

EARNLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF EARNLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16th MAY 2012, WHICH COMMENCED AT 7.00pm, AT BRACKLESHAM BARN.

PRESENT: Cllrs Bob Norris (Chairman), Michael Karn (Vice Chairman), Chris Bayley, Sandy Simpson and Colin Field.

In attendance: Louise Chater (Clerk), County Cllr Pieter Montyn, District Cllr Grahame Barrett and three members of the public.

43.12 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME ON MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

There were no questions from the public.

44.12 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

District Councillor Peter Clementson – prior appointment.
Sarah Hughes, Wildlife Project Officer, Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group – work commitments.

45.12 CODE OF CONDUCT

There were no declarations of interest on items included on the agenda.

46.12 PLANNING

Appeal Reference: app/L3815/A/2160759/NWF
SI/1004990/FUL
Madestein UK Ltd
Easton Farm, Easton Lane, Sidlesham.
Glasshouse, office building and associated works.

The Parish Council considered the proposed scheme extremely detrimental, reducing the rural character of the parish through the increase in tarmac and the significant reduction of grass verge. Furthermore, the removal of hedges and trees would detract from the character of the area and reduce the wildlife corridor. Additionally, there were a number of listed buildings in the vicinity and the impact of the scheme would be harmful to the surrounding area.

Currently the speed limit was 30 mph, which was regularly exceeded. The proposed work would have the effect of straightening the road. It is likely, therefore, that there would be an increase in both speed and vehicles using the route to access Selsey and the west Manhood area, and as a viable alternative route to Chichester.

Highway flood ~~was~~ a serious problem in the locality and it was considered the engineering work would exacerbate the problem.

The Manhood Peninsula ~~is~~ home to the only wild population of Water Voles in West Sussex and the additional highway engineering work required for the scheme would be disadvantageous to this endangered species.

The Parish Council was particularly concerned with the potential for serious harm to local residents, holidaymakers, cyclists, dog walkers, pedestrians, ramblers, horse riders and their horses, in addition to the potential risk to the overhead cabling. Moreover,

upon completion of the Manhood Realignment scheme, which had become material evidence during the process, this facility would lead to a significant increase in pedestrians, cyclists, horse riders and holidaymakers who are unfamiliar with the roads. Furthermore, at the junction of First Avenue and Almodington Lane there were five gas cylinders that supplied the residents of the avenue and the work would bring these into a close proximity of the road.

Meeting Closed

Q. Mrs Wilkes asked If the road was widened in particular places was it likely that the 30mph speed limit would be increased as the traffic would be able to drive faster.

A. The Chairman stated that in his experience this it would be unlikely.

Q. County Cllr Montyn asked through the work with Casper and SID the Manhood Road Safety Group must have a large evidence base of the speeding issues on Almodington Lane.

A. Cllr Bayley advised that the SID had not been used on Almodington Lane as there were no safe place from which to operate it... The Casper had only been located on the road once and this was during a period when there was extensive flooding and so this had the effect of giving a false reading for the area. District Cllr Barrett reported that the speed survey showed that the average speed on the road was 40 mph. Cllr Bayley stated that the Police had caught one person exceeding 60 mph and the vehicle was confiscated.

Mrs Kirby reported that she had spoken to one of the people carrying out the road survey and he had stated that the road was in good condition. She had highlighted the condition of the edge of the road and the potholes but he had responded that that was the surface and the road underneath was sound. Cllr Bayley stated that it was local knowledge - and Steve Johnson, West Sussex County Council, had also stated - that the road was originally a drover's lane, since when the surface had only ever been covered with tarmac and chippings and this process had been repeated over many years to form the current surface.

The meeting reopened.

On a proposal by Cllr Field it was **RESOLVED** that the parish council would **OBJECT** to the application as the proposed work would benefit nobody but the applicant, and would, in fact, be detrimental to the parish, its residents and visitors. It was further **RESOLVED** that Cllr Karn would produce a draft letter, in the form of the draft he had presented to the meeting, and incorporating relevant points from a draft presented by the Chairman to the meeting and from discussion at the meeting. It was also **RESOLVED** that Cllr Karn would circulate the draft letter to the other Councillors and a final version would be agreed and submitted by the due date.

The Chairman asked if the Parish Council should take the stand at the appeal when it reopened. It was considered more appropriate that the Parish Council submitted the comments in writing.

47.12 ITEMS FOR REPORTING AND INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

No matters were raised.

Meeting closed 7.35pm

Signed Chris Bayley Chairman to Earnley Parish Council

Dated 19th July 2012