

HCPC

HILL CROOME PARISH COUNCIL

Policy on Planning and Highways Issues

Adopted at the Full Council Meeting held on 8th February 2022, to be re-adopted annually at the Annual Meeting

Purpose

The aim of this policy is to establish the principles applied by Hill Croome Parish Council, *hereafter referred to as HCPC*, when considering matters relating to Planning and Highway issues.

Need

Until recently (late 2021) the unwritten policy adopted by HCPC has been to note private applications submitted to the District Planning Authority, *hereafter referred to as DPA*, for information only. This is to ensure there is no preferential treatment given to any particular party in the process.

Commercial applications are subject to consideration as to the impact on the residents, suitability for the area, the environment and the potential increase in traffic flow and responses to the DPA are submitted where appropriate.

Unfortunately, the integrity of HCPC was called into question by a parishioner's response to an application submitted to the DPA and therefore clarification is required to ensure the parish is fully aware of the Policy and what it stands for.

Method

All Councillors must act in accordance within the Code of Conduct and adhere to the Principles of Public Life – The 7 Nolan Principles (*see Appendix 1*).

To ensure the trust placed in us by the public is maintained, at all times we must act with integrity and honesty, lawfully and treat everyone fairly and with respect.

To undertake the role we must be impartial, not seek to gain advantage or disadvantage anyone and to exercise care and diligence in our deliberations.

Policy

The Policy is to ensure a standard approach to Planning and Highways issues and to establish the guidelines under which HCPC will operate. This is intended to avoid misunderstanding and provide clarity. *The Policy can be subject to amendment or update at any time, subject to the approval of the full council.*

Before consideration is given to any of the following categories in Council, Councillors are reminded of their duty to continue to disclose any personal interest they may have in the matter, before the item is brought forward. They will then be required to leave the room for the duration of any discussion and may not vote on the outcome of the matter.

Item 1 – Domestic Planning Applications

When notified of a private domestic application HCPC will note the application and consideration will be given to its content.

The grounds for a response would be if;

1. The application is considered contrary to the law;
2. It is deemed to have a major impact on the Parish infrastructure.

For the reasons of fairness to all parties, HCPC will not comment on the content of the proposal in terms of its structure or architecture – *subject to (2) above*.

Individual Councillors are still able to make representations in their private capacity as Parish residents.

Item 2 – Commercial Planning Applications

When notified of commercial applications HCPC will note the application and consideration will be given to its content.

The grounds for response would be if:

1. The application is considered contrary to the law;
2. There is a potential impact on the residents of the Parish;
3. There is a potential impact on the environment;
4. There is a potential impact on traffic flow;
5. There is a potential impact upon the amenity of the Parish.
6. There are representations from Parishioners for the benefit of all.

Item 3 – Development undertaken without a Planning Application

When development takes place where no application has been submitted, HCPC will work with the DPA to try to ensure an appropriate outcome.

This category could include as examples, property extensions, hard landscaping of driveways and unlawful/unauthorised occupation of land for domestic or commercial purposes.

Item 4 – Highways Issues

When issues relating to the highway are reported, HCPC will work with the County Council Highways Department (and DPA where required) to ensure an appropriate outcome.

This category will include as examples, unauthorised changes to property boundaries, parking, the ongoing road safety issue with speeding traffic, damaged signage and flooding.

Item 5 – Ongoing Disputes or Failure to Comply with Planning Determinations

In cases where the outcome of an application results in a refusal to grant the permission to build, occupy or otherwise use land or property, HCPC will work with the DPA to ensure an appropriate outcome. HCPC will provide information where it can to assist the DPA in discharging its responsibilities.

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These guidelines do not provide for all eventualities and HCPC acknowledge that the Policy could be subject to change or update at any time, subject to a review in full council. The Policy will be subject to re-adoption annually to ensure best practice is determined in the light of experience.

Policy adopted by Hill Croome Parish Council

P. Smith

..... Chairman

8th February 2022

04 / 08022022

Date

Minute Reference /

Appendix 1

The Nolan Principles of Public Life

Selflessness

Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.

Integrity

Holders of a public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefit for themselves, their family or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

Objectivity

Holders of a public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

Accountability

Holders of a public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to do this.

Openness

Holders of a public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.

Honesty

Holders of a public office should be truthful.

Leadership

Holders of a public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour where ever it occurs.