

Minutes of a meeting held at St Mark's Church Community Centre on Thursday 2 December 2010 commencing at 7:00pm

Present: Cllrs Blakeman, Wilkins, Seymour and the Clerk

1 Public Open Session

No questions from members of the public

2 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies.

3 Declarations of Interest

None

4 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes from the 4th November were adopted as a true record of the meeting.

5 Planning Applications

1. 10/02621/FUL Mowsbury Park Nursery, Kimbolton Road MK41 8AH

It was resolved that the parish council had no objections to this application

2. 10/02771/TPO 278 Kimbolton Road, MK41 8AD

It was resolved that the Parish Council would support this application

3. 10/02299/TPO 194 Kimbolton Road, MK41 8AD

It was resolved that the parish council had no objections to the proposed work

4. 10/2731/TELPN Land for tree preservation order west of 140 Brickhil Drive

It was resolved that the Parish Council would object to this installation of the mast and cabins as follows:

1. The siting of the equipment is on a footpath which is both a pedestrian and a cycle route which should be kept as free as possible from obstructions for the benefit of all users but particularly those with visual impairments and the disabled. The Parish Council objected to a previous application at the same location on the grounds that the siting of the equipment would be an obstacle to the safe progress of pedestrians and cyclists on the footpath. Whilst recognising that the present application has been amended the Parish Council is still not convinced that there would be sufficient room on the footpath if the equipment is positioned as shown on the plan. The minimum dynamic envelope for two cyclists to pass each other is 2.5m (1m for a single cyclist). This equipment is to be sited at the top of a hill where cyclists are likely to be going slowly and would require a wider dynamic envelope of 3m or more. When the cabinet doors are open the footpath will be further intruded upon, but even with the doors closed the PC believes the clearance is inadequate.
2. There are already two lampposts close to the proposed site and if the cabinets are installed on the cycle route this will effectively create a chicane.
3. The PC believes that the mast and cabinets will be visually obtrusive, not especially when viewed from across the road when the background to the equipment will be trees and grass providing some screening effect, but to footpath users and motorists coming up and down Brickhill Drive who will see the cabinets and masts sideways on and they will not "blend in" as has been suggested.
4. In the view of the PC the application does not comply with the Code of Practice on Mobile Phone Network Development (Nov 2002) which suggests that masts

and cabinets should not be sited in public open space. The open green area on Brickhill Drive is greatly valued by residents and whilst Brickhill Drive is a busy road the greenspace represents an important feature of the local environment and this amenity will be impaired by the proposed installation.

In making these objections the PC has carefully considered the benefit to residents of increased mobile phone coverage and the wider national interest of an effective telecommunications network but believes that the objections above outweigh these considerations.

6 To review and comment on any late planning applications

There were no late planning applications

7 To note revised timetabling of planning committee meetings for 2011

It was resolved: that all future meetings will be held at 6pm and that the Clerk would revise the date of the May 2011 meeting which currently clashed with the first parish council meeting following the elections.

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Signed by Chairman 13 January 2011