

HARDINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 16th November 2015 in the Memorial Hall, Hardingham at 7.30pm

Present:

John Sharples (Chairman)	Henry Edwards (Vice Chairman)	Tim Barrett
Richard Burke	Binny Lenihan	Jane Strudwick
Lynn Whitwell (Clerk)		

Members of the public present:

Scott Andrews	Eva Birkby	Kevin Birkby
Donna Dunthorne	Roy Dunthorne	Jenny Ford
Nigel Ford	Eddie Rose	Josephine Rose
James Rose	Melissa Rose	Peter Whitwell
Luke Wilkins	Paul Claussen (District Councillor)	Apologies: Simon Tofts

Members of the public were welcomed by the Chairman who explained that those present would have the opportunity to speak, after this the council meeting would begin, when no further comments should be made. Mr Tofts had asked that, in his absence, his letter be read out at the meeting. The Chairman read out the letter. The letter included the question that "as Mr Sharples (Chairman of Hardingham Parish Council) and Mr Edwards (Vice Chairman of Hardingham Parish Council) have been named in the statement and that they are supportive of the proposed scheme, will they be unable to participate in the meeting or vote due to impartiality?", Mr Sharples clarified that their expressions were not as representatives of the Parish Council and should be ignored.

Mrs Dunthorne gave an overview of the scheme. Discussion followed with those present taking the opportunity to voice their objections and to question what they considered inaccuracies in the application, with Mr and Mrs Dunthorne responding to points made.

Those present who objected to the scheme had already sent or would be sending their objections to Breckland Council.

The Parish Council Meeting began at 8.10 pm

1. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none

2. TO CONSIDER APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Glen Gower

3. PLANNING FOR CONSIDERATION

3PL/2015/1046/F – Mr R Dunthorne, Ketts Cottage, Low Street – The proposed schemes involve the development of the infill site with 6 houses; 2 x 3 bed semi-detached houses, 2 x 4

The Chairman summarised the main concerns voiced by the public attending

- 6 houses considered a lot, density of the development
- Effect of development on the view over open fields and wildlife
- Access is onto a dangerous road near a sharp bend

- Site is agricultural land
- Hardingham is not within the development plan
- The term "infill" is ingenuous
- The pavement situation is not good
- These are family houses and there are dangers to children ref. the road and maybe school bus
- No great demand for houses therefore inappropriate
- Development could set precedent,
- Could street lights be requested

Councillors were asked for their views and these included:

- 6 is far too many houses (Jane Strudwick)
- Too many houses; bad access and risk getting children to school bus at top of road without a footpath (Binny Lenihan)
- 6 too many; lack of footpath is a problem, near dangerous bends (Tim Barrett)
- In favour of Hardingham contributing to housing shortage, would prefer affordable housing not executive; road safety a concern; effect on residents; unsuitable venture (Richard Burke)
- Valid points made about road and pavement (Henry Edwards)

The chairman read out a statement from Jason Parker, Planning Department, Breckland Council.

Jane Strudwick proposed that the council did not recommend the development of 6 houses. This was seconded by Binny Lenihan and agreed by the Council

The formal response to the Planning Department at Breckland was agreed as follows:

Several residents of Low Street, Hardingham attended the Parish Council meeting held on 16th November to discuss planning application 3PL/2015/1046/F with the majority expression against the proposal. Individual objections have been sent to Breckland.

The Parish Council objects to the proposal on the following grounds:

Addition of 6 houses is too many for rural location

The following concerns were also to be raised.

- Hardingham is not included in the Development Plan
- The development is not supported by local services
- The site is agricultural land
- Dangerous access on and off B1135
- Lack of pavement on the side of the development, leading to particular concern for the safety of families and children
- The development impacts on the curtilage of a Grade II listed building
- The development has a visual impact and blocks open views of countryside now available to residents
- The development impacts on existing wildlife
- There is concern that if permission granted this could set a precedent for further development in Hardingham when not included in the Development Plan

The meeting ended at 8.35pm