

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Licensing Committee held on Wednesday 23 March 2016 at 6.00 pm at Addenbrooke House, Ironmasters Way, Telford

PRESENT

Councillors H Rhodes (Chair), M Boylan, G Cook, J Francis, M Hosken, R T Kiernan (substitute for I Fletcher), C Mason, S J Reynolds, J Seymour and M Smith

Officers in attendance: I Ross (Solicitor), H Rea (Legal Assistant) and P Smith (Democratic Services Team Leader)

LC-29 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor I Fletcher

LC-30 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No disclosable pecuniary interests were declared. Councillor Boylan stated that his parents lived at Priorslee, but had no direct involvement in agenda item 4 – Village Green Application at Priorslee

LC-31 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2016 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

LC-32 VILLAGE GREEN APPLICATION AT PRIORSLEE

The Legal Assistant presented the report of the Assistant Director: Legal, Procurement & Commissioning concerning an application made by St Georges & Priorslee Parish Council to register land between Priorslee Avenue and Derwent Drive, Priorslee as a Village Green.

The application was originally submitted in February 2010 prior to the introduction of new rules brought in as part of the Growth & Infrastructure Act 2013. The application was appended to the report, and met the requirements of the Commons (Registration of Town or Village Greens) (Interim Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2007. The applicants subsequently decided to alter the boundary of the land being claimed as a village green, and a map showing the reduced application site area was appended to the report. There had been a delay in processing the application, partly due to locating the owner of the application site. The majority of the site was unregistered, but was believed to be owned either by the Homes & Communities Agency (HCA) or Telford & Wrekin Council. A small area of the site was registered to HCA. It was stressed that the lack of ownership did not prevent the Council from registering the land as a village green.

Consultation was carried out with various parties including the possible landowners, and notices were erected on the site. No objections to the application had been received, and it was therefore being considered as an uncontested application. The Committee were asked to consider the evidence that had been submitted and determine on the balance of probabilities whether the case had been proven for registration of the land as a Village Green. This included the requirement that there should be satisfactory evidence that a significant number of local inhabitants had indulged as or right in lawful sports and pastimes on the land for a period of at least 20 years and they continued to do so at the time of the application.

During the ensuing discussion, some concern was expressed that the ownership of the majority of the land in question was not known. The Legal Assistant stated that the HCA had indicated that they had transferred the majority of the land to Telford & Wrekin Council, but could not produce a deed or any other evidence to prove that. This was an unusual situation, but did not prevent determination of the application.

Having considered all the evidence provided with the application, Members were satisfied that the criteria for a village green had been met. It was also noted that there had been no objections to the application.

RESOLVED – that sufficient evidence has been provided by the applicants, and that the case has been proved for registration of the land between Priorslee Avenue and Derwent Drive, Priorslee as a Village Green.

The meeting closed at 6.12pm.

Chairman:

Date: