



**Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of Billingshurst Parish Council
Tuesday 18 June 2024
6pm at the Billingshurst Centre.**

Present

Cllrs Ken Peters (Chairman), Edna Bengier, Phillip Day, Sandy Duck, Trevor Leonard, James Marchant, Kate Rowbottom and Doug Waller.

In attendance

G Burt, Clerk to the Council
Jo Booth, Assistant Clerk (until Min 62/24)
2 Members of the Public

56/24 Chairman's Announcements.

The Chairman advised that

1. The meeting was being streamed to the internet.
2. Cllrs wishing to speak should raise their hand and speak loudly and clearly.
3. Mobile 'phones should either be switched off or silenced.

The Chairman went on to advise that of the two planning applications before Members this evening:

- a. The Duckmoor application, objected to by the Parish Council, had been approved on appeal to the Planning Inspectorate following refusal by Horsham District Council (HDC). This application was for reserved matters.
- b. The Hilland House application was purely speculative and had not been allocated by HDC in its Draft Local Plan.

57/24 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Faye Algar, Paul Berry, Craig Gale and Steve Thomas for approved reasons. On the proposal of Cllr Ken Peters, seconded by Cllr Doug Waller, **RESOLVED** that the apologies and reasons given be accepted.

58/24 To Receive Declarations of Interest and consider any requests for a dispensation.

No declarations etc. were invited.

Adjournment for

59/24 Public Session (Members of the Public may speak for up to 3 minutes at the discretion of the Chairman).

Brett De Bank said that he believed that the approval for outline permission by the Planning Inspector was flawed and should be challenged, possibly by Judicial Review. He explained his reasoning to Councillors by going into detail on the data inaccuracies in the original application relating to water neutrality and the off-setting of water at the Dedisham Farm site. His full comments have been submitted to Horsham District Council (HDC) and can be seen on Public Access.

Resume Meeting

60/24 To consider the response to planning application DC/24/0768 Reserved matters application for the erection of 83No. dwellings, open space and child play provision, residential parking facilities and associated infrastructure, including access arrangements following outline application DC/20/2607, relating to layout, scale, appearance and landscaping. LAND AT DUCKMOOR, EAST OF BILLINGSHURST.

On the proposal of Cllr Ken Peters, seconded by Cllr Doug Waller, **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council **OBJECTS** to this application for the following reasons:-

- **Water Neutrality.** Councillors are concerned that water neutrality cannot be achieved, despite the assertions in the application documentation. The Planning Officer's attention is specifically directed to the detailed research carried out and addressed in correspondence from Mr Brett de Bank;
- **Highways, access and parking.** Councillors recognise and support the concerns raised by residents, particularly those living in Dadswell Drive, who will be subjected to a huge increase in traffic and the associated noise and air pollution – both during the building phase and subsequently.
- **Incomplete/missing information.** Statutory consultees have already raised issues with the lack of information in some areas, i.e. West Sussex County Council (WSCC) Highways has asked for information on proposed materials and internal road layout, Nature Space has requested an up-to-date newt survey, HDC's Arboricultural Officer has requested further information on the drainage strategy and WSCC are dissatisfied with the drainage strategy in its capacity of Lead Local Flood Authority.

Councillors would like to be reconsulted when all the missing and incomplete information has been supplied.

61/24 To consider the response to planning application DC/24/0749. Outline Application for redevelopment of the site to provide up to 125 dwellings, ancillary parking new landscaping and open space, an ecological and woodland park together with associated works and landscaping with all matters reserved except access. Hilland House, New Road, Billingshurst, West Sussex.

On the proposal of Cllr Doug Waller, seconded by Cllr Ken Peters, **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council **OBJECTS** to this application for the following reasons:-

- **Water Neutrality.** Based on the evidence used in the application documents, Parish Councillors are not convinced that water consumption has been accurately assessed. Other objectors are more knowledgeable on this matter and so the Parish Council urges the Planning Officer to examine those representations in detail;
- **Highway Issues.** New Road is practically a single lane road and cannot, therefore, cope with the volume of traffic which this proposal represents. The roundabout at the Trade Park is already congested at times making it very difficult for vehicles to exit New Road onto Stane Street. There is some question over the application of the TRICS data when it comes to trip rates which appear to be low;
- **Environmental Concerns.** The proposed 1.5m wide footpath from the site to the footway on Stane Street requires the loss of a significant length of hedgerow. This hedge is very well established and acts as an essential screen to the Trade Park. The recommendations of the Road Safety Audit include lighting the proposed footway for its entire length. This will lead to light pollution in this countryside location and will be detrimental to wildlife;
- **Location.** The proposed site is situated outside the BUAB and is not an extension to existing residential area. This will, in effect, create an isolated new neighbourhood at some remove from the facilities and amenities available within Billingshurst and will, inevitably, lead to an increased reliance on private motor vehicles.

62/24 2022-23 Accounts.

- a. To receive the Internal Audit Report, (and refer any matter requiring detailed consideration to F&GP Committee).
On the proposal of Cllr Ken Peters, seconded by Cllr James Marchant, **RESOLVED** to receive the Internal Audit Report 2023-24.
- b. To approve the Annual Return Governance Statement.
On the proposal of Cllr Ken Peters, seconded by Cllr Phillip Day, **RESOLVED** to approve the Annual Return Governance Statement 2023-24 – Appendix A.
- c. To approve the Annual Return Accounting Statements.
On the proposal of Cllr Ken Peters, seconded by Cllr Phillip Day, **RESOLVED** to approve the Accounting Statements for 2023-24 – Appendix B. [Detailed accounts for the year ending 31st March 2024 will be considered by the F&GP Committee in due course.]
- d. To reappoint Mike Platten T/A *April Skies Consulting* as Internal Auditor for the year 2024-25.
On the proposal of Cllr Ken Peters, seconded by Cllr Sandy Duck, **RESOLVED** that Mike Platten T/A *April Skies Consulting* be reappointed as Internal Auditor for the year 2024-25.

63/24 Date of Next Ordinary Meeting – 3 July 2024.

Meeting finished at 7.50pm