

Minutes of Emergency Committee

Meeting Date: Thursday, 6 October 2011 starting at 10.00am
Present: Councillor E M H Ranson (Chairman)

Councillors:

S Hirst
A Knox
R Sherras

In attendance: Chief Executive, Director of Community Services, Director of Resources, Head of Planning Services and Head of Legal and Democratic Services.

398 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

399 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That by virtue of the next item of business being exempt information under Categories 3 and 5 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be now excluded from the meeting.

400 HENTHORN ROAD APPEAL

The Director of Community Services submitted a report asking Committee to consider the appointment of consultants and a barrister to defend the Council's case in the forthcoming Henthorn Road planning appeal. He reminded Committee that a planning application had been submitted for residential development at Henthorn Road, Clitheroe and a report was prepared by officers recommending approval in principle to the Planning and Development Committee on 15 September 2011. The application was subsequently refused by the Planning and Development Committee. The report outlined the reasons for that decision.

Subsequent to the refusal an appeal had now been lodged by the developer and will take the form of a Public Inquiry. It is anticipated to last between 3-4 days and take place in January 2012.

As a result of the appeal, various work has to be done to meet certain deadlines which includes letters advising people of the appeal, full proofs and summaries. Following on from the decision to refuse the application, the Head of Planning Services had invited several planning consultants to consider representing the Council. Two companies had subsequently indicated a willingness to do so and are both based in Manchester.

The Committee considered the aspects of appointing consultants to defend the Council's case and how we should go about this, including the role of Members.

It was felt that more investigation needed to be done in order to decide upon a consultant.

The Director of Resources informed Committee on the balance of the earmarked reserve for planning.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. agree to the appointment of consultants and a barrister to defend the Council's case;
2. delegate to the Director of Community Services the selection and appointment of consultants and a barrister to represent the Council; and
3. agree that any costs should be met from the earmarked reserve for planning.

The meeting closed at 11.10am.

If you have any queries on these minutes please contact John Heap (414461).