

# Planning Committee

Excerpt of the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8 December 2015 in the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 pm.

**Present:** Councillor Cooke (Chairman); Councillors Ashford, Boad, Edgington, Miss Grainger, Mrs Hill, Mrs Knight, Morris, Thompson and Weed.

**Also Present:** Committee Services Officer - Miss Carnall; Democratic Services Assistant - Miss Brownlee; Legal Advisor – Mr Gregory; Head of Development Services – Mrs Darke; Planning Officer - Mr Sahota.

## 118. **Substitutes**

Councillor Edgington substituted for Councillor Cain, Councillor Thompson substituted for Councillor Mrs Bunker, and Councillor Miss Grainger substituted for Councillor Mrs Falp.

## 119. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made relevant to this excerpt.

## 122. **Public Speaking at Planning Committee**

The Committee received a report from Democratic Service Manager which brought forward proposals to amend the public speaking rights at Warwick District Planning Committee.

Following discussions with the Chairman of the Planning Committee it had been considered that there was a need to update the guidance offered to Planning Committee and clarify the public speaking rights.

The Chairmen had raised concerns about the clarity of speaking rights at the potential impact this could have on the length of Planning Committee meetings.

The report proposed that speaking times be reduced to three minutes per category with the exception of the Ward Councillor category which would be reduced to five minutes.

Following discussions, it was proposed that the recommendations in the report be agreed subject to an amendment to allow Warwick District Councillors from more than one Ward to speak.

### **Resolved** that

- (1) That public speaking at Planning Committee be amended to read as follows:

*"There is a time limit of three minutes for each category of speaker, excluding District Councillors, on all applications."*

## **PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued)**

*If there is more than one speaker in the same category for an item, the three minutes will be shared among them.*

*This is with the exception of major applications where up to four speakers will be permitted to address the committee in both the Objectors and Applicants/Supporters categories for a maximum of three minutes each.*

*That the times allocated may be varied at the discretion of the Chairman of the Planning Committee, when they believe there is significant public interest in an application, for example, regional developments such as the former gateway proposal and the passenger terminal at Coventry Airport.”; and*

- (2) Public Speaking be permitted on the determination of Tree Preservation Orders at Planning Committee.

**Recommended** to Council that:

- (1) it amends Council procedure rules so that Warwick District Councillors are not permitted to address the Planning Committee for more than five minutes on any application and that unless they are providing contrary views or from representing views from different District Wards, no more than one Warwick District Councillor will be permitted to address the Committee on any application; and
- (2) the public speaking rights as set out above are included in Council procedure rules.

(The meeting ended at 9:34pm)