

Report to Full Council
Monday 5th September 2022

Planning Committee/Sub-Committee

Background

Members have asked the Executive Officer to investigate the practicalities of a Committee/Sub-Committee to deal with planning applications due to the length of time this item is taking at Full Council and members have expressed concern that not all planning applications are given enough consideration.

Recommendation

The recommendation is that the Parish Council should form a Committee that sits under Full Council with delegated powers to consider, agree and submit recommendations on planning applications on behalf of the Parish Council.

Cllrs need to be aware that this does mean that the Committee will be making the final decision on the Parish Council's response to all planning applications and planning matters. The Committee can be formed without delegated powers, but this would not achieve the aim and has the possibility to hinder the planning consultation process with the possibility of the Parish Council missing consultation deadlines.

A Sub-Committee would not sit under Full Council but would sit under another Committee as part of its remit.

Councillors who are not members of the Planning Committee would still have the opportunity to attend Committee meetings and speak under public participation like any other Committee.

Having looked at the calendar of meetings the Planning Committee would only be able to meet on a Tuesday morning in the Beechfield Centre at 9.30am for 1 hour.

Given the responsibility of the Committee it is recommended that the Committee follows the structure of the Finance and Personnel Committee and is elected at the first Annual Parish Council meeting following an election and shall remain until the next election unless a member resigns or becomes disqualified. This will allow members of the Committee to undertake training in the role of Town and Parish Councils in the planning system.

It is also recommended that the Neighbourhood Plan should sit under the Planning Committee.

Draft terms of reference for consideration are details below.

Terms of Reference

1. Membership of the Planning Committee

The Membership of the Planning Committee shall be appointed at the first Annual Parish Council meeting following an election and shall remain until the next election unless a member resigns or becomes disqualified.

2. Remit

a) Planning Committee remit and delegated authority:

- The Planning Committee is responsible for considering and responding to Planning Applications as a consultee on behalf of the Parish Council.

- The Planning Committee will also respond, on behalf of the Parish Council, to consultations on national and local policies relating to planning.

- The Planning Committee is responsible for the development and review of the Fremington Parish Neighbourhood Plan.

Membership: 7

V Woodhouse
August 2022