

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE KIG JOINT PARISHES GROUP

Held on 11th February 2009 at 7.30pm.

The meeting was chaired by Richard Jacques - TPC

1. Apologies

Richard Jacques gave the apologies received from group members.

2. KIG Progress.

Neil Harris from MBC attended the meeting to explain the procedures in place for the MBC planning hearing.

He informed members that the Borough Council was looking for a location large enough for all to attend and he stated that this would possibly be Mote Hall; however this had not yet been set.

He explained the proposed planning hearing time scales, stating that each group had a 30 minute time slot to speak, firstly the objectors, this would be based on a first come first served basis as only ten would be able to speak.

He informed members that the Parish Councils slot would be next and the JPG could make one single presentation or the Parish Councils with the site area would be able to speak. Richard Jacques confirmed that this would be a joint presentation by the JPG.

The next representations would be made by the developers and finally the non committee ward members would have their opportunity to speak.

Mr Harris explained that during the course of the hearing a system was in place to defer to the planning referrals process, this was an opportunity for a different committee to look at the decision of the first committee.

Peter Waite asked Mr Harris whether the StopKIG group would also have an opportunity to speak.

Mr Harris confirmed that the existing planning hearing process was in place and therefore StopKIG would have to speak within the objectors section of the hearing.

Peter Waite asked whether written statements from the JPG would be accepted by the planning committee as a summary of the group's presentation.

Mr Harris stated that if the papers were a summary of the group's presentation then he did not see this as being a problem, however he stated that he would check these details with the Chairman of the Committee.

Larry Mulheirn asked if there was anything procedural that would prevent StopKIG from making its presentation with the JPG.

Mr Harris stated that the PC slot was for the parish councils and should StopKIG make a presentation within this slot then they would be speaking on behalf of the Parish Councils, however he stated that he would confirm this detail with the Chairman.

Larry Mulheirn asked why the applicant was given the opportunity to speak after the objectors.

Mr Harris confirmed that this was the normal procedure in place for planning hearings.

Jeff Licence asked if planning committee members had already declared their opposition for the application, would this prevent them from speaking at a planning hearing?

Mr Harris confirmed that they would still have the opportunity to speak.

Pat Sandford asked what members would be able to speak at the hearing.

Mr Harris stated that the Ward Members from Thurnham, Hollingbourne and Bearsted would be able to speak.

There was some debate as to whether the Ward Members who were on the Planning Committee, but not sitting on the Committee for the hearing would be able to speak.

Mr Harris stated that he would look into this matter and liaise with the members regarding this query.

Paul Mace asked for confirmation of the procedure in place for the objector's slot, he stated that the system needed to be fair and give consideration to the postal delivery times.

Mr Harris stated that this was area that needed to be considered further to ensure that a fair system was in place for the objectors wishing to speak.

Members asked about the number of representations received during the reconciliation process and queried how the email objections were dealt with, as the system did not request an address.

Mr Harris stated that he would liaise with the relevant department regarding this matter.

A further discussion took place regarding the planning hearing process.

The Chairman thanked Mr Harris for attending the meeting.

Mr Harris then left the meeting.

3. MBC Planning Hearing.

Mr Jacques informed members that the meeting was now for the groups working on their presentations for the planning hearing to work on these and establish the views of the group.

4. Other Items.

No matters were raised.

5. Date of Next Meeting.

The date of the next meeting was set for Wednesday 18th February 2009 @ 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.55pm