

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 1st SEPTEMBER 2020 REMOTELY BY VIDEO CONFERENCE AT 7:30PM.

PRESENT: Mr B Forbes (Chairman) Mrs S Hughesdon (Vice Chairman) Dr I Gibson Mrs C Jarvis Mrs T Mugridge Mr O O’Grady Mr A Palin and Mrs C Steggles, 3 members of the public, Mrs C Marsh (Clerk) and Mrs L Bannister (Responsible Financial Officer)

Due to the current pandemic, The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 came into force on 4th April 2020. The regulations provide Councils with the power to hold their Council and Committee meetings remotely, by electronic means, between 4th April 2020 and 6th May 2021.

63 Apologies None

64 Public Participation

Lisa Jackson is the planning consultant for planning application DM/19/2877. Ms Jackson gave a detailed overview of the planning application, explaining how they have considered adverse impacts of the site and the mitigations they intend to put in place. Ms Jackson believes that the Neighbourhood Plan does not currently carry weight as it is not in line with the Local Plan or most recent National Planning Policy Framework.

Mrs Mugridge asked what has changed in the business plan since securing planning permission for the burial ground; why has the planning proposal changed. Ms Jackson said this was no longer relevant as this application is based on an established need. Mrs Mugridge also asked why this rural location was seen to be suitable when other local crematoria are in high density residential areas. Ms Jackson explained that this is because generally the crematoria were built before the residential expansion.

Mr Palin asked for detail on how there would be a net biodiversity gain. Ms Jackson explained that this was calculated based on guidance provided by DEFRA. This was provided in the ecological study in the evidence.

Mr Gibson asked if they will allow the scattering of ashes and will this lead to memorials which may increase traffic movements. Ms Jackson replied that the plan does allow for the scattering of ashes and the proposals do allow for the return of visiting mourners.

Mrs Mugridge asked for an item to be added to the Parish News about responsible dog walking in the area. Mrs Mugridge will draft something and submit it to the Clerk.

65 Declarations of Personal and Disclosable Pecuniary Interests None

66 Chairman's Announcements None

67 The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4th August 2020, as circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

68 Matters currently being pursued by the Clerk

Cyclists urinating behind the Bus Stop – As requested the Clerk contacted WSCC on this matter and they advised that anti-social behaviour of this nature is normally dealt with by the police or Environmental Heath through MSDC and has the Council considered fencing off the bus shelter so cyclists cannot get behind it. The Clerk advised that this had been considered but the grass needs cutting behind the bus shelter and the owner of the garden also needs to access the area to cut their hedge. However, could the Council encourage the hedge owner to allow their hedge to grow and fill the gap behind the shelter? Mr Speller has offered to issue them a free license so they are covered if anyone asks, however, the Clerk has since heard that the owners would not be receptive to this.

Letters to Central Stores and The Park Stores – Letters were written to both stores and also to Tulleys Farm and Grange Farm Shop as the Clerk was aware that both were also used by residents.

Letter to our MP – Thank you to Dr Gibson for drafting a letter, however, we did not need to send it because we were advised by the District Council that we could apply again and this time, funds have been granted.

69 Planning Applications

It was RESOLVED that MSDC be informed that:

DM/20/2743 Land at Fen Place, East Street

The Parish Council supports this planning application but ask that a condition is added that the riding arena is for private use only.

DM/19/2877 Land North of Turners Hill Road

We object to this application especially as it is outline only apart from the access. Such an application offers no guarantees to our community as to the eventual use of the site but would provide a larger access point and removal of more hedgerow.

To say “The basic principle is that for the prospect to be a real prospect it does not have to be probable or likely, a possibility will suffice” does not provided any certainty for residents nor for the Parish Council to be able to comment. Planning applications for this site have been on-going for over six years with six applications being granted and to date only the hedge has moved and scalping's laid. Apparently, more work was to be carried out in August this year, it has not.

We note that the land is referred to as a brown field site but, as it has never had any buildings on the land it is not.

