

DROXFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Droxford Parish Council held at 7.30 pm on Thursday 18 September 2014 at Droxford Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllrs Pietro Acciarri, Janet Melson, Jason Toman (from 7.35pm), Louise Withers
IN ATTENDANCE: Rosemary Hoile – Clerk
ALSO PRESENT: WCC District Cllr Caroline Dibden, Alan Burgess, Managing Director - Eider Homes, Lauren Dooley, Associate - Barton Willmore Planning Consultants, Alastair MacLeod, Architect – Stefan Zins Associates Ltd, Mary Hornby-Patterson, Professor A Hibbert, Karen Jordan, Peter Melson, Chris Town.

- 124.14** The Clerk had received apologies from the Chair and Vice Chair but the meeting was quorate with three councillors present. Cllr Withers proposed Cllr Melson chair the meeting, Cllr Acciarri agreed. Cllr Melson took the Chair; she reminded the public that questions could be asked only in the public session, thereafter the meeting was closed to public participation, but they were welcome to stay. Cllr Toman arrived.
- 125.14** **Apologies for Absence:** Barbara Chandler, Colin Matthissen, Roger Foster, Roger Huxstep
- 126.14** **Declarations of Interest regarding Agenda items:** Cllr Acciarri declared pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 9.5

The meeting adjourned to allow participation by members of the public.

- 127.14** **Uplands Park:** Alan Burgess said the application for 5 houses with a footprint of 4000sq each, a total of 20,000 sq ft, in which the village had been consulted was withdrawn. It became apparent that SDNP were not going to accept a scheme for large houses but would consider a scheme which included a mix of affordable and social housing. In consultation with SDNP and Winchester New Homes Delivery it was decided that 7 units would meet Droxford and neighbouring parish requirements. The revised scheme houses consist of 20 units of 2/3/4/5 bedrooms 1270 – 3000 sq ft each, a total footprint of 29,848 sq ft. Despite the increased number of houses, the large open space would be retained. The owners of Fir Hill have agreed to make land available for the off-site footpath to link the existing footpath to the route through the site and towards Meringtons. Eider had looked at local schemes completed recently approved by SDNP, particularly the Old Brewery at Hambledon. SDNP had been very specific about where the building line should finish, they stipulated the site should have visible permeability. Eider noted concerns about a safe standing place to cross the road to Meringtons. Lighting will be low level to reduce pollution; existing urban lights will be replaced by cut off lanterns. In answer to questions from the public:
Local materials and vernacular features will be used where possible – categorical assurance was given that the remaining open space would be protected in perpetuity.
Alan Hibbert and Chris Town said development on the Uplands site would open the floodgates to more applications outside the village boundary. The Chair said this concern must be expressed in the Parish Council response - **NOTED** .
Cllr Toman asked what Eider would do if this proposal was turned down. Alan Burgess responded that he would do what must be done, and sell the site on.
Cllr Dibden said she had spoken to officers at WCC regarding setting a precedent. Everyone recognised the site was getting run down. WCC Local Plan Pt 1 policies were checked to ensure WCC followed their own policies in treating the site as an exemption site and a special case to ensure a precedent is not set.
The Eider Homes team made to leave; the Chair thanked them for attending the meeting to answer questions. Drawings and CDs were left for circulation and display. Eider were to send amended affordable housing drawings (increased size requested by HCC housing delivery team) to Clerk.
Other questions from the public:
Chris Town asked about Broadband. The Chair responded there was no major good news. Cllr Huxstep would be asked to contact Chris Town regarding the matter. Chris Town enquired about bike speeds and lorries on the A32. The Chair said that she and Cllr Foster were going to see Highways regarding a growing list of issues.

128.14 County and District Councillors' Reports:

128.14.1 The Clerk read Cllr Huxstep's report:

The Hampshire Broadband Programme resources budget has now hit £18.4m, coverage between 97% and 98% becomes a possibility across the county. £1.2m has been awarded to 'Call Flow' to explore within Hampshire alternative innovative ways of delivering super fast broadband in difficult to reach areas.

Nothing has been heard from the office of the Police & Crime Commissioner re motorbike nuisance. The tree obstruction has been addressed by HCC in that enforcement procedures against the riparian owner have been initiated.

A 20 mph limit route has now been established in Winchester Town.

128.14.2 Cllr Dibden reported that SDNP is initiating its own local parish plan procedure so it can work out how all its villages fit together. WCC is further ahead, which does not alter existing planning applications.

