

## **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**HELD: Thursday, 5 December 2024**

Start: 7.00 pm

Finish: 8.21 pm

### **PRESENT:**

Councillor: G Owen (Chairperson)  
Y Gagen (Vice-Chairperson)

Councillors: J Abbott A Fennell  
S Patel E Pope  
L Webster M Westley  
J Witter N Hennessy

In attendance: Councillor D Whittington (Rural North East)  
Councillor K Jukes (Rural North East)

Officers: Steven Faulkner, Planning Services Manager  
Kate Jones, Planning Services Team Leader  
Nicola Cook, Principal Planning Officer  
David Delaney, Legal Assistant (Planning)  
Chloe McNally, Democratic Services Officer

### 38 **APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies for absence received.

### 39 **MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4, the Committee noted the termination of membership of Councillor A Fowler, and the appointment of Councillor Y Gagen for this meeting only, thereby giving effect to the wishes of the political groups.

### 40 **URGENT BUSINESS, IF ANY INTRODUCED BY THE CHAIRMAN**

There were no urgent items of business received.

### 41 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor L Webster declared a pecuniary interest in relation to agenda item 7a - 2023/0925/FUL, relating to Land Adjacent M58, Moss Lane, Skelmersdale, WN8 9TJ, and therefore took no part in the decision-making process and left the meeting whilst Members considered the application.

Councillor J Abbott declared a pecuniary interest in relation to agenda item 7c - 2024/0414/FUL, relating to Land at Lancashire Wildlife Trust, Visitor Centre, Mere Sands Wood Nature Reserve, Holmeswood Road, Rufford, L40 1TG, as she is a member of the Lancashire Wildlife Trust, and therefore took no part in the decision-making process and left the meeting whilst Members considered the application.

### 42 **DECLARATIONS OF PARTY WHIP**

There were no declarations of party whip.

43 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2024 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

44 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Consideration was given to the report of the Assistant Director of Planning & Regulatory Services as contained on pages 11 to 74 of the Book of Reports, and on pages 81 to 88 of the Late Information Pack.

Notes:

1. Ms Samantha Birch, representing Mrs Debbie Birch, spoke in connection with planning application 2023/0925/FUL, relating to Land Adjacent M58, Moss Lane, Skelmersdale, WN8 9TJ.

2. The Agent Mr David Smith spoke in connection with planning application 2023/0925/FUL, relating to Land Adjacent M58, Moss Lane, Skelmersdale, WN8 9TJ.

3. Ward Councillors D Whittington and K Jukes both spoke in connection with planning application 2023/1031/FUL, relating to White Lion Inn, 117 Mossy Lea Road, Wrightington, WN6 9RE.

a **PLANNING APPLICATION REF: 2023/0925/FUL - LAND ADJACENT M58, MOSS LANE, SKELMERSDALE**

The Assistant Director of Planning & Regulatory Services submitted a report on planning application 2023/0925/FUL – relating to Land Adjacent M58, Moss Lane, Skelmersdale.

RESOLVED: That planning application 2023/0925/FUL be granted subject to conditions and a legal agreement.

b **PLANNING APPLICATION REF: 2023/1031/FUL - WHITE LION INN, MOSSY LEA ROAD, WRIGHTINGTON**

The Assistant Director of Planning & Regulatory Services submitted a report on planning application 2023/1031/FUL – relating to White Lion Inn, Mossy Lea Road, Wrightington.

RESOLVED: That planning application 2023/1031/FUL be granted subject to conditions set out at section 12 of the report, and as amended within late information dated 04/12/24.

c **PLANNING APPLICATION REF: 2024/0414/FUL - MERE SANDS WOOD**

**NATURE RESERVE, HOLMESWOOD ROAD, RUFFORD**

The Assistant Director of Planning & Regulatory Services submitted a report on planning application 2024/0414/FUL – relating to Land at Lancashire Wildlife Trust, Visitor Centre, Mere Sands Wood Nature Reserve, Holmeswood Road, Rufford, L40 1TG.

**RESOLVED:** That planning application 2024/0414/FUL be approved subject to conditions.

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**DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

Consideration was given to the report of the Assistant Director of Planning and Regulatory Services, as contained on pages 75 to 78 of the Book of Reports. The report sought to provide Members with an overview of West Lancashire Borough Council's (WLBC) performance against government criteria on planning decision speed and quality. It reviewed WLBC's performance over the past two years and included the latest quarterly results, with a commitment to provide quarterly updates going forward.

**RESOLVED:** That Members note the report and WLBC's positive performance against national planning standards, with an ongoing commitment to quarterly updates on decision speed and quality to monitor and maintain this trajectory.

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**Chairman**