

Minutes

of a meeting of the

Planning Committee

held at the Council Chamber,
The Abbey House, Abingdon
on Monday 11 November 2013 at 6.30pm



Open to the public, including the press

Present:

Members: Councillors Robert Sharp (Chairman), Sandy Lovatt (Vice-Chairman), Eric Batts, Roger Cox, Anthony Hayward, Bob Johnston, Bill Jones, Sue Marchant, Jerry Patterson, Helen Pighills, Janet Shelley, Margaret Turner, Catherine Webber and John Woodford.

Other Members: Councillors Reg Waite and Richard Webber.

Officers: Sandra Fryer, Laura Hudson, Peter Brampton and Steve Culliford.

Number of members of the public: 2

PI.438 Chairman's announcements

The chairman outlined the procedure for the meeting, asked attendees to switch off any mobile phones, and highlighted the emergency exit procedure.

PI.439 Urgent business

None

PI.440 Notification of substitutes and apologies for absence

None

PI.441 Declarations of pecuniary interests and other declarations

None

PI.442 Statements and petitions from the public on planning applications

The list showing public speakers was tabled at the meeting.

PI.443 Statements, petitions and questions from the public on other matters

None

PI.444 European Centre for Space Applications and Telecommunication, Fermi Avenue, Chilton. P13/V2140/EZ

The officer presented the report on an application for an office building with conference facilities to act as headquarters for the European Space Agency on land at Fermi Avenue, Chilton. Consultations, representations, policy and guidance and this site's planning history were detailed in the officer's report which formed part of the agenda pack for this meeting. The officer had no updates to report.

Public speakers

Paul Cannock, the head of facility management for the European Space Agency, spoke in favour of the application. His points included:

- The proposed facility would be the headquarters for the European Space Agency and would include conference facilities
- This would bring benefits to the local economy
- The proposed development was of high quality in an attractive environment and would be sustainable
- The applicants would work with the local communities

Councillor Reg Waite, a ward councillor, supported the application, his comments included:

- There should be more than 20 additional car parking spaces at the site to cope with demand when the conference facility was in use
- Would there be local buses to the site?
- Would the conference centre be available for other local businesses to use, thereby integrating the European Space Agency into the local business community?

Councillor Margaret Turner, another ward councillor, spoke in support of the application. She believed:

- Both Chilton and Harwell parish councils supported the application
- The economic benefits of the proposal outweighed the impact on the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- There should be more car parking to accommodate conference delegates
- There would be a traffic impact on Harwell village
- Should there be a greater contribution to public transport?
- What was included in the transport statement and the travel plan?

The committee considered this application, with advice from officers where appropriate; the discussion covered the following points:

- The parking provision would be sufficient as the offices would not be occupied fully all of the time
- The county council had only sought contributions towards improved bus shelters
- The design and materials proposed for the building had been chosen to blend in with the Synchrotron Diamond Light Source building on the adjacent site

- There should be an additional condition restricting telecommunications apparatus on the building with prior planning permission
- Native deciduous trees should be planted on the site
- Care should be taken over the design elements of the building's exterior and the local members should be consulted before the materials were approved

RESOLVED (by 14 votes to nil)

To grant planning permission subject to:

1: A legal agreement with the County Council or other mechanism to secure contributions towards a bus shelter on Fermi Avenue and other facilities to encourage the use of sustainable transport to and from the site; and

2: Conditions as follows:

1 : Time limit - Full Application

2 : Approved plans

3 : Slab and ridge Levels to be agreed

4 : Samples of all materials to be agreed including plant cladding, **and to be approved in consultation with the local members**

5 : Landscaping Scheme (Submission) to be agreed, including management plan, **including the use of native deciduous trees**

6 : Landscaping Scheme (Implementation) to be agreed

7 : Drainage Details (Surface and Foul) to be agreed

8 : Sustainable Drainage Scheme to be agreed

9 : No Drainage to Highway

10 : Access details to be agreed

11 : Car Parking in accordance with approved plan

12 : Turning Space in accordance with approved plan

13 : Construction Traffic Management Plan to be agreed

14 : Cycle parking for 16 spaces to be provided as per Transport Statement

15 : Submitted Travel Plan to be adopted

16 : Archaeological Watching Brief to be agreed

17 : Monitoring of Archaeological Watching Brief

18 : Wildlife Protection in accordance with application

19 : Flood prevention measures in accordance with application

20 : Tree Protection as per submitted arboricultural method statement

21 : Details of flags to be agreed

22 : No telecommunications apparatus shall be added to the exterior of the building without the prior permission of the local planning authority.

Exempt information under section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972

None

The meeting closed at 6.25pm.