

Berwick Parish Council

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of Berwick Parish Council held at the Berwick Village Hall on 23rd October 2018 at 7:30pm

51. Present

Cllrs B Smith (Chairman), K Winter, S Carnie and D Robinson.

Alison Stevens (Clerk) and eight members of the public were also in attendance.

52. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors V Burrough and C Bird and were accepted by those present.

County Councillor N Bennett and District Councillor P Ede also sent apologies for their absence.

53. Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interests nor were there any changes to the Register of Interests.

The meeting was then suspended.

54. Public Question Time

Residents raised their objections to Planning Application WD/2018/2023/F – Berwick Stores, Station Road, Berwick, BN26 6TA – Proposed replacement extension to rear and side elevations and conversion of roof space to provide two additional flats.

Residents said that whilst they appreciate the number of flats has reduced from 5 to 4, their original objections still stand. They also said;

- They do not understand how the views of the Wealden Planning Officer and the Planning Inspector seem to over-ride the views of Wealden's own Planning Committee, and the local knowledge of residents and Berwick Parish Councillors.
- The footprint of the property has still increased. The ground floor only leaves 6.5m to the boundary of Meadow View Cottage, and 11.5m window to window, which is far less than Wealden District Council's recommended 20 m.
- The flats still overlook existing properties.
- There are even more windows looking out onto Meadow View Cottages.
- Have the latest ESCC parking guidelines been used because the 6th and 7th car parking places have no turning space and cars will have to reverse out onto an already busy road.
- Comparing the crossing at Polegate with Berwick is wrong. The view at Polegate is clear, whereas the view at Berwick is obstructed because it is on a dog leg bend. The safety of residents is already compromised as speeding cars end up in people's gardens and have also narrowly missed pedestrians.
- If it is allowed to go ahead it could set a precedent which could see more properties being converted into flats which is out of keeping with Berwick's status as a village.

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The meeting was then re-opened.

55. Planning Applications

Councillors considered the following planning application;

WD/2018/2023/F – Berwick Stores, Station Road, Berwick, BN26 6TA – Proposed replacement extension to rear and side elevations and conversion of roof space to provide two additional flats.

Berwick Parish Council cannot express strongly enough how disappointed it is that the views and local knowledge expressed by residents and councillors seem to have been ignored. Whilst Berwick Parish Council appreciates the number of flats has decreased, its original objections still stand. Councillors also added the following;

- The opinion of the Planning Inspector and the Planning Officer seem to over-ride the views of Wealden's own Planning Committee, and the local knowledge of residents and Berwick Parish Councillors.
- The footprint of the property has still increased and we question whether the latest ESCC parking guidelines have been used because the 6th and 7th car parking places have no turning space which means cars will have to reverse out onto an already busy road.
- We, and local residents, know the road is already busy and that the railway crossing when down means there are significant queues and comparing Berwick Station to Polegate Station is clearly wrong. The view at Polegate is clear, whereas the view at Berwick is obstructed because it is on a dog leg bend. The safety of residents is already compromised as speeding cars end up in their gardens and have narrowly missed pedestrians.
- The property is still too big, it is still too close to Meadow View Cottages and it still overlooks six properties.
- There are now even more windows facing Meadow View Cottages.

Berwick Parish Council cannot express strongly enough how much it objects to this application.

56. Questions from Parish Councillors

There were questions from Parish Councillors on this occasion.

There was no further business and this meeting closed at 8.00pm

Signed: _____
Chairman

Date: _____

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