

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 1st NOVEMBER
2016 IN THE JUBILEE ROOM OF THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Councillors: J. Burgess (Chairperson), P. Wait, J. Hobson, L. Lumley, B. Bywater and Lynn Thornton (Clerk)

REF

175/16

Open Forum

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited comments during the open forum.

Mrs Judith Ashman advised she has attended the meeting to hear comments regarding the planning application at Betworthy farm

Cllr Burgess explained to all those present how the council had got to the present position. The village has a need for affordable housing, and a housing need in general. The law has changed and there are now exception sites available for building which would not have been considered before.

Mr Les Compton asked if the council will look at all angles of the plans? Cllr Burgess confirmed the application has been looked at in detail and the developer has consulted with the council throughout which he did not need to do.

Mrs Ashman is also very concerned about the drainage, the builder is not responsible he says it is the responsibility of the Severn Trent, is this true? Cllr Burgess confirmed the development cannot go ahead without sufficient drainage, Severn Trent have a legal obligation to ensure the drainage can cope with any new builds.

Mrs Mack advised the field is grazed and cut for hay, the application states the field is dormant, this is not the case it is misstated in the application. What are the 24 homes going to give to the village?

Cllr Burgess confirmed the council will query the change of use with SDC. The development will bring more people to the village, particularly young families to support the school, shop and pub.

Mr Gerry Bolton confirmed Stroud District Council auditor is tasked with ensuring he only offsets the cost with the affordable houses. It is estimated it will take 2 years to build this from planning to build.

Mrs Ashman highlighted that it appears only half the field has been developed. Mrs Ashman is not intending to object, but does not want a developer coming in and leaving with the village with substandard buildings.

Mrs Billet, feels more 3/4 bedroom houses are not needed in the village, on approaching the developer he was unable to estimate the cost of the open market houses. The development is being built to match The Street, but due to the location of the site they should compliment The Close. The site plan is not up to date as it does not show extensions on existing properties and the writing is so small it is not possible to determine finer detail, such as the height of the boarding for the new properties.

Mr Compton has called SDC as documents are missing from the website, the planner confirmed a notice will be published in the paper and the deadline has been extended to the 23rd.

Mr Dave Billett feels there are so many things which does not support this application, for example the lack of local transport.

Cllr Burgess explained this development is aimed at people who already live in the village or grew up here. They know the circumstances and full backs of the village.

Cllr Burgess confirmed the affordable housing applications have to have a local connection, the parish council supported the housing survey, the developer showed an interest in the site and could have just gone off and put in a planning application but he has chosen to consult with the parish council.

Mr Compton would like the resident's points of view supported.

Mr Compton is concerned about the increased traffic, Mr Compton enquired about policy S106, and whether the village could receive any financial support for village projects due to the development, for example improved street lighting would mitigate the impact of the build. Cllr Burgess explained this would affect the cost of the build and therefore not considered an option.

Cllr Hobson explained he lives next to the pub; the traffic is single traffic due to vehicles parking along the side of the road. This will not be significantly increased by the new build as they will have allocated parking at their properties.

Mr Billett expressed his concern the survey does not reflect the true need as the survey could be filled out by anyone. Cllr Burgess explained the survey was conducted by GRCC who have done this survey in numerous areas across the county and they are the experts.

The room as a whole wished to know why the parish council is supporting this application. Cllr Burgess explained a decision has not been made by the council until it is discussed as part of the meeting and the councillors have voted.

Mr Compton asked the council to reinforce the parishioners concerns in the council's response.

Mr & Mrs Mack wanted to know why the developer has been so confident regarding this application they have gone straight in with a detailed planning

application, why isn't there any outline planning applications? Cllr Burgess explained there is not a compulsory requirement to submit an outline application, and the developer has had a meeting with the planners at SDC.

The room as a whole wanted to know how the affordable housing process worked? Cllr Burgess explained homeseekers plus.

Mr Billett wanted to know why can't they build on the allotments land at Hamshill? Cllr Burgess explained other sites were visited by the council and GRCC but rejected by SDC.

Betworthy Farm is the preferred site, the planners felt this field kept the village central and filled in a gap.

176/16

Apologies

Cllr Cook and District Councillor Jim Dewey.

177/16

Co-option of councillor

Elizabeth Ely was co-opted onto the council.

