

ARTHINGWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on Monday 1st December 2014

Present:- Councillors Sue Handy (chairman) Charles Blake, Lesley Sanderson, Mike Osgood, Joe Nickel, Andy Knott

Attendees:- None

Apologies:- Kate Morse

Declarations of Interest:- None

Planning Applications:-

DA/2014/0984

Golden Stables, Braybrooke Road, Great Oxendon (Arthingworth Parish), Change of use of land for stationing of 7 mobile homes and associate travellers caravans, extension to existing stables, extension to existing amenities building, new amenities building and formation of private accommodation road and access

The Parish Council object very strongly to this application for the following reasons:-

- 1) The proposed development is in open rolling countryside of the West Northamptonshire Uplands, visible to passing traffic and of a type and scale which is out of keeping with the locality. The site is a highly inappropriate location for a travelling community.
Three previous planning inspectorate reports for the Greenfields site (directly opposite this site) have all noted that the 'introduction of caravans, associated hard standings, fencing and other domestic trappings within the same area erodes the rural character and appearance of the area'. It is difficult to understand how this application could be considered any differently.
- 2) The proposed development is not sustainable. It has no access to public transport and is not within walking distance of any major conurbation. The nearest villages (Arthingworth, Braybrooke and Great Oxendon) are all over a mile away and none of them have substantial, if any, amenities. Residents at this site would be totally dependent on private vehicles.
Creating another access point increases the danger of accidents on this single track road.
All roads leading to the site are single track roads for at least a mile in each direction.
- 3) There is a massing of traveller sites within close proximity of this proposed application (the vast majority of DDC and KBC's traveller sites are within 5 miles of the subject site) which increasingly feels imbalanced with the settled community. The Parish Council believe 40% of Northants travelling communities have sites within a radius of 5 miles.
- 4) Part of the reason for this application is to 'facilitate an extension in the applicant's breeding stock of horses'. This proposed extension of a commercial business is not justification for 'an additional 7 mobile homes with associated traveller caravans and day rooms'.
The British Horse Society – Guidelines for keeping horses, stable sizes, pasture acreages and fencing welfare document, suggests 1 animal per acre as a minimum guideline, bringing into question the suitability of this site for expansion of horse facilities.
The Parish Council believe the applicant has approximately 75 breeding mares which are flygrazed around the local area. This can be substantiated by farmers in the area.
- 5) The application appears to have no clear strategy for either rainwater or foul damage.
- 6) The Department for Communities and Local Government's recent consultation document on Planning and Travellers suggests in Paragraph 4.16 that 'where a local authority is burdened by a large scale unauthorised site which has

significantly increased their need...then there is no assumption that the local authority is required to plan to meet their traveller site needs in full'.

Will the local authority consider this point considering the subject site is directly opposite a site called Greenfields – a large unauthorised traveller site – and in the immediate locality are a number of other traveller sites which originated as unauthorised sites.

- 7) The same document suggests that 'where a member of the travelling community has given up travelling permanently, for whatever reason, and applies for a permanent site then they should be treated no differently to an application from the settled population.'

Will the Local Authority please confirm whether or not the applicant has ceased to travel and, if so, take the above point into consideration.

- 8) The Parish Council is concerned about the intensification of people living in what effectively is a private enclave for the traveller community which lacks integration with the village community.

It must also be noted that a well attended village meeting was recently held where everyone present was against this application.

Copies of the reply to Daventry District Council and Kettering Borough Council.

The meeting agreed that Cllr. Blake should represent the PC at the planning meeting.

DA/2014/0913

Bosworth House, Oxendon Road, Arthingworth

Listed Building Consent for formation of door from bedroom to bathroom at first floor

The Parish Council offered no objection to the application.

DA/2014/1019

Construction of detached dwelling

Land Adj The Bungalow, Oxendon Road, Arthingworth

The Parish Council offered no objection to this application with the following comments:-

- 1) The access is on a sharp bend and mirrors should be installed for safety purposes.

**Any Other
Business:-**

None

Meeting Closed at 7.30 pm