



BINHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk – Keith Leesmith
31 Dogger Lane, Wells-next-the-Sea
Norfolk, NR23 1BE 01328 710261
keith@leesmith.co.uk

2016/04

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING to discuss the latest proposed plans for the Priory Crescent/Walsingham Road Site – held on TUESDAY 26 JANUARY 2016 AT THE MEMORIAL HALL

Those Present Mike Bond, Liz Brown, David Frost (Chairman), Stan Hewitt, Lucy McCallum & William Wales
Keith Leesmith (Clerk), Marie Strong (NCC), 11 Members of the Public

1) Apologies received: Mike Chapman, Vincent Fitzpatrick (NNDC)

2) Declarations of interest: None

3) Proposed Development at Priory Crescent/Walsingham Road

DF explained that this was a “single issue” meeting to discuss the latest plans and to agree the submission that the Parish Council would make by Monday 1st February. Immediately prior to the meeting there had been an open afternoon at which village residents were invited to inspect the plans and to make comments. About twenty people attended and almost all were concerned at the lack of parking space for the affordable homes. Following this, the Parish Councillors had sat as a committee to consider the plans.

MB described the conclusion that the Councillors had come to. Since our previous submission on the original plans, several issues had been addressed, for which we were grateful. However, our main concern was the density of the estate, particularly the affordable housing section where we thought that the housing was too small and too densely packed. Although there had been an increase in parking spaces, we still believed that there was not an adequate number.

Councillors therefore believed that we should object to the plans in their current form. We thought that most people in the village understood that it was desirable to build affordable homes, but that these should be of a better standard, with more parking spaces than proposed. If the number of market houses were reduced from 14 to 10 this would “free up” a lot of land that could be used to achieve those ends. According to calculations a mix of 14 affordable and 10 market houses should be financially viable. It may mean that there would not be a large surplus to build affordable housing in other villages, but there was no reason why Binham should be regarded as the “cash cow” to enable this to take place.

Several members of the public spoke to agree that this seemed to be a reasonable solution. The village was not opposing the plans outright, but wanted to see that the final proposals assisted rather than opposed the good relationship that residents currently have with one another.

As previously, the Councillors would agree the final wording of their response by email over the following few days and advise the village accordingly.

The meeting closed at 20.00