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| **PENRITH TOWN COUNCIL** |

Unit 1, Church House, 19-24 Friargate, Penrith, Cumbria CA11 7XR

Penrith, Cumbria, CA11 7XR

**Tel:** **01768 899773 Email:** **deputytownclerk@penrithtowncouncil.co.uk**

Minutes of the meeting of the:

**SPECIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Held on: 20 November 2017, Unit 1, Church House, 19-24 Friargate, Penrith.

**PRESENT:**

Cllr Jackson - Chairman
Cllr Graham – Vice Chairman

Cllr Baker

Deputy Town Clerk

**MINUTES FOR THE PLANNING COMMITTEE Date**

**2.00PM – 2.35 PM Unit 1, Church House, 19-24 Friargate, Penrith**

Prior to the start of the meeting Members introduced themselves and welcomed the representatives of PFK to the meeting.

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| **PL/17/61 Apologies for Absence** |
| Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Kenyon. |
| **PL/17/62 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations** |
| Members were asked to disclose their interests in matters to be discussed whether disclosable pecuniary or other registrable interests, and to decide requests for dispensations.There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting. |
| **PL/17/63 Public Participation** |
| No members of the public had requested in writing to speak prior to the meeting. |
| **PL/17/64 Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 – Excluded Items** |
| **RESOLVED** that there were no agenda items to be considered without the presence of the press and public, pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 Section 2 |
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| **PL/17/65 Planning Applications** |
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| 1. **Items for Consideration**

Members were asked to consider the following item which had been received after the previous meeting and which required a response prior to the meeting already schooled in December. |
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| Planning application number: | 17/0928 |
| Site address: | LAND AT THE JUNCTION OF A6 AND B5035 PENRITH  |
| Description: | Outline planning permission for Use Class B1/B2/B8 development associated access, car parking landscaping and ecological enhancement measures with all matters reserved except for access. |

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| Members noted that the next Planning Committee Meeting would be held on Monday 11 July 2016 in Rm.2 Parish Centre, St Andrews Place. |

Members received a presentation from Stephen Lancaster, Managing Director PFK and Rachel Lightfoot, Director of Planning PFK, regarding the background to the application and the idea to develop Junction 41 to enhance the vision being consulted upon by Eden District Council. Members were advised that the proposed development was on good road links with a bus stop nearby and that PFK hoped to develop a high-quality business park, with quality buildings on a gateway into the town bringing high-quality jobs. PFK reported that they had already received some enquiries from companies considering relocating to the area.

Moved by Councillor Jackson
Seconded by Councillor Baker

and **RESOLVED** that a response of NO OBECTION be returned to EDC along with the comments that it was hoped that any traffic using the A66 could be directed to the Motorway and Junction 41 rather than cutting through the town.

It was also requested that all reserved matters come back to the Town Council for consideration when a Highways response should also be available.

**Stephen Lancaster and Rachel Lightfoot were thanked for their presentation before they left the meeting at 2.25pm.**

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| **PL/17/66 Highways Issues** |

Councillor Baker introduced the report which highlighted issues raised by residents as part of the Neighbourhood Plan consultation. As many of the issues raised were the responsibility of Cumbria County Council as the Highways Authority, it was pointed out that the Town Council could only lobby for improvements to be made rather than take the lead. Issues raised by residents as part of the consultation included:

1. the pedestrian crossing on Friargate outside Merlin Court. The pedestrian crossing is dangerous and cars, vans and wagons often drive past at speed even when people are on the crossing, usually coming from the King Street direction The crossing is regularly used by elderly people and parents with young children. Comments provided as part of the consultation suggested that more warning needed to be given before the bend on the approach from King Street, perhaps an elderly people crossing sign, or the crossing moved further away from the bend;

2. the small double roundabout at the bottom of Fell Lane at its junction with Benson Row is a very busy junction, often used by cars as part of an unofficial ‘inner ring road’ as well as being an important crossing point for children going to school. Many comments requested that consideration be given to making it light controlled because of obscure sight lines;

3. the whole of the ‘inner ring-road’ of Friargate / Benson Row / Meeting House Lane / Portland Place / Stricklandgate needs improvement;

4. light control was required at the sharp one-way exit from Folly Lane onto Carleton Road and that the Langton Street junction with King Street was very awkward and impeded traffic flow if vehicles were turning into or out of the street; and

5. Crown Square was confusing and dangerous to both drivers and pedestrians and Southend Road / Princes street was too narrow for two-way traffic and should be one-way.

Members were reminded that a parking study (both on and off street) for the whole of Penrith was to be undertaken shortly and that it would involve Cumbria County Council, Eden District Council and Penrith Town Council as well as possible other partners. This, as well as the vision for a ring road would impact on any decisions made.

**RESOLVED** that a letter be sent to the Cumbria County Council as the Highways Authority (copied to the Eden Local Committee and the District Council), requesting them to consider the issues raised, including the parking area outside the laundry on Friargate, and work with the District Council, Penrith Town Council and other interested parties to consider the improvement of traffic flow through the town for the safety of residents and visitors.

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| **PL/17/67 Next Meeting** |

It was noted that the next Planning Committee Meeting would be held on 4 December 2017 at 2.00pm – 3.00pm, the Boardroom, Penrith Town Council Offices, Unit 1, Church House, 19-24 Friargate, Penrith

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Chairman

For the attention of members of the Planning Committee:

Cllr. Jackson **Chairman**

Cllr. Graham **Vice Chairman**

Cllr. Baker

Cllr.Kenyon

**For Information only:** All other members of the Penrith Town Council

**Councillors**

Councillor R Burgin
Councillor M Clark
Councillor S Connelly
Councillor D Lawson
Councillor J Monk
Councillor J Thompson
Councillor D Whipp