Silver Hill development in Winchester: Plans continues to be contentious and it is important how the area is developed. She recommended visiting the Guildhall where the plans are on view.

Broadband: Beauworth, who are in the same position as Droxford, have arranged a meeting with George Hollingbery MP.

The meeting resumed.

129.14 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 17 July 2014: APPROVED

130.14 Matters arising from the Minutes of the last meeting not elsewhere on the agenda:

SpeedWatch – Volunteers have been put off due difficulty in registering with the Police. The site has crashed on 2 occasions. The process is regarded as unduly complicated.

Droxford Cricket Club grass cutting fee 2015 – quote not received. Cricket Club AGM this month

Play area equipment requiring replacement – put proposal on October agenda.

Noise infringement A32 Clerk to contact Cllr Gary Evans re response received to his enquiry from Police and Crime Commissioner.

Highways: Police enforcement of motorbike exhausts at Loomies Cafe – to be included in Cllrs Foster's and Melson's discussions with Highways

Defibrillator: Product code to be advised by Cllr Foster.

Cllr Melson said that she attended the Lights Out service at Droxford Church on 4th august. It was a very poignant and appropriate commemoration.

131.14 Rolling Action Plan: Progress reported under agenda headings unless item closed. The Chair proposed that an action regarding a new notice board be added to the rolling action plan.

ACTION – Clerk

132.14 Planning Applications:

132.14.1 SDNP/14/04418/FUL Demolition of the existing hotel and ancillary buildings and construction of 20 no residential dwellings to include 7 no affordable dwellings, landscaping, private amenity space, access and parking. Uplands Park, Garrison Hill, Droxford, SO32 3QL

Cllr Acciarri said the proposed footprint had increased from 1390 sq m (hotel and outbuildings) to 15562 sq m (20 dwellings), approximately 70% in terms of cubic meters, which would have greater impact. Cllr Melson said in percentage terms the application was the largest development in the village for many years and SDNP would not be considering the application until November. It is an important development and there was time to consult residents. She proposed the Council defer making comment until the October meeting when more councillors will be present and after residents have made their views known. **AGREED**

ACTION – Clerk, display plans in public place.

Councillors considered that a young family living above elderly persons in a maisonette is not practical and a retrograde step. Cllr Dibden suggested local connection rights should be nominated in perpetuity. Cllr Acciarri proposed councillors should meet the developer on site.

ACTION – Clerk to arrange date

132.14.2 SDNP/14/04002/FUL: Change of use of the existing redundant farm building to one residential dwelling - Hazelholt Farmhouse, Hazelholt SO32 1GA. **THE COUNCIL MADE NO OBJECTION**

- 133.14 Planning Decisions – Appendix B: NOTED**
SDNP /14/01795/FUL Townsend: Cllr Acciarri said he will attend the SDNP Committee meeting at Midhurst on 25th September when the application will be determined.
- 134.14 New Planning Appeals:**
- 134.14.1** APP/Y9507/D/142224152 Site at Garden House, Midlington Hill, Droxford, Southampton, SO32 3PU
No opportunity for further comment was allowed at the appeal
- 134.14.2** PP/Y9507/A/2222707 Swanmore Barn Farm, Park Lane, Swanmore Southampton, SO32 2QQ
WCC recommended refusal to the Inspector of Appeals
- 135.14 Planning Enforcement**
Cllr Acciarri reported that the WCC enforcement officer had left WWC. The enforcement manager had assured him that current issues would receive priority. Cllr Dibden added the situation was even worse because enforcement manager had subsequently resigned.
- 136.14 Removal of Tree Preservation Order - Townsend**
The Tree Warden reported that the WCC TPO officer has removed TPOs on fir trees bordering the A32 at Townsend to allow for the proposed new access to the development. A condition for planning permission was replacement by local deciduous species 2.5m - 6 m high. Alan Hibbert said he has been Tree Warden in Droxford for 34 years; he observed his role had declined to such a point in the last 18 months that he sees no point in continuing. Cllr Melson persuaded him to withdraw his resignation, his knowledge being of great value to Droxford. Within their limited powers, the Council will try to address his frustration with WCC and SDNP. **ACTION – Letter to WCC and SDNP about the role of Tree Wardens**
- 137.14 Finance:**
- 137.14.1 Finance Statement - Appendix A: **APPROVED**
- 137.14.2 To review Insurance provision: **RESOLVED –To delegate the decision to the Finance and Audit Group. ACTION -FAG /Clerk**
- 137.14.3 To review Risk Assessment - **DEFERRED**
- 137.14.4 To review Standing Orders – Cllr Withers and Cllr Chandler had made their recommendation. Cllr Withers had amended the SO to allow for member so of the public to record, Tweet and transmit as recommended by HALC - **APPROVED**
- 137.14.5 To consider payment of compensation for loss of equipment by volunteers: The spirit level had disappeared in the course of building the zip wire. Cllr Toman said Sean Gobell, who has given at many days of his living to the project free of charge, had already replaced the spirit level.
RESOLVED TO APPROVE: ACTION – The Clerk to obtain receipt from Sean Gobbell.
- 137.14.6 Cricket Club Fee – **DEFERRED**
- 138.14 Play Area, Recreation Ground and Cemetery and Allotments**
- 138.14.1 Zip Wire: Plans for an official opening were discussed. Cllr Toman said leftover timber intended for benches had disappeared. The Clerk is to contact the engineer to sign off **ACTION – Clerk to contact Barrons**
- 138.14.2 Play Area: To receive the Play Area Inspection Report: Cllr Toman will give the Clerk his weekly report. **ACTION - Cllr Toman**
- 138.14.3 To consider request for boundary fence along The Park: The Secretary had advised of balls being lost in the hedgerow. Notwithstanding the loss had been incurred by the Visitors and not the Home team, a permanent fence might be a solution. The Council considered the proposal impractical. **REFUSED. ACTION – the Clerk to inform DCC**
- 139.14 Roads, Transport and Highways:**
Mill Lane Splash route - Cllr Melson: Trees have fallen across the River Meon as a result of winter 2013/4 weather. The river is currently classified as a highway. Horse riders and motor bike users have complained to HCC because the splash route is blocked. HCC have a duty to clear the route but the trees are the land owner’s responsibility. The Environment Agency is only responsible if the blockage should cause flooding. HCC have sought the Parish Council’s view regarding motorised traffic driving through the ‘Splash Route’. The landowners have registered to take part in the SDNP water vole reintroduction project.

Councillors had no objection to horses using the route but objected to motor vehicles. The Council does not wish vehicles to use the route and is to ask Hampshire Highways if it is possible to classify the route as a bridleway.

ACTION - Clerk to respond to Hampshire Highways.

ACTION – Clerk to contact SDNP and SDNP water vole project partners

140.14 Footpaths

- 140.14.1 Matters Arising: The path between the antique shop and the Baker’s Arms was cleared by HCC lengthsman. Richard Newman will carry out occasional other lengthsman’s tasks when required in addition to the HCC lengthsman scheme.
- 140.14.2 Footpath 17: A stile in poor condition below Whitelands has been reported to HCC Countryside Access. It was suggested that stiles are replaced wherever possible with kissing gates. **ACTION – The Clerk** to look into grants.
- 140.14.3 Review of Countryside Access Plan Oral Evidence Hearing 15 Sept – Cllr Chandler. **DEFERRED**

141.14 Parish Matters:

- 141.14.1 Super Fast Broadband: See Cllr Huxstep’s email reported Minute ref:128.14.1
- 141.14.2 Parish Plan: Cllr Melson reported that the Parish Plan Steering Group is in the process of pulling all the elements together. Items recommended for action based on the evidence collated and within the Parish Council remit will be listed for the Parish Council to resolve; the Parish Council will refer all other recommended actions to unitary authorities and partner organisations. A separate Village Design Statement is planned for design related issues.

142.14 Consultations and Meetings

- 142.14.1 The Electoral Review of District Ward Boundaries parish consultation closes on 3 November. Councillors agreed to consider the matter at the next meeting. **DEFERRED**
- 142.14.2 Hampshire ALC AGM Sat 4th October. District Cllr Dibden said she would attend and report back.

143.14 Other Correspondence

- 143.14.1 **Draft SDNP Local Plan:** Arrange meeting with Chris Patterson to discuss Droxford section. **ACTION – the Clerk** to liaise dates with Cllr Withers Acciarri and Melson.
- 143.14.2 **SDNP Local Plan draft presentation to parishes:** Wed 12 Nov Meonstoke VH 6.30/7pm
- 144.14 Items for the next agenda:** Risk Assessment/Cricket club fee/ Uplands planning application/Boundary Commission Review/Play area equipment

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

Signed.....Date.....