

**COUNCIL BUSINESS
COMMITTEE**

6.00 P.M.

12TH MARCH 2015

PRESENT: Councillors Roger Mace (Vice-Chairman in the Chair), Tim Hamilton-Cox, Joan Jackson and Roger Sherlock

Apologies for Absence:

Councillors Janet Hall (Chairman), Melanie Forrest and Geoff Knight

Officers in attendance:

Debbie Chambers

Democratic Services Manager

Peter Baines

Senior Democratic Support Officer

23 MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a correct record.

24 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIRMAN

There were no items of urgent business.

25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

26 PROTOCOL ON LICENSING PROCEDURE

The Committee considered a draft protocol on licensing procedure, which had been recommended for inclusion in the Council's Constitution.

It was noted that the protocol had been produced to assist members when dealing with business at both the Licensing Act Committee and the Licensing Regulatory Committee, and that it was hoped to be particularly helpful to new members of those committees, appointed following the elections in May 2015.

The draft protocol had been considered by the Licensing Regulatory Committee and the Licensing Act Committee at their respective meetings in November and December 2014, and referred to the Standards Committee. The Standards Committee considered the draft protocol at its meeting on the 22nd January 2015, and recommended it to Council Business Committee for inclusion in the Council's constitution.

Resolved:

That the draft protocol on licensing procedure be approved for inclusion in the Council's constitution.

27 APPEALS COMMITTEE

The Committee considered a report of the Monitoring Officer to consider two recommendations to Council concerning Appeals Committee hearings.

It was noted that the majority of Appeals Committee business concerned objections to Tree Preservation Orders, and that the report recommended documenting the procedure for objections to Tree Preservation Orders in the Council's constitution.

Councillor Mace, seconded by Councillor Jackson, proposed recommendation (1) as set out in the report and:

- (2) That Council be recommended to include at Part 3, Section 7 of the Constitution under "Composition of the Appeals Committee":

'Members of Planning and Highways Regulatory Committee must not sit on the Appeals Committee to decide formal objections to Tree Preservation Orders if they have previously considered a related planning application.'

Councillor Hamilton-Cox suggested amending the last line of (2) as follows:

"previously considered a directly related planning application".

This was accepted as a friendly amendment by Councillor Mace and his seconder, and agreed by the Committee when a vote was taken.

Resolved:

- (1) That new procedure rules be adopted for inclusion at part 4, section 10 of the Constitution, in connection with Appeals Committee hearings which consider formal objections to Tree Preservation Orders, the procedure rules being a formalised version of the guidance developed by Democratic Services.
- (2) That Council be recommended to include, at part 3, section 7 of the constitution, under 'Composition of the Appeals Committee', the following text:

'Members of Planning and Highways Regulatory Committee must not sit on the Appeals Committee to decide formal objections to Tree Preservation Orders if they have previously considered a directly related planning application.'

28 APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP

There were no appointments to committees or changes to membership.

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 6:25pm)

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
Peter Baines, Democratic Services - 01524 582074 or email pbaines@lancaster.gov.uk**