

MINUTES OF HORSMONDEN PARISH COUNCIL
PLANNING MEETING HELD IN HORSMONDEN VILLAGE HALL, HORSMONDEN
AT 7.30 P.M. ON 19TH APRIL 2016

Present: Cllr March (Chair of planning), Cllrs Davis, Stevens, Holloway, Russell, Hughes, Jenkinson and Cllr Isaacs

In attendance: Clerk (Lucy Noakes), 35 members of the public present.

Declarations of Interest: Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in accordance with the Code of Conduct were invited. None were submitted.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Stanton.

2. PUBLIC SESSION

Cllr March drew attention to the rules of the meeting and the fact that each speaker in the public session was allowed up to three minutes to speak.

She went on to explain that the Planning application for the construction of a new operational base and helicopter pad at Old Hay was to be considered by the Parish Council a second time, following requests from three parish councillors to look again at the application, as was allowed for in the council's standing orders.

The first speaker, Mr Wheeler, made the point that he believed this to be an unprecedented and harmful development which would harm the environment, local businesses and residents of Horsmonden. He felt that when the Parish Council last considered the matter, very few local residents had been made aware of the proposal. Mr Wheeler went on to talk about the noise monitoring which had taken place to form part of the evidence base in the proposal and said that he believed this contained simple errors and was very limited in its analysis, in that it used 15 to 30 minute data extrapolations to represent entire day and night time situations.

The second speaker, Mrs Aindow, made the point that in their document 'Securing the Future' the Air Ambulance made it clear that they wished to expand and enlarge their operation to incorporate up to 7500 flights a year, which would further impact on noise and the health of Horsmonden residents. Mrs Aindow also mentioned potential light pollution from the site and its impact over the current rural location, as well as the fact that the proposal was in a flood zone 3. She went on to list a number of reasons why the location was not in her view, the ideal location for the proposed development.

Mr Beney felt that the Trust had failed to demonstrate in its submission that an alternative site or location do not exist, as set out in paragraph 101 of the NPPF. The search appeared to concentrate in and around Marden even though the Trust serves Surrey and Sussex as well as Kent. He felt that in the Exception test, the Trust had failed to demonstrate how wider sustainability benefits to the community outweigh the potential flood risk, and that they had used data which was unrepresentative of the site itself. Mr Beney also felt that the number of traffic movements in the application appeared to be understated, there did not appear to be any road safety assessment for the surrounding parishes and that the Transport data included in the application misrepresented the number of accidents which had actually occurred on the surrounding rural roads. He added that he felt the location of the site fails to meet the criteria set out in paragraphs 30, 32, 35 and 36 of the NPPF.

3. PLANNING

3.1 Applications/Submissions:

Planning Application No:	TW/15/510638/FULL
Proposal:	Construction of a new operational base incorporating a helicopter landing pad, hangar, operational building, access road, parking and servicing areas, flood compensation works and landscaping
Location:	Old Hay Airfield Willow Lane Paddock Wood Tonbridge Kent
Recommendation:	Refusal
Proposal:	Cllr Davis, seconded Cllr Holloway. Carried.
Comments:	Objection to the proposal on the grounds of extreme concern by the Parish Council for the increased air traffic movements over the parish and noise levels associated with those movements

Planning Application No:	TW/16/502553/FULL
Proposal:	Erection of an agricultural building for storage of machinery, hay and livestock with associated hardstanding
Location:	Capel Manor House Grovehurst Lane Horsmonden Tonbridge TN12 8BG
Recommendation:	Approval
Proposal:	Cllr Hughes, seconded Cllr Russell. Carried.

Comments:	Acceptance on the grounds that it is an acceptable provision of an agricultural facility, subject to comments from the agricultural adviser in particular to the size of the building.
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Planning Application No:	TW/16/502337/FULL
Proposal:	Retrospective application to erect a high close board fence along the boundary between our garden and the highway, to replace an existing fence.
Location:	Broadford Goudhurst Road Horsmonden Tonbridge TN12 8EU
Recommendation:	Refusal.
Proposal:	Cllr Russell, seconded Cllr Stevens. Unanimous.
Comments:	Recommended refusal on the grounds that the fence is above what is normally considered an acceptable height, unless shielded by external planting of a native species hedgerow.

Planning Application No:	TW/15/509657/FULL
Proposal:	Use of land as a private gypsy and traveller caravan site consisting of one mobile home and amenity block. (Part Retrospective)
Location:	Land Adjacent Bassett's Farm Maidstone Road Horsmonden Tonbridge Kent
Recommendation:	Refusal.
Proposal:	Cllr Davis, seconded Cllr Isaacs. Unanimous.
Comments:	Recommended refusal on the basis of over-development of an agricultural space.

Planning Application No:	TW/16/502193/FULL
Proposal:	Permission to site a mobile caravan on the site
Location:	Yew Tree Farm Yew Tree Green Road Horsmonden Tonbridge TN12 8HR
Recommendation:	Approval.
Proposal:	Cllr Russell, seconded Cllr Jenkins. Unanimous.
Comments:	Acceptance as reasonable temporary accommodation whilst development is in progress , subject to a maximum time of 2 years.

3.2 Applications granted and refused

Applications granted

None were announced or recorded at this meeting.

3.3 Other planning matters (discussion only)

Cllr March reported that she had recently attended a planning meeting at the Borough Council and had learned that upon assessment of the Local Plan by the Planning Inspectorate it has come to light that the assessed need for the Borough is shown to be greater than that planned for. This means that the housing requirement is now for 648 houses per year and that TWBC's 5 year land supply as currently set out is inadequate. Cllr March went on to say that this would undoubtedly lead to more housing applications in small rural villages like Horsmonden, for sites just outside or on the edge of the limits of built development. TWBC are currently calling for suitable sites to be put forward for assessment by them.

Cllr March also went on to say that Mr Green, is currently working with local developers to look into lifestyle accommodation requirements in Horsmonden and has held coffee mornings and displays in the village to try and get a view from parishioners as to what their requirements are for elderly lifestyle homes. He hopes to shortly hold a public exhibition in the village hall to get people's views on the matter. The council will hear more about this in due course.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.20pm.