

Cllr Sue Stewart wished to update Councillors on a number of points raised recently, it was requested that the Clerk add Consultations to agenda going forward.

Armstrong Road – Proposed Parking Restrictions

Signature.....

Acknowledgement has been received from County Council regarding concerns raised by Littlemore Parish Council and these concerns will be monitored going forward.

Heyford Hill Roundabout

Oxfordshire County Council has acknowledged letter from the Clerk and has been forwarded to the lead planning for Comment. Cllr Alex Hollingsworth from Oxford City Council has agreed to meet and discuss concerns.

Oxford Road – Proposed Traffic Calming Measures

County Council acknowledged our response and will report back accordingly to us with regular updates.

St. Nicholas Road – Parking Scheme

Oxford Direct Services on behalf of City Council acknowledge our comments and will highlight our point regarding works during the school holidays.

Cowley Low Traffic Neighbourhood Scheme

Parish Council has received this consultation and will be added to the agenda for full Council in December to discuss.

PL 88/20 Enforcement Matters

Nothing to report.

PL 89/20 Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 28th January 2021 – if earlier meeting is required notice will be sent to Committee members.

Meeting Closed 2040 hrs

Signed as a true and accurate record.

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Cllr Sue Stewart
Chair Planning Committee
Littlemore Parish Council
Thursday 28th January 2021

Signature.....