

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

SOUTHERN RURAL COMMITTEE
(Cadwell, Codicote, Graveley & Wymondley, Hitchwood, Hoo, Kimpton, Knebworth
and Offa Wards)

Minutes of the meeting held in Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Gernon Road,
Letchworth Garden City on Thursday 26 April 2007 at 7.30 p.m.

MINUTES

PRESENT: *Councillor D.J. Barnard (Chairman), Tom Brindley (Vice-Chairman),
A. Bardett, John Bishop, Tricia Gibbs, J. Gray and Sal Jarvis.*

IN ATTENDANCE: *John Chapman – Area Planning Officer,
Garry Gover – Community Development Officer,
Tim Hobman – Committee and Member Services Officer.*

Two Members of the Public

130. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors David Miller and Mrs C.P.A. Strong

131. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2007 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

132. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made it known to the Committee that an offender has successfully been prosecuted for fly tipping in the Southern Rural Area. The Chairman thanked the Community Development Officer for his good work in this matter.

The Chairman thanked the Area Planning Officer for his professional duties and planning guidance in the Southern Rural Area; as of May 2007 there will be a Central Planning Committee dealing with all planning applications across the district.

The Chairman also thanked the Committee and Member Services Officer for all his work regarding the Letchworth Area Committee and wished him well on his transfer to the Licensing and Enforcement department with this authority.

133. NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was submitted for consideration by the Committee.

134. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interest were received prior to, or at the meeting.

135. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Cllr Chris Baker, Chairman of Kimpton Parish Council had given due notice that he wished to speak at the meeting in objection of planning application 07/00061/1 – Kimpton Bottom Nursery, Kimpton Bottom, Kimpton, SG4 8ET.

136. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Cllr Chris Baker had given due notice that he wished to speak at the meeting as an objector to planning application 07/00061/1 – Kimpton Bottom Nursery, Kimpton Bottom, Kimpton, SG4 8ET

RESOLVED: To determine the applications as set out in the report of the Planning and Building Control as submitted to the Committee in the following schedule:

SCHEDULE

Reference Number	Description of Development and location	Decision
1. 06/02758/1HH	Jacks Hill Farm, Jacks Hill, Graveley, SG4 7EQ Single storey outbuilding for use as home office and hobbies room following demolition of storage outbuilding and pole barn (as amended by drawings received 7 March 2007)	GRANTED (as per report)
2. 07/00061/ 1	Kimpton Bottom Nursery, Kimpton Bottom, Kimpton, SG4 8ET Section 73 Application: Removal of Condition 3 of Planning Permission 91/0604/1 granted 26.9.1991 restricting occupancy of dwelling to agricultural worker.	REFUSED (see (a) below)
3. 07/00569/1HH	42 New Close, Knebworth, SG3 6NU Two storey side extension incorporating two pitched roof dormer windows to front and rear roof slopes. Pitched roof front dormer window.	GRANTED (as per report)
4. 07/00581/1HH	6 Robert Court, Hitchin Road, Whitwell, SG4 8AF Insertion of window to replace garage door, extend existing hardstanding to provide additional parking space, and erection of garden shed.	GRANTED (as per report)

- (a) That with regard to planning reference 06/02538/1 permission be **REFUSED** for the following reason:

REASON FOR DECISIONS: That the applicant has failed to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority that the unit cannot be operated as a viable agricultural operation or that the property has been marketed at a price to reflect its agricultural occupancy restriction.

137. PLANNING APPEALS

The Area Planning Officer informed the Committee that one planning appeal has been determined since the meeting of the Committee held on 15 March 2007:

Appellant	Mrs D. Salmon
Address	70 High Street, Codicote
Description	First floor rear extension and rear conservatory. Ref. 06/00480/1HH + 06/00481/1LB
Decision	Split Decision: Appeal Allowed – Permission and listed building consent granted for conservatory. Appeal Dismissed – Planning permission and listed building consent refused for first floor rear extension.

The Area Planning Officer informed the Committee that one planning appeal has been lodged since the meeting of the Committee held on 15 March 2007:

Appellant	Mrs Summer
Address	122 High Street, Kimpton
Description	Single and two storey rear extension. Front porch Ref. 06/01901/1HH
Procedure	Written Representations

138. CHAMPION NEWS

The Community Development Officer for the Southern Rural Area presented a report of the Head of Community Development and Cultural Services to the Committee, which advised them of the activities undertaken by the Community Development Officer for the Southern Rural Area since the meeting of the Committee held on 15 March 2007, and brought to their attention the important community based activities that would take place during the next few months.

The Community Development Officer for the Southern Rural Area drew attention to the following sections of the report:

- Paragraph 2.12 – Money Matters – There has been a positive response to this event with approximately eighty people in attendance, with fifteen trade stands and five workshops. It is hoped that a similar event can be taken to the villages within North Hertfordshire.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the report of the Head of Community Development and Cultural Services be noted;
- (2) That the actions taken by the Community Development Officer for the Southern Rural Area to promote greater community capacity and well-being for the Southern Rural Area communities be endorsed.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: To keep members of the Committee apprised of the latest developments in community activities in the Southern Rural Area.

139. DEVELOPMENT AND AREA VISIONING BUDGETS 2006/2007

The Community Development Officer for the Southern Rural Area presented a report of the Head of Community Development and Cultural Services to the Committee, which set out the current expenditure and balances of the Area Committee delegated budgets for 2006/07 and 2007/08 and the Committee's previous decisions on the underspend for 2006/07.

The Community Development Officer drew particular attention to paragraph 3.11 of the report which advised the Committee that the Ward Member's Budget for 2007/08 of £700 per Member must be allocated by 1 March 2008. Also, in paragraph 3.12 the Community Development Officer informed the Committee that the order for Covert CCTV Wireless equipment was raised before 31 March 2007, with an anticipated delivery to the Council within 6-8 weeks.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the current expenditure, balances and carry forwards of the Ward Development Budgets and the allocated Visioning Budgets as set out in appendix of the report be noted;
- (2) That the Committee will now consider its programme of awards to community organisations for this financial year 2007/08 on a meeting by meeting basis. This will now ensure that the management of grants is more manageable and to grant-aid all voluntary groups and organisations more effectively, in support of their project needs.

REASON FOR DECISION: The awarding of financial assistance to voluntary organisations and the use of discretionary spending allows the Committee to further the aims and strategic priorities of the Council.

The meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.

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Chairman