Constantly referring to this application as a community facility is misleading to those not au fait with planning, it is community only in terms of the far wider community than that of Turners Hill. Saying that the site is near Turners Hill is also misleading, it is part of Turners Hill and affects the residents of Turners Hill.

“Given the limitations on large gatherings and social distancing requirements during the Covid-19 pandemic, the applicants have been unable to carry out community involvement prior to submission of the application. The Parish Council have made it clear in the past that they will not engage in pre-application discussions with the applicant, so it has not been possible to preempt any response from the local community.” This is blatantly untrue. Turners Hill Parish Council has never been contacted by the applicant. The applicant has a very good idea of the likely response from the community based on the numerous previous applications. No contact was made regarding this application to see how community responses could be made in advance and considered for this application.

NPPF 84 states that *“it will be important to ensure that development is sensitive to its surroundings, does not have an unacceptable impact on local roads and exploit any opportunities to make a location more sustainable (for example by improving the scope for access on foot, by cycling or by public transport). The use of previously developed land, and sites that are physically well related to existing settlements should be encouraged where suitable opportunities exist”*.

This application does not fulfil the criteria, it is not sensitive to its surroundings and most certainly will have an unacceptable impact on our local roads. The provision for access on foot cannot be safely achieved and public transport is extremely limited. It is not a previously developed site and not appropriate in this rural area. It is not socially or environmentally sustainable, we question that it will be economically sustainable either.

The application states that there is compelling and qualitative need for another crematorium so close to the Surrey and Sussex Crematorium which is under five miles distance from the site. We do not agree that the need is proven IF there is a need for another crematorium to better serve the Mid Sussex area then it needs to be more central within the district so that it provides for the whole district at both 15 and 30 minutes distance. Placing it near the edge of the area and so close to the Surrey and Sussex Crematorium does not benefit the whole community and cannot be seen as sustainable.

The Federation of Burial and Cremation Authority (FBCA) states that careful consideration should be given to the siting of a crematorium to see if it is close to a school, sports ground or other facility which it may be deemed incompatible with. If residents of Mid Sussex are to make use of a facility in Turners Hill and

substantial number of them will travel along residential roads, past our Primary School as well as it being directly opposite the village cricket ground and adjacent to Tulleys family fun park. They also emphasise the need for community support from the general public to demonstrate the local need, no attempt has been made to gather this information locally.

Traffic impact is greatly underestimated in our opinion and this is of great concern to us. The documents state that on average 19 vehicles attend for each cremation and 22 for a natural burial. Based on the information provided there would be 6 services a day, 5 days per week 52 weeks of the year. When we multiply this out it equates to 29,640 movements a year for the crematorium alone. If we use the information provided which states that approximately 877 cremations will be undertaken in a year when established, vehicle movements amount to 16,663 when calculated on the same basis. Traffic is already approaching 110% of capacity in Turners Hill during the morning and evening peak times, and the strategic transport study for the Mid Sussex District Plan shows this rising to 115% by 2031.

Additionally, there will be natural burials, visitors, possibly some weekend services, and workers. Many services will have far more in attendance. This is most definitely not suitable for the local roads, is a danger to residents and is an underestimate in our opinion.

We are concerned that the Transport Assessment is based on 2013 survey and therefore does not provide a fair starting point for any analysis.

Much is made of the permitted path to St. Leonard's Church, but it does not take the walker to the Church. It does take them to an unofficial lay-by and on the busy road. There is no safe crossing area and no path immediately opposite. A path to the western corner of the site is to be provided so that people can make use of the bus service. The service to Crawley is on the opposite side of the road and the one from Crawley further to the west. For visitors it might be of use on occasions but it's unlikely that the times are convenient to attend a timed service.

We have always wanted to protect the area of High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and this land is separated by the road only. It will have an impact on the AONB especially from associated traffic and car parking. Providing 112 car parking spaces will be a scar on the landscape. Such a large building together with the car parking area and a far greater number of vehicle movements will undermine the rural character of the surrounding countryside and be a constant blight on our community. The building is 40 m x 40 m wide and long and 4.5 m high with a flat roof while the chimney is 7 m high.

