

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of HYBRID MEETING of the **DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Thursday 22 August 2024 at 10.30am.

Present: Councillors DAVID CHEAPE, LINDA CLARK, BRENDA DURNO, IAIN GALL and TOMMY STEWART.

Councillor CHEAPE Convener, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

There were no apologies intimated.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND STATEMENTS OF TRANSPARENCY

There were no declarations of interest or statements of transparency made.

3. LAND NORTH EAST OF DUNTRUNE HOUSE, DUNTRUNE

With reference to Article 3 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 7 June 2024, there was submitted Report No 293/24 by the Director of Legal, Governance and Change presenting the responses by the applicant, Duntrune Ltd, and the roads/planning authority in respect of a Written Procedure Notice issued following the Committee's consideration of the Notice of Review.

The Committee noted that an unaccompanied site visit had taken place on Monday 1 July 2024 to which the Convener gave an overview of the visit, in particular detailing the routes that were taken and travelled on.

Thereafter, the Independent Planning Adviser provided an overview of the application for review following which the Committee noted the responses by the applicant and the roads/planning authority in respect of the Written Procedure Notice. Having considered the responses to the Written Procedure Notice and the papers submitted by the appointed person and by the applicant (Report 180/24), the Committee confirmed that they had sufficient information to determine the Review and no further procedure was required.

Having heard from all members of the Committee, members indicated that they were minded to uphold the appeal and grant planning permission as it was considered that crematoriums required a sensitive and peaceful setting, and that it was unlikely that this type of development would typically be near a town centre or edge of a central location. Members also noted that there were a number of other material considerations in that there were no policies within National Planning Framework 4, nor in the Local Development Plan which specifically considered this type of essential development, that there had been approval of similar developments within rural locations, the high cost of cremation, the demand for cremation and economic benefits.

Furthermore, members noted that Angus was a rural area and it would be difficult for any area within the county to be served well by public transport. Members also indicated that, despite many of the roads junctions not being of a modern standard, it was considered that with suitable signage and appropriate mitigation, they would be of a satisfactory standard, having agreed that the funeral traffic would typically be outwith any peak driving times, and would therefore not increase the volume of traffic significantly. Further, members noted that the roads authority had no objections to the development, nor were there any objections from statutory consultees. Members also indicated that there were no significant amenity, design or landscape issues that could not be mitigated by planning conditions, and the additional planting would enhance biodiversity within the site.

At this point in the proceedings, 11.19am, the Committee agreed to adjourn the meeting for 20 minutes.

The meeting reconvened at 11.39am.

At this stage in the meeting, the Convener, on behalf of the Committee, thanked all those who had submitted representations to the original planning application which had all been considered by the members prior to this meeting.

Having heard from all Members, the Committee agreed that the proposal complied with Policies DS1, DS2, DS3, TC8 and TC15 of the Angus Local Development Plan, and Policies 2, 5, 9, 13, 14, 25, 26 and 29 of NPF4. Therefore, the Committee were minded to uphold the Notice of Review and grant planning permission, subject to the appropriate conditions being submitted to a future meeting of this Committee for members' consideration.