

Minutes of a site meeting held on **Monday, 20 September 2021** commencing at 10.30am at Land West Side of Chapel Road, Grundisburgh

Planning Committee South Members present:

Councillors Debbie McCallum (Chairman), Stuart Bird (Vice-Chairman), Paul Ashdown (Substitute), Chris Blundell, Mike Deacon, John Fisher (Substitute), Colin Hedgley, Mark Newton (arrived at 10.50am), Kay Yule.

Officers present:

Matt Makin (Democratic Services Officer), Steve Milligan (Planner), Philip Ridley (Head of Planning and Coastal Management) and Ben Woolnough (Planning Development Manager).

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The site visit was undertaken in accordance with the Council's Constitution which set out details of the arrangements for site visits by Members associated with planning applications during the Covid19 pandemic.

Councillors Tony Cooper and Tom Daly gave apologies for the site visit. Councillor Paul Ashdown attended as Councillor Cooper's substitute and Councillor John Fisher attended as Councillor Daly's substitute; both were also substituting for Councillors Cooper and Daly at the meeting of the Committee at 2pm.

The purpose of the site meeting was a 'fact finding' exercise only and to provide Members with an opportunity to view the site and its surroundings.

The Planner outlined the site map and outlined the route that Members would be walking and provided a summary of the proposed development.

The Committee walked from the Grundisburgh Recreation Ground carpark back along the access to Ipswich Road. The Planning Development Manager highlighted the proposed pedestrian connectivity to the rest of the village across this route, that would link to Footpath 20. The Committee's attention was drawn to a nearby development.

The Committee returned to the Grundisburgh Recreation Area and followed Footpath 20 towards the application site. The footpath's connection to Postmill Gardens was highlighted, which would be a potential route to Grundisburgh Primary School. The Committee's attention was also drawn to the vegetation along Footpath 20.

Upon reaching the boundary of the application site, the diversion of Footpath 20, around a hedgerow, was outlined. Officers highlighted that local residents had used an informal cut-through in the hedgerow but this was not part of the footpath's route. The Committee was advised that improvements to the footpath, including surfacing and formalising the best route, would be secured via a Section 278 agreement.

The Committee entered the site at its north-west corner; officers indicated the location of an area of public space to the south of the site and where Footpath 20 continued along the northern boundary.

The Committee continued east, along the northern boundary of the site. The Planning Development Manager highlighted that the trees along this section of Footpath 20 were capable of being retained.

The Committee stopped approximately halfway across the northern boundary of the site to take in views to the south of the site, which would be along the central route of the development. The site's topography was noted, and officers confirmed that the proposals included an attenuation basin at the south of the site to mitigate this.

*At this point in the site visit Councillor Newton arrived, having been delayed. The Chairman recapped the information shared with the Committee up until this point. It was confirmed that Councillor Newton had walked the path taken by the Committee so far.*

The Committee continued along Footpath 20 to the north-east corner of the site; the Planning Development Manager outlined the mix of dwellings proposed and their positioning on the site.

The Committee exited the site at its north-east corner to Chapel Road. The Planner noted Chapel Road's relationship with Meeting Lane to the north and highlighted the Parish Council's concerns about this being the desired school route.

The Committee moved towards the south of Chapel Road, which was described as being narrow. The location of a second passing place suggested by the independent transport consultant was highlighted.

The Committee was shown the informal footpath that ran parallel to Chapel Road towards the public open space. A perimeter route incorporating this path was proposed.

*Several members of the public were present at this point. Following an interaction between a member of the Committee and a member of the public, the Chairman announced that the member of the public had taken offence at being asked to maintain their distance from the Committee; witnesses had advised the Chairman that the member of the Committee in question had been polite during this interaction.*

The Committee walked back the way it came, finishing the site visit in the carpark of the Grundisburgh Recreation Area. The Chairman highlighted that the traffic seen on Chapel Road appeared to be higher than usual, due to the site visit, and asked Members to remain impartial.

The Committee left the carpark via a convoy of cars and proceeded to Lower Road. The Committee stopped on Lower Road to view the location of the proposed access to the site, before leaving the area.

The site visit concluded at 11.18am.