

ORCHESTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

HELD AT ORCHESTON VILLAGE HALL

on 20 March 2023 at 7:30pm

Present:

Sam Shepherd	Chairman
Bryan Wright	Vice Chairman
Jenny Pugh	Councillor
Christopher Coats	Councillor
Tim O'Keefe	Councillor
Maureen Harnett	Councillor
Ashley Young	Councillor (left the meeting during the public discussion of planning applications)

In attendance:

John Badgery	Clerk to the Council
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COUNCIL IN INFORMAL SESSION

67. Twenty two members of the public were present. They were present to express their concerns on two planning applications (PL/2023/00745 and PL/2023/00740) in respect of Stonehenge Touring Caravan Park. In order to expedite business the Chairman brought forward the discussion which was programmed under Standing Agenda Items.

68. The following points were made:

- a. There had already been 36 objections registered on the Wiltshire Council planning portal.
- b. The areas in question are a combination of the River Till SSSI and the Orcheston conservation area.
- c. High groundwater and routine surface flooding would make it impossible for the areas to be used 12 months of the year.
- d. The affidavits submitted to support the applications lack plausibility. The latest variation to planning consent was issued in the same year that the site operator bought the site. The site operator must have been made aware of the planning history as part of routine legal searches.
- e. The photographs submitted with the application were all taken in summer months. If there was photographic evidence available for the winter months, why was it not submitted?
- f. There is considerable disquiet about how the site might be developed because the purchasers have a history of changing sites licensed for touring caravans to sites for residential caravans.
- g. Breaking the law by ignoring planning restrictions over a long period is effectively gaining planning permission by the back door.
- h. In other similar scenarios permanent residents have been removed from their dwellings.
- i. Because this is not a formal planning application other statutory bodies have not been consulted.
- j. The majority of the concern is about what might happen not what has been applied for.

COUNCIL IN FORMAL SESSION

69. **Approval of the minutes of the meetings held on 21 November 2022 and 16 January 2023.** The November 2022 Minutes had been amended and re-circulated. Both sets of Minutes were approved.

70. **Matters arising from the Minutes.** There were no matters arising.

71. **Declaration of interests.** Cllr Harnett declared that she may have an interest but that she did not intend to speak or vote as was permitted in Clause 12 of the Code of Conduct.

72. **Chairman's Report.** The Chairman introduced the planning applications listed at paragraph 7a of the Agenda. The tree notification at Manor Farm – Cllr Wright had informed Wiltshire Council tree officers that he thought the tree was healthy so there was no reason to cut it down. The other councillors thought that this case should be left to Wiltshire Council Tree Officers. The two Certificates of Lawfulness of Existing Use were discussed – the points raised mirrored those raised in the public discussion. The accuracy of the affidavits was questioned, particularly in respect of the frequency of the ground being waterlogged. The campsite is a mix of River Till SSSI and Orcheston Conservation Area. There is considerable disquiet throughout the village. The Clerk was instructed to submit the Council's response to Wiltshire Council.

73. **Councillors' Reports.**

a. Cllr Pugh advocated the value of a Village Design Statement. It would

(i) Give the community a recognised voice in the planning processes that affect the visual quality of the village.

(ii) Support and strengthen the Parish Council when consulted over planning applications.

(iii) Represent the view of local people of the character of the village.

(iv) Demonstrate local commitment to high quality design and appropriate development that will improve the quality of life of the village.

(v) Contribute to securing a thriving and viable future for the village.

b. Cllr Coats gave a short summary of the current situation re a possible 20mph speed limit. The survey had agreed the safety case but there was a lack of funding at parish council level. In the short term the LHFIG will keep the proposal on the books with their share of the funding and further research would be undertaken into potential funding for the parish council.

74. **Finance and Correspondence.**

a. Two cheques were issued – Clerk's salary (£160.00), tax on salary (£40.00).

b. **Briefing Notes** – Wiltshire Council briefing notes had been circulated

BN23-03 End of COVID booster campaign.

BN 23-04 Community Governance Review

BN 23-06 Wiltshire School Places Strategy 2023 – 2027

BN 23-08 Reforms to National Planning Policy

75. **Standing Agenda Items**

a. **Planning Applications** - dealt with under Chairman's Report.

b. **Highways and Byways** There was still a need for some pothole filling at the crossroads. Gully emptying has been requested. The Parish Steward will be asked to pare the tree east of the bridge.

c. **Village Maintenance** Nothing to report.

76. The Chairman and Councillors expressed their appreciation of all the work and service that the Clerk has given to the Parish Council over the last ten years.

77. Date of next meeting 15 May 2023.

May 2023