



EARL STONHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held **online via Zoom** on **Tuesday, 9th June 2020 at 7.30pm.**

Present:

Councillors:

- C Woods (Chair)
- D Turner
- K Wilkinson
- H Stanford
- S Budd
- D Brenig-Jones
- B Heard
- H Glasse

In Attendance

- J Blackburn – Clerk
- County Cllr M Hicks
- District Cllr S Morley
- Eleven members of the public

ES001/20/21 – TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

None had been received.

ES002/20/21 – TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Budd and Cllr Heard declared an interest in item 4 on the Agenda.

ES003/20/21 – TO RECEIVE APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

None had been received.

ES004/20/21 – PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Ref: DC/20/01910 - Full Planning Application - Use of land for the stationing of 3no. holiday lodges - Land Adjacent Jockeys Farmhouse, Blacksmiths Lane, Earl Stonham

During discussions the following points were raised:

- It became apparent that there had been some confusion online about the planning status of Middlewood Green and that the settlement boundary had been designated, but that was not the case as the Local Plan was still in draft form and had not yet been approved. So as it stood the site should continue to be classed as 'countryside' and should therefore be judged as such.
- The development would not be suitable as the land had always been agricultural, albeit unused.
- The development would affect the valuation of the neighbouring properties in Blacksmiths Lane.

- Several cases of holiday accommodation being transferred into residential accommodation, on the basis of the market for holiday lodges, have not been successful in the Business Plan, and it was felt that the application could follow the same route.
- The room on the site could be used for more lodges in the future but was not suitable for the location of such holiday accommodation in a village like Earl Stonham.
- Queries were raised in relation to the owners of Jockey's Farmhouse and whether they had actually been made aware of the application. The development would not make any contribution to the local community as there would be no income used for the local community.

Cllr Stanford stated that the development was completely inappropriate and no development on that site should be encouraged and the rural aspects of the space between Forward Green and Middlewood Green should be preserved.

It was felt a tree survey should be carried out on the site as local residents had commented that nature on that site included newts, bats and barn owls. The environmental aspect of the application seemed to have been played down considerably within the planning statement and it was strongly felt that it needed to be fully investigated.

There was also a group of Poplar Trees at the south-east corner of the site, which could have a Preservation Order on them, which also needed to be investigated and confirmed.

The access to the site would also mean that part of the hedgerow and trees needed to be removed, which would not be environmentally friendly.

It was AGREED: That the Parish Council Object to the application for the above reasons.
Clerk to action.

Ref: DC/20/02209 - Application for Outline Planning Permission (some matters reserved, access to be considered) Town and Country Planning Act 1990 - Erection of 2No dwellings and alterations to existing access - Location: Land North of, Wicks Lane, Earl Stonham, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 5HL

Cllr Heard explained that the application was unrealistic as the lane to the site was only three metres in width and would therefore be difficult for lorries to access the site. Cars would not be able to enter and exit the site either.

The area was designated as countryside and did not come within settlement boundaries of Wicks Lane.

The sewerage system was already very poor so additional housing would overload the system and would need substantial improvements before any development took place.

A public footpath currently crossed the middle of the site, which would need to be considered.

Only the use of a small portion of the large paddock was proposed for the development which was concerning as to whether in the future additional development would be proposed.

The old stable on the site contained bats and an adjacent pond had crested newts within it which would need to be investigated from an environmental perspective and also a substantial amount of archaeological remains had, in the past, been located within the field.

Cllr Heard was concerned that no neighbouring properties had been notified of the development.

Cllr Turner expressed concern that the application had not addressed the obvious access issues, and stated that they would be looked into at a later stage. The ownership of the area on the narrow lane to the site was unknown, which made the application seem very vague.

Cllr Brenig-Jones informed members that the Planning Authority seemed behind with the notices to neighbouring properties for applications.

District Cllr Morley explained that the notices were being emailed out to applicants, who should display the notice and email proof back to the Planning Department. But, it was clear that that was not the case.

District Cllr Morley confirmed that the Join Local Plan remained in draft form and had not been finalised, so both of the above application sites should be classed as countryside whilst being considered.

Cllr Budd stated that she felt the access would not be possible to get any vehicles onto the site.

It was AGREED: That the Parish Council object to the application due to the issues raised above. **Clerk to action.**

Ref: DC/20/01860 - Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for an Existing use or operation or activity including those in breach of a planning condition. Town and Country Planning Act 1990: Section 191 as amended by section 10 of the Planning and Compensation Act 1991. Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Continued use of mobile home used as a domestic dwelling - The Caravan, Springfields, Fen Lane, Earl Stonham Stowmarket Suffolk

It was AGREED: That the Parish Council had no objections to the application.

ES005/20/21 – TO RECEIVE THE CLERK’S REPORT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) **END OF YEAR 31ST MARCH 2020 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

The Statement of Accounts was presented for approval. **Decision** – approved and agreed to be signed by the Chair and the Clerk

b) **ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

The Annual Governance Statement was completed by the Council and agreed to be signed by the Chair and the Clerk.

c) **INTERNAL AUDITOR’S REPORT**

The Internal Auditor’s Report was received and approved. The Clerk explained that there was one recommendation to note.

d) **TO RECEIVE THE CLERK’S FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Clerk reported on the Council’s current financial position and movements since the last meeting. It was reported that the balance in the accounts on 2nd June 2020 was £10,071.51.

f) **TO AUTHORISE PAYMENTS AND NOTE RECEIPTS**

The Clerk reported the following payments be authorised:-

Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (May)	£241.60
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Expenses (May)	£20.00
Vertas	Grass Cutting	£301.39
Stonham Parva PC	Reimbursement of Recorder costs	£20.00
Trevor Brown	Internal Audit 2019/20	£100.00
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Jun)	£241.60
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Expenses (Jun)	£20.00

It was AGREED: That payments totaling £944.59 be authorised and actioned by the Clerk.

The following receipts were also noted:

Zoe Hyde	Recorder Advert payment	£30.00
MSDC	Recycling Bin Credit	£274.34
Perfect Perennials	Recorder Advert Payment	£30.00
My Care at Home	Recorder Advert Payment	£30.00
Stonham Parva	Recorder copies payment	£75.00
MSDC	Precept (1st instalment)	£3,278.00
Bildeston Parish Council	Fifth of Reimbursement of Ink Cartridges	£113.18
Great Bricett Parish Council	Fifth of Reimbursement of Ink Cartridges	£113.18
Creting St Peter Parish Council	Fifth of Reimbursement of Ink Cartridges	£113.18
Creting St Mary Parish Council	Fifth of Reimbursement of Ink Cartridges	£113.18
Jack De-Cova	Allotment Rent	£198.00

Cllr Stanford raised a couple of queries with the Clerk over the Explanation of Variances, which included a minor error and he also asked if 'Other Receipts' from 2018/19 and 2019/20 could be itemised so members could see the difference between the two years. **Clerk to action.**

Cllr Turner reported that a tree was down at the end of School Lane. Cllr Wilkinson confirmed that it was being dealt with the next day. She added that the lottery grant for the Village Hall had been turned down as all the money was being given to Covid-19 bids.

Cllr Glasse reported that the basketball nets had broken on the Multi-court.

The meeting finished at 8.45pm.

Chairman: Dated: