

Axminster Town Council

Office Hours
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
10am – 12 noon

Mayor: Cllr Jill Farrow
Locum Clerk: Paul Hayward

www.axminstertowncouncil.gov.uk



THE GUILDHALL
WEST STREET
AXMINSTER
DEVON
EX13 5NX

Tel. 01297 32088

Email: Clerk@axminstertowncouncil.gov.uk

Axminster Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee

APPROVED at the meeting of the Planning Committee held 31st January 2022.

Held via Zoom as a consultative meeting on Monday 17th January 2022 at 7.00 p.m.

Present online: Cllrs. Leat (Chair), Hall (Vice-Chair), Brooker (S), Farrow, Paice, Spurway & Steadman. Locum Town Clerk, Paul Hayward.
Cllr. Sarah Jackson (EDDC Ward member).

No members of the public.

As a result of the meeting being held “virtually”, any decisions made below are only recommendations but the decisions can be submitted to EDDC by the (Locum) Clerk under the delegated powers already afforded by way of Council’s extant Standing Orders.

Public Forum session. No members of the public present. Chair closed the Public Forum session at 7.07pm

PLAN 22/001 **To note members of committee present:**
Attendance at meeting shown above.

PLAN 22/002 **To note and, if thought fit, to approve apologies for absence:**
Cllr. Mynard. Absence noted and reason approved.

PLAN 22/003 **To note members of committee not otherwise present and to receive any other apologies for absence:**
Cllr. Ian Hall (DCC) sent his apologies.

PLAN 22/004 **To receive any declarations of interest from members of the committee in relation to items of business on this agenda and to note any dispensations previously afforded: This does not preclude the need for members to declare any additional interests that may arise during this meeting.**

None declared.

Minutes continued overleaf

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PLAN 22/005 **To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held in consultative session on 20th December 2021 and to consider any matters arising from those minutes:**

Approval of the minutes proposed by Chair, seconded by Cllr. Hall. Resolved unanimously.
No matters arising.

PLAN 22/006 **To consider any matters listed on this agenda that Councillors consider should be dealt with as confidential business as per the provisions of The Public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960:**

None raised by committee members.

PLAN 22/007 **To consider planning applications received and to decide upon Council's consultee comment response to the local planning authority, EDDC – see statement above.**

i) 21/2891/VAR Unit 9-9A Weycroft Avenue, Axminster, EX13 5PH
Removal of condition 5 of planning approval 7/75/03/P1080/00527 to allow proposed retail use of building within Class E use.

Chair proposed that application be supported. Seconded by Cllr. Hall. Resolved unanimously.

PLAN 22/008 **To consider planning applications advised by the Local Planning Authority (East Devon District Council) after the agenda publication and as shown on the supplementary agenda published (if applicable):**

None submitted/advised to the Planning Committee at the time of the meeting.

PLAN 22/009 **To note determinations/decisions on planning applications previously considered:**

None advised.

PLAN 22/010 **To note any planning matters pertaining to trees:**

None advised.

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PLAN 22/011 **To note any planning appeals as notified to the Town Council:**

None advised.

PLAN 22/012 **To note any enforcement matters as notified to the Town Council:**

None advised.

PLAN 22/013 **To consider any planning correspondence:**

Correspondence had been received from a parishioner prior to the meeting but too late to circulate to all members for their proper and timely consideration. Chair suggested that this matter be deferred to the next scheduled planning committee meeting. Agreed.

PLAN 22/014 **To consider any planning applications which are scheduled to be discussed at a forthcoming EDDC Planning Committee meeting and to consider whether the Town Council wishes to make further representation at that meeting:**

There was one application scheduled to be considered at the forthcoming EDDC Planning Committee meeting to be held on 19th January 2022 but members did not wish to make any further representations. No further action therefore required.

PLAN 22/015 **To consider matters pertaining to the ongoing EDDC Local Plan review:**

Locum Town Clerk gave a brief update on the progress of the EDDC Local Plan Review and its potential impact on development in the Axminster parish and elsewhere in the district. It was noted that the review was currently in the draft review stage and that the Town Council would be consulted further once the next draft version was published for consultation. Chair asked that this matter remain as a standing item on the agenda for this committee given the significance and importance of the review to Axminster's planning and infrastructure.

PLAN22/016 **To consider any matters considered as urgent by the presiding Chair:**

Chair proposed that the committee consider an urgent matter on which the Town Council had recently been made aware ie. the proposed sale of the land at Axminster Hospital (currently occupied by the Scott Rowe building) for alternate uses.

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After a lengthy debate, it was recommended that the Clerk be directed to correspond with DCC Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee to seek consent to speak at the Committee meeting on the 20th January 2022 to outline Council's concerns at the manner in which Town Council found out about this sale (a concern raised by the County Councillor, Cllr. Ian Hall) and the impact that the sale of this community building would have on the town. The Clerk to prepare a statement on Council's behalf (to be approved by Chair and Vice-Chair prior to presentation) to include the following observations/concerns:

Loss of community resource which had been paid for primarily by public donations.

Loss of healthcare provision when the needs of the town were increasing due to development.

Lack of joined-up thinking between public sector bodies in relation to community resources. Concerns that no evidence had been provided to justify the sale by NHS Property Services Ltd.

Suggestion that building could be re-purposed to provide much needed mental healthcare for town residents.

Concerns that development into market-value/private dwellings represents more harm than benefit.

Concerns that the Town Council (as a statutory local authority) should have been notified as a courtesy rather than discovering the sale via the erection of a For Sale board.

NB. The Chair of the HAACSC refused consent to the Town Council to speak at the meeting on 20th January 2022 and advised the Town Council that the committee had no jurisdiction over the sale of land and buildings by NHS Property Services Limited.

With no further business to attend to, the Chair closed the meeting at 7.30pm.

Signed Date