

COUNCIL

17 NOVEMBER 2015

ITEM 6 – QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR R JOHNSON TO COUNCILLOR T J PENDLETON

Because of recent allegations by some members of this authority that there could be political bias in the way planning applications are decided, do you consider it would in any way be beneficial with a recorded vote on all applications brought to the Planning Committee?

RESPONSE FROM COUNCILLOR T J PENDLETON

Planning applications are determined on their individual merits and I am not aware of any evidence to the contrary in any recent decisions made by this Council. If any Councillor does have evidence to the contrary then they should bring it to the attention of the Director and of course it will be properly investigated.

The legislation does not require any particular form of voting and it is open for the Council to specify the voting process in its procedure rules.

The current procedure rules reflect the norm as follows;

'Unless a recorded vote is demanded the Chairman will take the vote by a show of hands, or if there is no dissent, by the affirmation of the meeting'.

I see no reason why the Council should alter this procedure rule which clearly provides the option of recorded votes should a member of the committee choose to request it.