

WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Additional Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 1 August 2019 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall, Witcham

Present: M Housden (Chairman), J Bibby, K Mackender, J Lucas

In attendance Mrs S J Bell (Clerk)

No members of public present

Action

19/160 **Apologies for Absence:** There were none.

19/161 **To receive any declarations of interest**

Councillors to declare any pecuniary interests in any items on the agenda - none

Councillors to declare any personal interests in any items on the agenda.- none

Councillors to declare any prejudicial interests - J Bibby Planning – 15 Martins Lane – consultee

19/162 **Dispensations:**

To note any new Dispensations granted: Nil

19/163 **Public Participation:** J Bibby wished to speak regarding agenda item 19/164
15 Martins Lane

J Bibby advised that she would be responding to the application with concerns that part of this land had been previously sought by the Parish Council in order to extend the cemetery. Too many dwellings were proposed for the plot and there were already 15 plots in the village where development had not yet commenced – this would potentially increase the population by 100. Poor access and inadequate parking facilities proposed. She would like to see part of the land purchased to extend cemetery – the need for which only increased as the population increased. Witcham had nearly doubled in the last 2-3 decades. J Bibby withdrew from participating in the meeting.

19/164 **Planning Applications**

19/01003/OUM 15 Martins Lane Outline planning application (all matters reserved except access for the demolition of the existing bungalow (No 15) and associated outbuildings and the erection of 10 dwellings with a new access from Martins Lane and associated open space.

Resolved that the Council had concerns and there were a number of issues the planning department and developer needed to address:

1. Over-development of site, including lack of parking space for number of houses. Of note, this proposed development is on a bend so visitor car parking will not be possible near the access on the main road through the village, eg Martins Lane/Mepal Road/Hive Road (This will be quite obvious to Members and Officers when they carry out inspection before Planning Committee meeting).
2. There appears to be no proposals for a proper pavement around the estate? These are family size homes, likely to be occupied by younger people with children and pushchairs/ride-on toys to manoeuvre, children leaving the estate without adult supervision to catch buses to the nearest primary school at Mepal or Witchford Village College.
3. Access on bend: For this number of houses and number of expected traffic movements per day, this will make the bend more hazardous and dangerous. Please take account this is an accident spot and gives rise for concern by local residents, especially due to speeding. Please also take note that there are equestrian businesses in the vicinity and residents have already seen a very nasty accident here when a horse was hit by a vehicle on the bend, and which sent the rider flying. (made national news)you will recall)
4. Public utilities - water, foul sewer and drainage already a problem in the village. This has been raised as a concern in respect of other recent small estate developments in the village:

19/164 **Planning Applications** (cont)

036/.....

17/00689/Ful etc Kings of Witcham
16/01567/FUL etc Pond Farm High Street

The Parish Council has no firm assurance from the agencies that these issues have been properly addressed in terms of plans for extra capacity of public utility facilities, to reassure its residents.

5. Height of buildings - houses, but all the dwellings at this end and on this side of the road are bungalows! Proposed development therefore not in-keeping with the streetscene

6. The proposed development extends right up to the existing cemetery.

At this point the Parish Council must point out that the existing cemetery can take no further requests for burials. We have over the last 15-20 years on several occasions contacted landowners to try to negotiate a small piece of land which would effectively double the existing size of the cemetery (started 1950s) thereby giving our residents the opportunity for burials for the next 40-50 years or so. Of note, in the last 15 years there has been a significant increase in development of small estates in Witcham, starting with 03/00840/FUL Silver Street. In the previous 20 years there had only been one such development, The Orchards. Such developments increase the necessity for the Parish Council to be able to provide burial facilities for its residents in the future.

Proposed M Housden, seconded K Mackender.

Clerk

6.55pm J Bibby resumed participation in meeting

19/00925/VAR Adj High Point, Hive Road, variation of condition 1 (approved plans) of previously approved 17/01361/FUL for construction 4-bed 2-storey detached dwelling – garage.

Resolved that the Council had no concerns regarding amendment to build a garage on this site. Proposed J Lucas, seconded J Bibby.

Clerk

17/00689/DISB Kings of Witcham, The Slade To discharge conditions 4 (Foul water and surface water drainage scheme), 7 (footway link), and 20 (bin store) of decision dated 7.6.18 for Demolition of existing motor vehicle garage and construction of 6No 4-bed dwellings, 2No 3-bed dwellings, garaging, access road and associated works.

Noted the details for this application were for information only. Clerk to contact Planning Officer to progress attendance at September meeting.

Clerk

19/165 **Exclusion of the Press and Public: Resolved** that in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960, that as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted at agenda items 19/166 to 19/167 namely, quotations it is advisable in the public interest that the public and press be temporarily excluded from this meeting and they are herewith instructed to withdraw. Proposed Chairman, seconded J Lucas.
No members of the public present.

19/166 **Quotes for Telephone Kiosk**

No further quotes had been submitted.

Resolved that having now pursued quotes for months without success of obtaining three, and given the need to get the work done while the weather was fine, L Holdaway to liaise with potential donors on costs and check when they would like work to proceed. Proposed by Chairman and agreed.

LH

19/167 **Quotes for Cemetery Lychgate**

Chair reported that he was meeting a contractor on 5 August for 3rd quote. Item deferred to September

The meeting closed at 7.05pm

Signed.....

Dated