

Mundesley Parish Council

Procedures in respect of planning matters

The procedures set out below were adopted at a meeting of the Parish Council on the 20th May 2019

1. Summary

This procedure sets out how the Parish Council considers planning matters on which it is consulted by the Planning Authority. It takes into account that:

- The consultation period for planning application is 21 days, which means that not all planning applications can be considered by the Parish Council at its scheduled meetings.
- The Parish Council believes that its constituents are best served by the Parish Council responding to application in a timely fashion.
- To ensure that consultations on planning applications are dealt with in time, the Parish Council has appointed a Planning Building and Environment Committee to facilitate the responses of the Council to planning matters.

The Parish Council has therefore resolved that any substantive actions in respect of planning matters shall be taken either by:

- the Parish Council as a whole, or
- by the Clerk acting on the advice of the Planning Building and Environment Committee, via email

2. Planning Building and Environment Committee

2.1 Membership

- At each Annual Meeting the Parish Council shall appoint from amongst its members a Planning Building and Environment Committee of at least 6 members to serve until the following annual meeting.
- If a vacancy occurs at any time by way of resignation or otherwise the Council may appoint one of its members to fill the vacancy who will serve until the next following Annual Meeting.

2.2 Duties

- It shall be the duty of the Planning Building and Environment Committee to give initial consideration to any planning matters on which the Parish Council is consulted including policy matters such as local plans as well as specific planning applications.
- Where the Council is invited to make representations on a planning application to the Planning Authority, it shall be the duty of the Planning Building and Environment Committee to ensure that the Council's Planning Protocol, as set out paragraph 3 below is adhered to in all material respects.
- The Planning Building and Environment Committee will seek to ensure that the Parish Council is seen to be fair in its treatment of the rights of applicants and local residents and that its views as consultee are consistent and well-considered.

- The Planning Building and Environment Committee shall have no power to make substantive decisions in respect of planning matters.

2.3 Conflict of interests

- A member of the Planning Building and Environment Committee who has a material interest in a planning matter referred to it shall take no part in the discussion or handling of the application.

3 Planning Protocol

3.1 Options for responding to planning applications

One of the following options shall apply when notice of a planning application on which the Parish Council is invited to comment is received.

Option 1:

If there is a scheduled Parish Council meeting before the end of the consultation period then the Clerk will place the matter on the Agenda for that meeting and any decision will be taken at that meeting.

Option 2 :

If there is no scheduled meeting before the end of the consultation period, but the Planning Building and Environment Committee [or the Chairman of the Council] considers that the application should be considered by the full Parish Council then a special meeting will be called for this purpose and any decision taken at that meeting. This option shall also apply if at least two members of the Council request that the Chairman or Clerk call a special meeting.

Option 3:

In other cases any response by the Council shall be delegated to the Clerk who shall seek advice from Planning Building and Environment Committee and shall circulate any draft response to all Councillors for their comments. Should there be an equal decision then the planning application is to be circulated to Full Council for consultation to reply within 48 hours.

Option 4:

For the Planning Building and Environment Committee to meet before any meeting to discuss the application or for the Clerk to arrange an impromptu meeting for members to discuss and decide a response to the application

3.2 Procedure at meetings of the Council

- In those cases where a planning application comes before a full meeting of the Parish Council, the any residents will be able to speak at the meeting during public participation.
- If a request is received from the applicant to speak to the Council then this will normally be permitted unless the Council, by a majority decision, determines otherwise.

- Any Councillor with a material interest in the application will take no part in the debate, unless invited to speak by the Chairman, and will not be entitled to vote on any relevant motion.
- The Council shall consider the application in public session and will decide on what response, if any, shall be provided.