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WENHASTON WITH MELLS HAMLET PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Plans meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 29th April 2009.

Present:- Cllr. B .Orme Chairman, Cllr. H. Phillips, Cllr. B. Cousins, Cllr. R. Ives, Cllr. M. Dickson, 44 Parishioners and clerk Mrs M. Pennock.

1. The Chairman welcomed the Councillors and Parishioners to the meeting. Apologies received from Cllr. A. Edwards, Cllr. S.Hayward Rutter, Cllr. T. Tate, Cllr. J. Tate, and Cllr. M. Gasper.
2. No members' declarations of Interest were received.
3. Planning application C08/2216. New Farm, Blackheath Road, Wenhaston. Erection of 20 holiday log cabins, shop and toilet/facilities block. Provision on site for 20 visiting caravans.

The Chairman asked that the Parish meeting be closed to allow Parishioners to make their views known, and to allow Mr. Wright's architect to answer any questions that Parishioners might have about the proposed development. Proposed by Cllr. M. Dickson and seconded by Cllr. H. Phillips.

Proposed by Cllr. R. Ives and seconded by Cllr. B. Cousins that the meeting be re opened.

The Chairman asked the Parish Councillors' present for their views.

Cllr. M. Dickson started by saying that he was concerned by the size of the development, also the traffic problems this development would cause.

The Parish Council some time ago looked at SCDC Local Development Framework and decided that Blackheath was not suitable for development as it was too far from the Village.

He felt that a severe reduction would be acceptable – 10 cabins maximum.

Cllr. H. Phillips stated that nobody knows what the impact will be on the village and expressed concerns about the environment and commons due to this development. Cllr. Phillips would prefer to see a little at a time.

Cllr. R. Ives answered by saying that the development had to be a certain size to run it successfully commercially.

Cllr. B. Cousins thanked Mr Wright for coming to the meeting. She felt that the current form of the development was to large

The Chairman Cllr. B. Orme proposed and Cllr. R. Ives seconded that the planning application be supported by the Parish Council.

The five Councillors' present voted 3in favour and 2 against.

Proxy votes from the Councillors' unable to attend the meeting were counted, 3 against and 2 in favour. 10 Parish Councillors' voted.

This amounted to a split vote of the Parish Council.

(The Chairman under the Meeting and Procedure of a Local Council, Local Council Administration Act could have cast a second or casting vote).

As the Parish Council were split regarding the planning application the Chairman proposed that Suffolk Coastal District Council be informed of the split vote.

Also, that some of the Councillors had expressed that they might view the application in a different light, if a new planning application was received reducing the size of the development.

Proposed by Cllr. B.Orme and seconded by Cllr. M. Dickson.

Meeting closed at 8.15p.m.

Footnote to the meeting.

I have received telephone calls and e mails relating to the above meeting.

A Parishioner who stated that she was "born and bred" in Wenhaston was upset and disgusted by comments made about new comers to the Village.

Another parishioner said she came to hear the pros and cons about the planning application not to hear verbal abuse to some of her fellow parishioners.

The Chairman during the open meeting did in fact disassociate himself and the Parish Council from these comments.