Presumably as this is an outline application only the answers to questions on

the application form are vague, although some were answered on previous applications. Foul sewage disposal method – unknown; waste storage and disposal – unknown; non-residential floor space – no change at 500 sq. m; full time employees – 4 but elsewhere speaks of 6; hours of opening - unknown.

We can find no reference to the provision of water or gas to the site, both very important elements of any development. Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) would require its own safe store.

Using the northern field, previously marked on phase 3, for natural burials needs to be carefully considered as it is closer to the River Medway.

- 70 Report on Previous Applications
DM/20/1847 Rashes Farm, Selsfield Road Application withdrawn
DM/20/2334 9 Turtledove Avenue Permission

- 71 Appeal submitted regarding the enforcement at Kiln Cottage, Turners Hill, MSDC ref AP/20/0017 It was RESOLVED to delegate authority to the Clerk to prepare a comment in consultation with the Chairman. Members will send their comments to the Clerk for collation.

- 72 MSDC's Site Allocations DPD Submission Draft It was RESOLVED to object to the site 852 allocated within Turners Hill as per the report prepared, in addition to objections specifically relating to the additional 'buffer' of homes that has been added by MSDC. Dr Gibson will submit his comments in writing to the Clerk.

- 73 THPC LGPS Discretions Policy It was RESOLVED to approve the policy.

- 74 Risk Assessment for 2020/21 The document as circulated, was reviewed and it was RESOLVED that it be adopted.

- 75 Civic Award It was RESOLVED that written nominations should be sent to the Clerk by the end of October for consideration by Councillors in November and presentation in January.

- 76 Report on Cluster SID The document as circulated, was noted and Mr Pratt will be thanked for his efforts.

- 77 Report on meeting with PCSO Sophie Norman The document as circulated was noted. PCSO Norman will be invited to attend a Council meeting in the New Year.

- 78 Remembrance Day wreath donation It was RESOLVED that a £40.00 donation be made to the RBL for the wreath.

- 79 Donation to Royal National Lifeboat Institute It was RESOLVED that a grant would not be provided as it is not a local charity.

80 Payment of Society of Local Council Clerks annual subscription for RFO It was RESOLVED that the payment of £90.00 for the above subscription, be paid.

81 Accounts Due for Payment

It was resolved that:

1. The Accounts shown on the schedule as being due for payment be paid and
2. The Accounts shown on the schedule as being paid since the meeting held on 3rd August 2020, be approved.
3. The Accounts schedule was duly signed.

82 Correspondence

Letters were sent to various organisations thanking them for their efforts relating to the pandemic. Central Stores replied that the letter has been well received and a great boost, thank you. Grange Farm thanked the Parish Council. Tulleys Farm replied thanking the Parish Council very much for sending the letter across, it is very much appreciated. They had fun running it, although they realised they would not want to run a farm shop all the time. The current aim is to approach it seasonally.

An e-mail was received from the Secretary to the CAGNE Forum, thanking the Parish Council for their contribution to the forum of £4.00. She advised that the Forum is a separate body to the CAGNE lobbying group, run for Councils by Councillors and as such it has no stance on Gatwick's expansion plans.

Mid Sussex District Council and the Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership have secured £3.2 million from the Government to improve digital infrastructure in rural Mid Sussex.

MSDC Waste services Team wrote regarding the collection of dog waste at Withypitts Pond on the Selsfield Road and Lion Lane on the road leading up to the allotments. They advised that the prices would be increased from £2.41 per collection to £3.05 per collection per bin from 1st July 2020.

Mr Pratt from the Community Speedwatch gave an update regarding the Speedwatch roadside activity team. They have resumed operations under the new scheme and he had a recruitment drive in May which has brought the Team up to eight people now. Their focus remains in educating and reminding vehicles to slow down whilst in the Parish, they are not there to "catch" people. They aim, as volunteers, to have one session a week at different locations in the Parish. When working in pairs they fully observe the social distancing rules and regulations.

The mobile SIDs remain the main focus and are the most active and useful tool that the Parish has and they see the roadside teams as a complement to the road safety campaign.

83 Confidential Item

Meeting closed at 8:45pm

SignedChairman

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