EARL SOHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

 Thursday 8th July 2021

 7.30pm Earl Soham Village Hall

 Minutes

In Attendance: David Grose – Chair, Peter Russell, Neil Warden, Candida Cook.

It was unanimously agreed that due to the absence of GH, DG would take the minutes.

1. Apologies for absence.

Lucy Murrell, Anna Goymer, Tom Johnson, Mark Rutherford, Andrew Patterson, Guy Harvey.

1. Declaration of interest.

Neil Warden re: BH

1. a) Approval of minutes from 20th May 2021.

Approved unanimously

Matters arising from 20th May 2021.

All items arising on tonight’s Agenda.

Public Comment.

Moved to item 6.

1. Report from County Councillor – Elaine Bryce

Elaine Bryce sent her apologies for her absence. Report received - no questions.

1. Report from ESDC councillor – Lydia Freeman was not present. Report received – no questions.
2. Public Comment

Neil Warden left the room due to his conflict of interest.

DG handed out hard copies of the application. PR had not had time to read it, so Dg waited for it to be read, and were happy to discuss and vote.

I member of the public spoke about the Planning application DC/21/2909/PN3.

The summery of which was – It was a conflict of interest with Local Government policy that have been put in place to protect employment sites. Proper process has not been followed in order to get the planning permission that is now being used to try and circumnavigate planning policies. It’s against the interest of the village for it to become a dormitory village. Last time the Parish Council objected on the basis that it did not comply with the GPDO as it was not clear, this time the lack of clarity over the Certificate of Lawful Existing Use or Development and the GPDO means the Parish Council is in the same position and should therefore object.

1. Planning Application DC/21/2909/PN3

PR spoke in support of the application, and said residential housing was better than a business park, and the village would have better certainty going with this application rather than family circumstances changing with the Hintons. DG pointed out that his understanding is that the plan is to sell to a developer when planning permission for the whole site is gained, so in effect there is no certainty now.

DG had received an email from a parishioner who wanted to have confirmation on a) how many homes does the applicant intend to build on the site b) how would the applicant stop the developer, who buys the building plots, from ripping up the plans and building more in a subsequent application.

After confirming that no other comments wanted to be made. A vote was taken.

Object – 2, support – 1. Motion carried to object

1. Village Hall update.

No update received

1. Allotments Project

As DG and CC have a conflict of interest no Quorum would exist and no update had been received.

1. PC Project updates.

SID – no news. Councillors though they knew people who may help in getting through the layered process required. Finger Post – fitted but comments that it was placed too near the road and could be easily damaged were made. Telephone Box – quotes were being obtained for stripping out and new shelving. Needed a paint quote, CC advised to speak to Hour Charity in Fram as they have just done one up there.CC needed to know if the electricity had been cut off. GH to confirm. Posts on Green – replaced where damaged and Bridleway(Townlands Trust) – posts now installed. Brandeston Road Pinch Gates – no update.

1. Sizewell C

CC spoke at length about the concerns and actions being taken to prevent this project and how many well based informed groups their were now. Other counsellors spoke in support of the project as there seemed no other way to provide the energy needs required by the country. Comment was made that this has a long way to go and things will change including new technologies that may change the landscape on this argument. It was agreed we would all read as many informed articles as possible so a rounded view could be formed and we would discuss it regularly.

1. Quiet Lanes Update

PR said all information required was through to the ESDC and was now waiting to hear of next steps.

1. PC Audit Report.

DG confirmed everyone had received the audit, and then went through all the not met/partially not met comments. These were all items over VAT columns missing, being over £25K where the rules change. All agreed it was a terrific out come and congratulations were to be passed on to GH.

1. Financial Report.

DG handed out copies of the financial report and went through it. No questions

1. Cheques to be signed.

1 cheque to sign but lack of signatories meant it was not signed.

1. Correspondence Since Last Meeting.

AG comments were read out re:Councillors briefing was sent out to late by them for PC to have any chance of feedback that that were requesting. GH to pass these comments back.

1. AOB

NW – spoke about moving the 30mph sign by Yew Tree Business Park. After much discussion it was agreed NW would investigate the subject so all councillors could understand the process, implications, and possibility of this suggestion.

CC – asked what had happened to the process to challenged ESDC on their planning committee process that was not transparent and undemocratic. DG said we had not received answers to our questions from the lead Parish Councils but would get GH to follow up again.

CC – talked of a green page on the website. DG said he did not think this was a problem, but we lacked a person run the website for the village. Councillors said they would try to identify such an individual.

1. Date Of Next Meeting 2nd September 2021

 Signed David Grose 2nd September 2021

The Public and Press are cordially invited to join the meeting. Government COVID 19 guidelines will be followed. For any more information contact the Clerk via email at

clerk@earlsoham.org