

STANSTED PARISH COUNCIL**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 3 AUGUST 2020 AT 8.00 PM
ONLINE BY ZOOM DUE TO COVID19 RESTRICTIONS**

PRESENT: Cllr Mrs Polly Falconer Vice-Chairman
 Cllr Daren Sefer
 Cllr Kevin Sparkes
 Cllr Mrs Yvonne Tisson
 Cllr Tom Brooker (for part of meeting)

Mrs Melita Gandolfo Clerk

In attendance Cllr Harry Rayner Kent County Council

Item *Action point*
 Minute no 2020/21

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

73 Apology for absence was received from Chairman Cllr Harry Bott, on holiday. It was proposed by Cllr Falconer, seconded by Cllr Sefer, and agreed to accept this apology. Vice-Chairman Cllr Falconer took the Chair.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

74 There were no declarations of interest.

3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6 JULY 2020

75 Minute No 72 - Cllr Tisson specified that she had visited the telephone box in Hodsoll Street, not West Kingsdown.
 It was proposed by Cllr Falconer, seconded by Cllr Tisson and agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2020 were a true record with the above amendment made, and would be physically signed when Covid19 restrictions were lifted.

4 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT OTHERWISE ON THE AGENDA

76 No matters were raised.

SUSPENSION OF MEETING FOR COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

The Chairman suspended the meeting to allow KCC Cllr Harry Rayner to speak.

Cllr Rayner said that KCC would have budget difficulties over the forthcoming year – Covid19 extra expenses had been £3 million, meaning there would be a considerable shortfall.

Cllr Rayner said that Kent schools were due to re-open in September.

Cllr Rayner talked about the forthcoming Local Government reform. A White paper due in October would propose replacing District and County Councils with elected Mayors and Unitary Councils. Parish Councils would have enhanced powers.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Rayner and reconvened the meeting.

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5 PLANNING

a Applications

77 i **20/01337/FL - Lucy's Barn Campsite, Ash Lane, Stansted TN15 7PL
New access with gates.**

Highways Consultant Les Henry had prepared a Highways Appraisal which would be submitted to KCC Highways, as well as to TMBC as part of the Parish Council's objection.

After discussion, it was unanimously agreed to respond as follows.

Stansted Parish Council objects strongly to this application.

The proposed new entrance is situated near a bend in this busy road (Ash Lane) and sightlines are inadequate, causing potential danger to vehicles using this entrance / exit and to vehicles travelling on Ash Lane.

The depth of the proposed entrance would not allow a car and caravan to be clear of the road (Ash Lane) while waiting to enter the site when the gates are closed. This would be a hazard to traffic on Ash Lane.

We understand the applicant holds a Caravan and Camping Club licence which allows up to five caravans and ten tents on the site. This proposed entrance is excessively large (wide) and out of proportion for this small-capacity site. (We also understand that neighbours believe that the number of tents and caravans on site sometimes exceeds that allowed by the licence, and will be informing the Caravan and Camping Club.)

Stansted Parish Council has commissioned a Technical Appraisal of the application, carried out by a Highways Engineer, which supports our objections and concerns, which will be attached to our email objection.

78 ii **20/01347/FL Lucy's Barn Campsite, Ash Lane, Stansted TN15 7PL
Erection of a new storage building**

After discussion, it was unanimously agreed to respond as follows

Stansted Parish Council objects to this application.

While we appreciate the need for storage for a small tractor and mower, this proposed building is excessively large for this purpose. It is also disproportionately large for the small field.

The field backs on to the applicant's property where there are already various outbuildings that could be used to house the mowing equipment.

79 iii **20/ /01394FL Thriftwood Caravan and Camping Park, Plaxdale Green Road,
Stansted TN15 7PB**

Variation of condition 1 of TM/18/01286/FL to enable a reorganisation of part of the approved caravan site to allow for a reduction in the number of overall caravans and an increase in static holiday caravans (resubmission)

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After discussion, it was unanimously agreed to object to this application, for the following reasons:

Stansted Parish Council believe that an increase of the number of static caravans will have a significant negative impact on the Green Belt location and on the adjoining AONB.

There has been a significant reduction in tree screening over the past twelve months, and tree cutting and pollarding continues.

There is already significant light pollution, and more static caravans would increase this, causing distress and nuisance to neighbouring properties, and negative impact on the local environment. The site is brightly lit in parts all night and every night, and the problem would be exacerbated by more static caravans.

