Penrith Town Council

Unit 1, Church House, 19-24 Friargate, Penrith, Cumbria, CA11 7XR
Tel: 01768 899 773 Email: office@penrithtowncouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of the meeting of

EXTRA ORDINARY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Held on Monday 24 February 2025, at 5.15pm, Unit 2, Church House, 19-24 Friargate, Penrith, Cumbria, CA11 7XR.

PRESENT

Cllr Bowen	Pategill Ward
Cllr Holden	Carleton Ward
Cllr Jackson	North Ward
Cllr D Jayson	North Ward
Cllr.Shepherd	East Ward

Deputy Town Clerk

The Town Council resolved from 15 May 2023, until the next relevant Annual Meeting of the Council, that having met the conditions of eligibility as defined in the Localism Act 2011 and SI 965 The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence)(Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012, to adopt the General Power of Competence.

MINUTES FOR THE EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

MONDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2025

The Chair advised members of the Planning Committee that he had agreed to take an urgent late item that needed to be considered that evening, at the end of the agenda.

PART I

PL24/90 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence with reasons were received from Councillors Davies, Lawson and Snell.

PL24/91 Declaration of Interests and Requests for Dispensations

Members were asked to disclose their interests in matters to be discussed whether disclosable pecuniary or other registrable interest, and to decide requests for dispensations.

PL24/92 Public Participation

Members noted that there were no questions or representations that had been received from members of the public prior to the meeting.

PL24/93 EXCLUDED ITEM: Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

Members considered whether any items on the agenda should be considered without the presence of the press and public, pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act, 1960.

RESOLVED THAT

The urgent late item should be considered without the press or public due to reasons of commercial sensitivity

PL24/94 Planning Applications

a) PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

Members considered the following application which had been received and which required a committee decision. Information could be found on the Westmorland and Furness Council Website using the link shown

Application Number	2024/2356/FPA
Location Address	Beaconside C of E Primary School Hutton Hill Penrith CA11 8EN
Proposal	Extensions and alterations to existing school.

RESOLVED THAT a response be returned to Westmorland and Furness Council to OBJECT to the application.

1. Although the Town Council recognises the importance of educational development and that Beaconside School has been chosen as the school where growth will occur, it also believes that the application fails to adequately address several significant concerns related to the Transport Statement and Travel Plan relating to topography of the town, highway safety, public transport access and compliance with the relevant national and local planning policies, including the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2024 and the current Eden Local Plan.
2. There is concern that the amount of parking for staff (33 spaces [2.15 of the Transport Statement]) based on Cumbria County Council's Parking Standards is insufficient for 70FTE staff. The Transport Statement states that the current provision is well used and that free parking spaces are limited in supply. Although current Government policy trends seek to reduce single occupancy car travel, the town sits in a rural area with little to no public transport and there is no evidence provided about where the staff travel from to get to work. It would be unacceptable for additional parking to encroach onto nearby areas.
3. S9 Para 109 of the NPPF talks about sustainable transport that should be considered. Although a plan has been provided, there is concern that it does not adequately reflect the reality in the area. Although there is public transport within Penrith and three bus stops in the locality, the document rightly states that the buses do not run at times corresponding with start and finish times. Although the bus station is stated to be a 7 minute walk away and would also need the company of an adult, it does not include the reality that the walk is up hill and would take significantly longer with a young child or a pram/push chair. The lack of a robust public transport infrastructure around the school site at times to benefit those attending undermines the town's sustainability objectives outlined in Policy HS2 of the Eden Local Plan.
4. Penrith's road network is already under significant pressure given all the new and proposed development taking place. This could exacerbate highway safety issues. Given the topography of Penrith and people's lifestyles (ie working families delivering children on the way to work, caring responsibilities etc), there is an over-reliance on private vehicles. The NPPF (Para 111) emphasises that developments should only be approved when they do not significantly increase road safety hazards or cause unacceptable harm to local infrastructure. The Town Council believes that this application and the documentation provided fails to demonstrate acceptably how it will address these concerns in a comprehensive way for residents and other road users.

Application Number (Continued)	2024/2356/FPA
Location Address	Beaconside C of E Primary School Hutton Hill Penrith CA11 8EN

5. The increase in traffic volume resulting from the extension will exacerbate traffic congestion, particularly during peak school hours and further burden already busy traffic systems. It will create additional risks for pedestrians, cyclists and other road users. The roads around the school are narrow and prone to congestion due to residents on street parking and extremely busy at drop off and pick up times with cars. Issues have been reported to Highways and the Police regarding the dangers for those walking to school or crossing roads with a large number of vehicles and inconsiderate parking near junctions, across driveways and across crossing points.
6. The development does not include sustainable design features such as EV charging points and EV panels etc to provide climate change resilience measures as set out in Policy 1 of the Penrith Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Given the issues Penrith Town Council would wish to see a traffic safety case assessment including vehicle movements, together with an environmental assessment for pollution which would also affect local residents prior to any decision being made

PL24/95 Next Meeting

Members noted that the next meeting was scheduled on Monday 3 March 2025 at 5.15pm, Unit 2, Church House, 19-24 Friargate, Penrith, Cumbria, CA11 7XR.

The Chair had agreed to take the following item as a late urgent item as business.

PART II PRIVATE SECTION

There was one further item in this part of the Agenda

Members agreed that there was one item in this part of the Agenda to be considered in private. The reason that the item was considered in private is that it would involve the disclosure of exempt information under the following category of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972: Paragraph 3 - Exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

PL24/96 Appointment of Contractor

RESOLVED THAT

The recommendations within the report were agreed.

CHAIR:

DATE:

FOR THE INFORMATION OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE AND FOR INFORMATION FOR ALL REMAINING MEMBERS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

Access to Information

Copies of the agenda are available for members of the public to inspect prior to the meeting. Agenda and Part I reports are available on the Town Council website

Background Papers

Requests for the background papers to the Part I reports, excluding those papers that contain exempt information, can be made to the Town Clerk address overleaf between the hours of 9.00 am and 3.00 pm, Monday to Wednesday via office@penrithtowncouncil.gov.uk