

# WHATLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## PLANNING POLICY APPROVED 18<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2018

### **1 PLANNING LISTS**

The planning list is emailed each week by Rother District Council.

Paper copies of plans are no longer forwarded to the parish council.

Also received by email are copies of previous approved or refused plans with decisions made by the Planning Department, during previous months and any enforcement matters.

### **2. COMMENTS BY THE PARISH COUNCIL ON THE APPLICATION**

- a. Comments must be forwarded to Rother District Council by the date stated on the Planning List, this is approximately three weeks ahead.
- b. Light pollution of the night sky in Whatlington and the immediate surrounding area remains relatively low compared with much of the South East of England. The Parish Council is keen that every effort is made to reduce light pollution which may cause irritation to neighbours and to reduce night sky visibility. Applications involving exterior lighting should explain what the lighting is for and what efforts have been made to limit light dispersal. The parish council will only give qualified support to applications if external lighting is thought to be excessive or (if the application fails) comment on outside lighting.'

### **3. PROCEDURE FOR DEALING WITH PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- a. The clerk will forward weekly to each Councillor details of any planning application received.
- b. Planning meetings, if required (see 3j (1) et seq below), will be held on the third Thursday of the month unless otherwise agreed by the required quorate number of councillors (see 3e) and subject to Rother planning requirements regarding the timing of a response from the Council.
- c. A site meeting to be arranged if and when considered necessary by Councillors.
- d. Councillors will hear any representations from applicants, neighbours and members of the public. Decisions on supporting or objecting to the applications will be made by Councillors. In the event of an agreement to object to an application, Councillors will agree, by a majority vote, the reasons for objecting.
- e. The quorum for Planning Meetings will be three including Chair or Vice Chair. If an inquorate meeting has to be held because of time or attendance constraints, the submission to Rother District Council will be qualified by this and so advised.
- f. The Clerk will forward to Rother District Council's Planning Department the Council's' decision on all planning applications. In the event of a submission being made without a planning meeting and (with Councillors objecting (see 3j (2 c)) the Clerk is responsible for collating what will be taken as the agreed response from the council and submitted within due time.
- h. The Planning Committee must keep to planning issues, avoiding topics that have no direct bearing on the submitted application.

- J (1) Unless otherwise specified, planning meetings will be held if:
  - (a) Councillors disagree via an e-mail vote on whether to support or object.
  - (b) The application is of public /Parish concern and then may be called by a Councillor.
  - (c) A councillor wishes to have an application debated and the reason is supported by the Chair or Vice Chair.
  
- j (2) All applications submitted to the council will be forwarded by the Clerk for an initial e-mail response from Councillors. In the event of a nil response to this it will be taken that the Council support the application: However: -
  - (a) A response to object has to be made to the Clerk by at least two Councillors within due time. In the event of one or less “object” response this will still be taken as support for the application by the non-responding councillors and treated as such subject to j (1) c.
  - (b) If at least two councillors respond (in due time) and are in disagreement a meeting will be called iaw 3 (b).
  - (c) If at least two Councillors respond and are in agreement to object, the Clerk will consolidate the reasons for objecting and submit as at 3 (f). Non-responding Councillors will be assumed to support the objection or have abstained.
  
- j (3) In the event of a tied vote to an application, whether in a meeting or via e-mail, the Chair, or in their absence, unavailability or need to abstain for reasons of non-pecuniary or pecuniary interest, the Vice Chair, will have a casting vote.
  
- J (4) In the event of a tied vote that cannot be resolved because of the need for the Vice Chair to abstain then this accordingly will be advised to Rother Planning.

Approved .....