

BOUGHTON MALHERBE PARISH COUNCIL

**UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 21st
December 2010 at 7.30pm in Grafty Green Village Hall**

PRESENT- Councillors: Mr R Turner (Chairman)
Mrs S Close
Mr R Galton (Vice-Chairman)
Mr M Hitchins
Mr S Wickens
Mrs P Anderson (Clerk)

Approx 45 Members of the Public

1. TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Jenny Gibson

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REGISTER OF INTEREST CHANGES

There were no declarations of Interest and no Register of Interest changes.

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 23rd November 2010 having previously been distributed were unanimously **Agreed**, the official copy was signed as a true record by the Chairman.

4. PUBLIC SESSION

As the public entered the hall a summary of Application MA10/2029 Erection of a PPS7 house with ancillary energy centre building housing an aerobic digester on land at Ivy Farm, Headcorn Road, Liverton Hill, together with various drawings was laid out on a table so that everyone who may not have had an opportunity to read or see the application could acquaint themselves with it prior to the start of the meeting.

The following points were made by various members of the public with reference to Item 5 on the Agenda –:-

Size of digester and fumes travelling up the hill – not sustainable with amount of lorries needed to feed it.

Application has nothing to do with farm, not linked to farm but relies upon farming activity, could be sold off what would happen with digester.

Has assessment been done to see how many vehicles will be required to feed it.

What happens to any waste, more sludge could be produced than can be deposited on land.

Safety issue with regard to gas being stored.

Down time for servicing the digester, would not be permanent or sustainable.

Noise

The views of the Parish must be taken into consideration

Is PPS7 a Labour edict, if this isn't sustainable would it go through

Will Ivy Farm stay as an orchard

Why didn't MBC notify the neighbours

Waste fruit does not leave a farm – waste apples are put on the ground

Apples are the worst thing to put in a digester

The Digester is in the experimental stage and not proven

Experiments should not be carried out on the landscape

Is there a need for this home

How can applicant be interested in the environment, if he was then why did he grub

out the orchard then burn the lot on site.

Very large development in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, is very prominent, does PPS7 ride 'rough shod' over that

Why has the Parish Council not been notified before this if it has been going on for so long, as seems to be the case

Where are the Borough Councillors – what are they doing about it

Previous owner was sorry he ever sold the land and did not know about this plan prior to the Parish Council being advised.

Has a geology study been carried out, the stability of the ground is not suitable for such a development, a geology study should be a priority

It would be in the centre of a slip circle this should be taken into consideration

The press should be involved

PPS7 is clearly an excuse to get around normal planning laws, build a big house and make a lot of money

Even if a generator is used, applicant will still be able to use electricity from the grid and can just turn off generator

A previous application for a digester at Grafty Green Garden Centre had been withdrawn

No guarantee can be given that apples will continue to be grown especially if the value falls

The orchard does not produce an average of 20 tonnes of **waste** apples per week which would be the requirement to feed the digester, the total production of the farm is 10 tonnes per week of **good** apples.

If all boxes are ticked can this application still go ahead or do normal planning rules apply

Objections need to demonstrate that this is not innovative in its design or materials to be used.

The design is obviously not attractive as is made plain by all the parishioners present who are against this application

This building is not an appropriate modern building

We should contact our MP

Will Borough Councillors help us

What if applicant stops farming apples

5. PLANNING

Land at Ivy Farm, Headcorn Road, Liverton Hill - MA/10/2029

Application for the erection of a PPS7 house with ancillary energy centre building housing an aerobic digester including access, ecological enhancements and landscaping including new pond.

The Chairman asked the Members for their comments.

It was pointed out that the property was inappropriate on agricultural land, the land would be carved up especially with the reservoir and the design is not in keeping.

The PPS7 needs to be challenged – design is a very important issue and would be a 'blot on the landscape' especially in AONB and on the Greensand Ridge.

The Clerk asked the Members to vote on the application by a show of hands.

Recommendation: Refuse – unanimous

Although the following items were not on the Agenda they had been circulated prior to the Meeting:-

Gardeners Cottage, Chilston Park, Sandway ME17 2BE – MA/10/1961

Application for listed building consent for the erection of a two storey side extension.

Recommendation – No objections

Gardeners Cottage, Chilston Park, Sandway ME17 2BE – MA/10/1961

Application for erection a two storey side extension.

Recommendation – No objections

The Dower House, Chilston Park, Sandway ME17 2BE – MA/10/1962

Erection of two dormer windows to the front elevation, gable including balcony to the rear elevation and single storey side extension.

Recommendation – No objections

Masons Farm, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green ME17 2AP

The Clerk reported that she had not received any planning on the above property but had seen a planning application notice in front of the property for a small single storey extension (boot room) comments needed to be made within days. The Case Officer had been contacted, he asked that PA advise of the decision of the PC the next day.

Recommendation – No objections

ALL OTHER BUSINESS WOULD BE DISCUSSED AT THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

6 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

18th January 2011

22nd March 2011

There being no further matters to discuss, the meeting closed at 9.00pm

Signed. Dated