

# Minutes

**Meeting of:** Northern Area Committee

**Meeting held in:** Antrobus House, Amesbury

**Date:** Thursday 30 June 2005

**Commencing at:** 4.30pm

---

**Present:**

Councillor M A Hewitt – Chairman  
Councillor C G Mills – Vice-Chairman

Councillors M Baker, D W Brown, Mrs J M Greville, J C Noeken, A G Peach, J Rodell, J R G Spencer, I C West, F Westmoreland and T Woodbridge

Apologies: Councillor J A Brady and K C Wren

Parish Councillors: Mr Burt (Bulford)

Officers

Mr A Madge (Development Services), Mr G Creasey (Legal & Property Services) and S Draper (Democratic Services).

**374. Public Questions/Statement Time:**

Mr Richardson of 29 The Drove Amesbury, informed members that permission had been given to a 3m high solid wooden palisade fence at the Focus DIY in Amesbury but in fact a 3m high mesh fence had been erected. He stated that the developers had also raised the land with concrete. The result of this was that members of the public parking in the car park could now see down into Mr Richardson's garden invading his privacy and he believed that this was a breach of planning conditions. The Chairman informed Mr Richardson that this would be investigated and a response would be sent to him in due course.

**375. Councillor Questions/Statement Time:**

Councillor Mrs Greville asked when the signage at the junction of the A345 Countess Road and the A303 would be amended as promised by the Highways Agency as the current layout and signage was considered to be dangerous.

Councillor Peach informed members that he had met with the Highways Agency and some Town Councillors at the site over six weeks ago and had been assured that it would be done immediately. However, no work had yet begun.

**Resolved** - That a letter be sent from the Northern Area Committee reiterating the concerns of local members and asking the Highways Agency to confirm when the works would be undertaken.

The Chairman also asked that the County Councillors request the same through the County Council.

Councillor Mrs Greville stated that several months ago she asked if the Focus DIY store could be built at Solstice Park and she was informed it could not because Solstice Park was not allocated for retail use. However, a Somerfield Store was opening there and she asked for an explanation of why this store was allowed when the Focus store was not.

The Principal Planning Officer informed members that Solstice Park was not allocated as a retail site and that planning permission would not be granted for a retail use such as that at Focus DIY. There was a small Somerfield shop proposed as part of the petrol station but combined with the petrol station this was classed in planning terms as a Sui generis use and, as such, was not a strict retail use as it was ancillary to the petrol station site.

**376. Minutes:**

**Resolved** – that the minutes of the special meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2005 (previously circulated) and the ordinary meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2005, subject to minute number 369 being amended to read “that he had visited the site and had been told by the archaeologist that the work had been satisfactorily completed”, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**377. Declarations of Interest:**

Councillor D Brown declared a personal and prejudicial interest in planning application number S/2005/1010 as he lives in the immediate vicinity of the development and withdrew from the meeting during consideration thereof.

**378. Chairman’s Announcements:**

None.

**379. Update on the Co-Location of a Public Office on the Library Health Centre Site**

The Property Services Manager informed members that the co-location was still progressing and September was still the projected date for Customer Services staff to move into the Library. A meeting was being held with officers from Wiltshire County Council to resolve any outstanding legal issues but that the project was on track.

Thanks were given to the officer for arranging a meeting for the Town Council in the building and it was hoped that the building would be regularly patronised by local people in the future.

**Resolved** – that a further update be brought to the next meeting.

**380. Update on the Expansion of Porton Down**

Councillor Hewitt informed members that he and Councillor Wren had attended a briefing meeting with many parish council representatives at Porton Down. He stated that approximately 2000 extra workers would be relocated to Porton Down including many workers from Farnborough. Some of the workers from Farnborough would be expected to commute and other workers would be moved to within 30 minutes of the site. However, approximately 1000 workers would be moved to the immediate vicinity and therefore it was important to ensure that the correct infrastructure was in place to support these new residents, including schools, hospitals, GPs and roads. However, it was noted that DSTL had informed members at the meeting that there would not be a sufficient number of new residents to justify re-opening the railway station at Porton Down.

It is anticipated that this expansion will be completed in 2007.

**Resolved** – that a further update be brought to the next meeting.

**381. Update on the Development of the CO-OP in Amesbury**

The Property Services Manager informed members that the CO-OP had informed him that something of archaeological interest had been found during the site investigation and that therefore the development would be delayed. He had been informed that it was unlikely that the project would be completed by Christmas, it was more likely to be completed in the Spring of 2006.

Members expressed their continued frustration at the repeated delays and stated that the people of Amesbury were becoming very sceptical that this development would ever be completed.

**Resolved** – that an update be brought to the next meeting.

**382. S/2005/1010 – Advert Application – Shop Sign: Focus (DIY) Store London Road, Amesbury, Salisbury SP4 7EQ For Focus (DIY) Limited**

Mr Wilkins, a next door neighbour spoke in objection to the above application.

Mrs Rennie, a local resident, spoke on behalf of other local residents in objection to the above application.

The speaking time was divided between these two speakers.

Following receipt of these statements, the Committee considered the report of the Head of Development Services (previously circulated) together with the schedule of late correspondence circulated at the meeting:

**Resolved** –

1. That the application for the totem sign be **REFUSED** for the following reasons:

1. The proposed sign by reason of its height adjacent neighbouring residential properties is considered to be an overbearing and un-neighbourly addition to this development out of character with other commercial signage in the area which in turn would have an adverse effect on the amenity of neighbouring residents and the general public and streetscape contrary to policy G11 of the adopted local plan

2. That the remainder of the application be **APPROVED** for the following reasons

1. The proposed fascia and directional signage is considered to be acceptable in view of the commercial nature of the site and the size and positioning of the signs and would not have an adverse impact on either neighbouring amenity or highway safety It is therefore considered the signage complies with policy G11 of the adopted local plan.

And subject to the following conditions

- 1) That the signs shall not be illuminated.

Reason: In the interests of amenity.

- 2) The proposed sign shall have a minimum clearance of 2.4m above the level of the highway.

Reason: In the interests of highway safety

3. That the applicant be informed of the following:

- (1) That members would prefer the signs to be smaller in the interests of the amenity of local residents.
- (2) That members felt the amount of writing and the illumination of the totem sign would be detrimental to highway safety.
- (2) that the above decision has been taken in accordance with the following policy/policies of the adopted Salisbury District Local Plan:  
Policy G11 Advertisements

Note: members were concerned about the anecdotal evidence voiced at the meeting which indicated that the developers were not abiding by the conditions set out in the original planning permission granted for the store. Therefore members asked that officers visit the site and consider carefully whether or not the site is in compliance with the planning permission and that a report be brought back to the Northern Area Committee outlining what possible actions can be taken to remedy any breaches that are found.

**383. Exempt Information:**

In view of the confidential nature of the matters to be considered, it was:

**Agreed:** that the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of those matters defined as 'Exempt' under the Access to Information Act 1985 as specified below:

Paragraph 12 namely “Any instructions to Counsel and any opinion of Counsel (whether or not in connection with any proceedings) and any advice received, information obtained or action to be taken in connection with –

- (a). any legal proceedings by or against the authority; or;
- (b). the determination of any matter affecting the authority

(whether, in either case, proceedings have been commenced or are in contemplation)” and Paragraph 13 namely “Information which, if disclosed to the public would reveal that the authority proposes –

- (a). to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or;
- (b). to make an order or direction under any enactment”

***Summary of Exempt Matters***  
A Property in Newton Toney

*The meeting concluded at 5.50pm*  
*Members of the public present: 27*