

MINUTES OF THE WHATLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 3rd February 2020 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.00pm

Present:- Councillor Fisher in the Chair
Councillors Ratcliffe, Scott, Underhill and White

There were 16 local government electors attending

OPEN SESSION

1 APOLOGIES

None

2 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Councillor Underhill declared a Personal Interest in agenda item 3

3 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

RR/2019/2758/P St Mary Magdalene Church

Development of a single dwelling and church car park on land to the South West of St Mary Magdalene Church.

Several parishioners gave their views on why they supported the application, with a further two objecting. Parishioners said the village car park was not adequate and the walk along the road to the church was dangerous.

The car park is needed to make more use of the church and to stop reduction in the congregation leading to the church being closed

A member of the Parochial Church Council said the closing of the church was highly unlikely as the church was grade 11* listed and if needed the Conservation Trust would take over and run the church, but he stressed the car park was needed

The parking close to the church cannot be guaranteed

As this is a community asset could the car park be connected legally to the church so if in the future it is not sold separately. This would have to be looked into

The car park would enable events to be held which would help the church financially.

Having a car park would give the church a secure future.

Objections were -The use and loss of a green field site

The village is too small for two car parks and the village car park is adequate for both church and hall events

The construction of a car park and dwelling house with all the work and materials this involved plus Intrusive lighting and noise affecting the environment of the churchyard and nearby residents.

Infilling on a green field site would act as a precedent for further dwelling in the parish

A parishioner asked councillors if the dwelling was a separate application would they support it and the response was no they would not.

The Chairman asked if parishioners would support the application and the majority said they would.

Councillors then asked questions – What is the colour of the surfaces to be – Agent advised this is to be green.

Will there be something to show the car park is church property – The agent advised this is being looked into,

Will there be sufficient visibility of the access road onto the C.293 - The Highways will be advising on this

Could the church itself pay for the car park- The Church Warden said no this would not be possible.

What lighting is there to be. Agent advised No lighting proposed - if there was this would have to be agreed.

Where would the path from the car park to the church be- The Church Warden advised there are three alternative sites for this - Through the gaps between graves or going over old graves with the family's permission, but no grave would be disturbed.

A councillor said the advantages outweigh the disadvantages a car park would keep the church open and alive.

Councillors unanimously supported the application but with the following comments – They wanted clarification of the access road onto the C.293 and to be consulted on any proposed future lighting. Also, restrictions to be placed on the car park to ensure it was not seen as a prospective site for a further dwelling.

4. NEXT MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

12th March 2020 Annual Parish Assembly

12th March 2020 Parish Council meeting following the Assembly

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.35pm.

Minutes remain in draft format until approved at the Meeting of the Council