

Swilland and Witnesham Grouped Parish Council

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MINUTES

Planning Committee Meeting

Tuesday 9th January 2024 at 7.30pm

The School Room, Witnesham Baptist Church

1. **Present:** Mr Hindle (Chair), Mr Barlow, Dr Nicol, Mrs Shaw, Mr Roots and Mr Collings.
Apologies for absence: Mr Burrows
2. **Councillors' declarations of interest:** None
3. **Minutes of the meeting of 23rd October 2023** were approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.
4. **ESC decisions received since the meeting of 23rd October 2023:**
 - a) DC/23/3873/ROC **The Barn Mill Lane Witnesham.** PC "No Objection". **ESC Refused**
 - b) DC/23/3415/VOC **West Barn Low Farm Kirby Lane Swilland** Not considered by Committee by consensus. **ESC decision: Permitted.**
5. **Planning Applications for Consideration**
 - a) DC/23/4612/FUL **Apple Acre Berghersh Drive Witnesham** Erection of single storey extension & glazed link. After plans were shared and discussed, **the Committee agreed a response of "No Objection"**
6. **Wittens Meadow – Update:** The PC wrote to ESC on 19th December seeking assurances that all proposed surface water drainage measures were properly in place and that there was little further risk of flooding to dwellings and property in the vicinity of the building site. Also that the measures taken fully meet the requirements of ESC as the planning authority and of SCC as LLFA. A prompt reply from Ben Woolnough (ESC) stated that overall he was satisfied that the situation was considerably better than it was when Denbury failed to install their construction surface water drainage mitigation but as mentioned, there were elements he was still exploring with Denbury. There was no reference in the response to questions about the Site Compound Area drainage
The replies to the correspondence sent to ESC, SCC and Denbury agreed at the last PC meeting were highlighted. Any planning issues raised in the replies would need pursuing. The PC Chair and Planning Committee Chair were to meet with ESC Chief Exec and Head of Planning on 12th January to discuss

29/1/24 

Wittens Meadow, Street Farm and Planning issues in general The SCC letter needs addressing and no written response had been received from Denbury Chairman Mr James Hopkins. These issues and others would be addressed at the next PC meeting on 17th January.

- 7. Street Farm – Update:** The planning application dates from September 2021. It was objected to by the PC and is still not determined by ESC. A planning application re-consultation request had been received from ESC on 9th January. The PC had written to ESC on 30th October asking ESC and SCC, as Lead Local Flood Authority, to undertake a review of the surface water (SW) and flood risk assessments and mitigation proposals for the application following the Storm Babet Floods. To date no such review or any proposals have been received or posted on the ESC Planning Portal but an email from Mr Ben Woolnough ESC,(8/1/24), ESC stated that these would be requested as part of the re-consultation. it was considered vital that the PC should be able to fully consider these before responding in full on the re-consultation. **The Committee agreed to seek a deferral of the consultation deadline from ESC until the SW and Flood Risk review of the proposal had been undertaken by the LLFA and the Environment Agency and the PC had the opportunity to evaluate the response as well as any considerations of the post Storm Babet Section 19 investigation.**

8. Matters to be brought to the attention of the Planning Committee.

Mr Barlow reported that he had reported the flooding which occurred on Tuesday 2nd January where the drainage was overwhelmed, it was backing up and an investigation was observed by SCC on site on Friday 5th Jan.

Mr Hindle advised that he had reported two flooding incidents from 2nd and 5th January in Tuddenham Lane.

Mr Collings sought clarification of the flooding on the highway between FVGC and Cockfield Hall Lane junction which was stated as being outside the Witnesham Parish boundary.

Meeting closed at 8:30 p.m.

29/1/24

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. H. R.', written below the date.