178/16

Declarations of Interest by Councillors

None

179/16

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 4th October and the extraordinary minutes from the meeting on 8th August 2016 were approved and signed as a true and correct record by those present at the meeting.

180/16

Planning

S.16/2248/FUL – Betworthy Farm, The Street – erection of 24 new dwellings, including 12 affordable dwellings - **The council voted to support with added comments.**

181/16

Accountsa) Incomes received and payments for authorisation

Clutterbucks	45.00	Newsletter Advert
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Payments for Authorisation

L Thornton	396.00	Wages October 2016
L Thornton	7.68	Stamps
Npower	20.88	Tennis court electricity
Greenville grounds	175.00	Cemetery grass cutting
RBL Poppy Appeal	25.00	Poppy wreath
CHT	2310.00	Defibrillator and cabinet
L Thornton	20.00	2 x book vouchers for speed awareness

182/16 Clerks Report

1. The clerk received a letter from the residents of Old Swan cottage regarding the pooling of water at the front of their property. The highways department had referred them back to the council. The clerk has spoken to Andrew Middlecote regarding the situation and he has allocated a representative from GCC to deal with the issue.
2. An update has been received from Lesley Swain the environment officer at SDC regarding Knotweed at Norton's Alley. Due to the time of year it is too late to spray but will be monitored by county council and sprayed in the new year.
3. The clerk advised of a tree seminar taking place at Ebley Mill on Wednesday 16th November, 7pm.
4. The joint cluster meeting will take place on Wednesday 23rd November, 6.30pm in the council chamber at Ebley Mill.
5. Carlos Novoth from SDC has advised the recycling banks have been removed from various locations across the district, this has been done without the council's knowledge. The district council are looking at alternative arrangements.
6. The clerk has been advised there is a new footpath parish warden, Mick Thorpe.

183/16 Village defibrillator to be discussed

The clerk confirmed the hall is booked for the training to take place on Saturday 19th November at 11am. Confirmation has been received from the trainer and a table is required at the front of the hall for the presentation.

184/16 Tennis Courts

Nothing to report.

185/16 Fracking

Cllr Hobson feels strongly that fracking is not safe. Councillors voted to support Stroud Town council, clerk to write an objection.

Clerk

186/16 BT Phonebox

Cllr Burgess advised in the past, the view of the council was to not take on responsibility of the phonebox. Cllr Bywater felt it would be a great loss to the village to allow the phonebox to be removed, there are many options to utilise the space. The council to take over responsibly and clean it up and ask the parishioners for ideas for the space. Clerk to place an article in the newsletter.

Clerk

The council voted to purchase the phonebox from BT.

187/16 Councillors roles

Carried forward to the December meeting.

188/16 Neighbourhood Plan

Carried forward to the December meeting.

189/16 Speed monitoring

Cllr Bywater reported 6 sessions took place over the 4-week period, approximately 600 cars passed through the village during the sessions. The equipment has now been passed on to another area. 70% of cars were travelling over 30mph. Once the data is back from the police it will be shared.

- 190/16 Footpath, ditches and stiles to be discussed Clerk
The footpaths needed to be reviewed and divided up to allocate areas to the new councillors. Carry forward to Decembers meeting.
- 191/16 Allotment Update
The hedge has been cut. Cllrs Burgess and Hobson need to arrange a site visit.
- 192/16 Village Maintenance
Nothing to report.
- 193/16 Highways repairs and maintenance
Cllr Wait attended a recent meeting at SDC regarding the highway programme in the district. There is a £86 million backlog of work which needs carrying out, even if the County council had the money it would take 10 years to get through the workload. A new idea with potholes is being trialled, the potholes are repaired in clusters, the disadvantage is this may limit the areas. The annual deterioration is £15 million every year. The good news is technology is improving.
Cllr Burgess reported the repairs on Peak lane are not up to standard, it would appear only half of the area has been done on some of the passing places.
The hedges on Peak Lane are overgrown so cannot get into the passing bays.
Further to the last meeting the clerk has spoken to the clerk at Cam PC regarding the parking at Cam & Dursley Station, the matter is very much in hand and financing is being sought to create more parking spaces.
- 194/16 Playarea Update
The barrier between the swings and climbing frame has rotted.
- 195/16 Matters for forward consideration
Reallocation of duties
Neighbourhood plan
Local pub asset of community.
- 196/16 Items for press release
Minutes

Meeting closed at 9.40 pm.