An increased number of static caravans will change the character and type of caravan park. This is a site that is slowly but surely converting from a camping site to a mobile unit site. There is a very different impact brought about by a site that houses one or twoweek stay holidaymakers, compared to all year round unit owners.

The static caravans / lodges are being marketed as "Leisure Home Living" on the Thriftwood website, and it is not immediately obvious that they are not intended for all year round occupation. They are also being advertised in the same way in the press and with a local estate agent. (Advertisements to be attached.) It is noted that they do not call themselves Thriftwood Caravan and Camping park any longer; other than when submitting planning applications, they call themselves "Thriftwood Country Park".

With regard to the special conditions associated with Coronavirus cited in the Application Statement, we would like to point out that during lockdown Thriftwood stated and advertised that the site was closed, yet local residents report that at least 50% of the pitches appeared to be occupied and active during this time.

More static caravans would increase the number of people staying for long periods. This would mean there is less space for visitors bringing holiday caravans, and tourism to the local area would be reduced.

The road access to the site is poor and inadequate for static caravan access. Visitors to the site sometimes park cars offsite on the local roads, where parking is already limited. This causes considerable nuisance for local residents, some of whom rely on the on-road parking. Users of touring caravans are less likely to require this extra parking.

80 iv **20/01431/TNCA Fairlight Lodge, Vigo Road, Fairseat TN15 7LU**

T1 - Cypress to reduce entire crown by no more than 3.5m being sure to shape specific to species, ensuring neighbour's side is cut back as hard as possible; G1 - Limes, Horse chestnut on front boundary to crown raise limes and horse chestnut only to finished height of 4m on road side

No objections were raised.

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81 **b Decisions**

None

c Other Planning issues82 **Oak Tree Stable - Land Adjoining Whitecroft, Vigo Road, Fairseat TN15 7LR**

Fairseat residents had reported that on Saturday 1st August a section of hedge bordering Vigo Road was removed and two large static caravans were brought onto this field, together with a digger and other building equipment. The A227 and Vigo Road were blocked for some time because of this activity. The hedging was then replaced and supplied with water. Weatherproof electricity points and water supply points had been installed along the wall facing onto the field. The Clerk had asked Enforcement to investigate and Cllr Falconer had emailed Enforcement and our TMBC Cllrs Betts and Coffin with photos of these developments.

6 **FINANCE****a Bank Balances**

83 The bank balances as listed on the Finance Report Appendix A were noted.

b Accounts for payment

84 It was proposed by Cllr Falconer and seconded by Cllr Tisson that the payments listed on the Finance Report Appendix A be made and that the Clerk would make these payments online as cheques could not be signed at the Zoom meeting.

c Second Nationwide 95-day Saver account

85 The clerk had applied to open the second account.

7 **HIGHWAYS****a Traffic Plan**

86 Cllr Falconer said that Andy Yallop had given advice on improving the Plan prepared by Cllrs Falconer and Tisson. It was agreed that Les Henry could be asked to approve the Plan, and it could then be sent to KCC Cllr Harry Rayner, and TMBC Cllrs Robin Betts and Martin Coffin, with a request that the Plan be presented to the KCC Joint Transportation Board.

b Other Highways issues

87 No issues were raised.

8 **CCTV IN THE VILLAGES**

88 As Cllr Bott was not present, there was no update.

STANSTED RECREATION GROUND AND OTHER COUNCIL LAND

9 I Hire of ground

Nothing to report.

89

ii Play park – update on seesaw and other issues raised by insurers

Bradley Walton of Home Counties Play had inspected the defective seesaw and confirmed that it was an old model and could not be repaired. Spare parts were not available for that model.

Bradley had provided quotes for two new models of seesaw, at £5,635 and £4,428 plus VAT respectively, including installation of seesaw and required safety matting, and removal of old equipment. The timescale was likely to be four to six weeks. Bradley had also quoted £1,450 plus VAT for repairs to multiple Wet Pour areas as suggested in the Insurer’s report.

90 Cllr Tisson had identified a supplier of similar seesaws whose prices were lower. The Clerk agreed to obtain further quotes to ensure good value for money, and in the meantime would check that the Do Not Use notices were still in place.

iii Other issues

91 Cllr Brooker confirmed that hedge cutting could commence only after 31st August.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

92 It was reported that a post box (no longer in public use) had been stolen from outside the Old Manor House in Plaxdale Green Road.

PUBLIC SESSION

No issues were raised.

SignedChairman

On theday of