

An Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Tuesday 9th February 2021 at 7.30 pm via Electronic Conferencing on account of the Government social distancing requirements.

Present: Cllrs Brant (Chair), Freestone (Vice Chair), Bradshaw, Cole, Freeman, Hicks and Thomas and Mrs Medwell (Clerk).

1. To Approve Apologies for Absence:

There were none.

2. Declaration of Interests on Items on the Agenda or changes to the Members Register of Interests:

There were no declarations of interests.

There were no changes to the members Registers of Interests.

3. NC/21/00036/DPA Peasdale Hill Field, Ashley Road, Middleton:

The Parish Council considered this application and noted to start with that an email had been sent by the Council to the Head of Planning raising significant concerns with the application form pertaining to this case and questioning the basis on which it was validated. The Council had identified many errors/omissions/misleading statements relating to such crucial matters as materials, access to the site, trees and hedges, flood risk, biodiversity, protected species and geological conservation. The Parish Council would expect all planning application forms to be checked prior to validation and as this is a greenfield site the errors are glaringly obvious. The Parish Council unanimously **agreed** that the validation of the application should be revoked, until such time as an accurate application form has been submitted. An inaccurate planning application form will potentially mislead statutory bodies commenting on the application and could lead ultimately to an inappropriate and unsafe planning approval.

The Parish Council also noted a recently commissioned ecological report of the area adjacent to Peasdale Hill Field that identifies it as a highly suitable environment for protected species. As no previous ecological surveys have been undertaken of this area the risk assessment indicates that an offence has been committed under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Conservation of Species and Habitat Regulations 2010.

The Parish Council discussed the Stop Notice that has been served on the site by Corby Borough Council and was of the view that all machinery should be removed from the site immediately to reduce any further impact on protected species. It also discussed the application in terms of lack of local provision by the Borough for travellers' sites and felt very strongly that this should not outweigh planning consideration particularly with the existing site and current applications at Oakley Park, all of which would very much dominate the local settlement.

With regard to the planning application, the Council's concerns included the site's proximity to the flood plain; sewage disposal; the lack of an archaeological survey given the ridge and furrow nature of the field; the destruction of a habitat containing protected species; lack of a footpath into the village; inadequacy of detail on the proposed gateway treatment and lack of compliance with elements of the National Planning Policy Framework and the Planning Policy for Travellers.

The Parish Council unanimously **agreed** to seek advice from the Planning Consultant, John Groves, before submitting a full letter of objection and unanimously approved his fee of £500.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.25 pm

Minutes to be ratified at the next Parish Council Meeting on Wednesday 17th February 2021

Signed.....Chair Date.....