**ALBY WITH THWAITE PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14 October 2021 at 7.30 pm at the Spread-Eagle Public House, Erpingham, NR11 7QA**

**Present:** Chairman Barry Fitzpatrick, Deputy Chairman Will Cutts,

Councillors, Sheila Goodley, Clare McNamara, Stephen Jordan and Angus Mackenzie

Clerk Rosalyn Dawson

Visitor: John Toye - Portfolio holder for Planning & Enforcement (Member for Erpingham Ward)

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Saul Penfold County Councillor: North Walsham West & Erpingham Division
2. **Brief Intermission – parishioner’s questions on Agenda Items:**

None raised.

1. **Declarations of interest:** None
2. **Minutes of the Virtual meeting on 15 March 2021 were agreed.**
3. **Matters Arising:** None
4. **Planning Applications** (The public participated in all conversations).

**PU/21/1922 - Abbey Farm, Low Common, Alby** (note: The application reference was reported incorrectly on the Agenda as PU/21/1934).

Councillor’s McNamara and Goodley reported their visit to the site where they met the owner and applicant of the conversions. He said the conversions for letting purposes were for residential use. He advised there are to be 5 glamping pods.

Councillor’s McNamara and Goodley informed the meeting they would research if conditions apply to the pods and if they are classed as caravans and report back.

Members of the public voiced their concerns about the proposal to use part of the site for caravans and tents and how this further exacerbated activity on the site. John Toye explained that the parish council may not be able to control the possibility of the overnight caravan stays.

A member of the public expressed his greatest concern was that of drainage - the possibility of flooding. Low Common in the vicinity has a high water-table and a history of flooding in heavy storm conditions His suggestion was that all foul drainage should be stored in a holding tank on the site and emptied and disposed of legally. He had discussed this matter with the owner who claimed he would install a commercial Klargester system on the site as a method to dispose of effluent/foul drainage.

John Toye, noting parishioner’s concerns, asked if he should approach Enforcement requesting a visit from their officers to assess if there are contraventions and report back to the Parish Council. **Councillors agreed and welcomed** **this.**

* **AP/21/0031 Appeal – Field View, Alby Hill, NR11 7PJ**

Councillor Goodley reported the site started as just a garden room but had since developed into a building of a more permanent nature with living accommodation and ground works still ongoing. The time for the decision had lapsed hence the application was referred to the Inspectorate. John Toye suggested he approaches the Planning Officer to establish what decision would have been in the event the Inspectorate had not become involved. **It was agreed that the Chairman and Councillors would wait for the outcome of this request.**

* **IB/21/1796 – (pre-application) – Land adjacent to former Post Office, Hanworth**

A member of the public voiced the opinion that there were already too many Camp Sites in the area and this site would add to that number.

John Toye said that anyone can apply to have a caravan/camp site and landowners and developers have the control.

John Toye offered to check the Local Plan - Core Strategy and Roll Back for the site. He also offered to check out the size of the site**. Both offers were agreed and welcomed by councillors.**

* **PF/21/2483 – Lattice Tower, base station installation and 1.8m fence on North side of The Street, Erpingham**

The Vice Chair read out a report he had written on the proposal.

Parishioners voiced their agreement for provision of fast broadband and 5G in the area as mobile signals and broadband speeds were poor. Some residents were in favour of the location for the mast.

But there was a strong contingent that were totally against it and its location, citing it was too close to the conservation area of Thwaite Common and the height of the Tower at 30m when trees were cut would be seen in the backdrop of the Common.

There was also a strong voice concerned about the impact on the natural environment of Thwaite Common - the wildlife and another on the safety to nearby residents. One resident said that the pace of technology was improving so fast that Wi-fi and the mast could soon become obsolete.

John Toye offered to approach the relevant Committee if the Parish Council were unhappy with the proposal based upon the height of the Tower and its location.

Councillor Mackenzie proposed that councillors cast a vote to establish whether the siting of the Tower was in the right location and secondly if they approve of 5G.

* **Councillors voted unanimously against the proposed site for the Tower**
* **3 councillors voted for the provision of 5G and 2 voted against 5G. There was one abstention.**

1. **Presentation of HM Lord Lieutenant’s Plaque on 25th November 2021**

The Clerk was asked by one councillor to explain the presentation. She reported the gesture one of goodwill and the sentiment directed to the resident’s resilience during the Coronavirus Pandemic in the Parish of Alby with Thwaite, that it is intended for the whole Community and not purely the Parish Council but that the Chairman as a figure-head in the Community would receive the Plaque on behalf of residents.

1. **Clerk’s Finance Report: 6 July to 5 October 2021**

An Accounting Statement {**ADDENDUM** 1} in the format of a spreadsheet for the 2nd Quarter had been sent to Councillors in advance of the meeting.

**Community Account:**

Transactions for the period: 6 July to 5 October 2021

Income: (Precept) £1,500 + Interest: 0.2p

Expenses: £15.00 Internal Auditor

**Community A/C balance**  **£5,713.53**

**Premium Account Balance: £399.84**

**Councillors agreed the following payments:**

Clerk’s Salary £655.63, and stationery reimbursement: £57.61

1. **Date of next meeting: Wednesday 15 December 2021 @ 7pm**
2. **Adjourn meeting for public participation**

It was announced that the Bus Shelters now have lights. There was concern because no Thwaite Common meeting had been arranged. It was reported that Rob Young, the Chairman of the Group for the meeting had a new role at the District Council. The Chairman was concerned because he said there was a problem with the ponds on the Common.

1. **Close of meeting**

The meeting closed at 10 pm.