

## **HUNTON PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE PLANNING MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> JULY 2013 AT HUNTON VILLAGE HALL**

**PRESENT:** Cllr R Sawtell in the Chair, Cllrs D Heaton, R Porter, L Leonard, S Wyles, T Stanbridge and Mrs S Goodwin, Clerk.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** There were six members of the public in attendance until the end of the open session. Borough Cllr D Collins arrived during the open session.

#### **OPEN SESSION:**

In the open session, prior to the start of the meeting, a number of parishioners voiced their objections to planning application MA/12/0152, Little Clock House, George Street, to be discussed at Item 4.2. The objections to the application included the following:

- The application keeps being sent in with amendments and additional details.
- The application is economical with the truth.
- There is doubt over gypsy status.
- The applicant wants commercial vehicles to be allowed on the site, suggesting a business is being/will be run from there.
- There is no mention of how many private cars will also be parked on the site.
- The land was supposed to be left fallow, but the land has been asphalted, with sheds and vehicles.
- Planning permission for other sites has been refused by MBC for visual disturbance. This should also be turned down due to loss of privacy and impact on nearby listed buildings.
- The MBC Enforcement Officer has not followed up on issues raised about the site.

Borough Cllr Collins stated that there is a need for gypsy sites in the Borough, which goes a long way towards the decision by MBC to approve these types of applications. The previous application by the applicant was due to be refused, but now the applicant has submitted this new application for any gypsies to be on the site, plus commercial vehicles. The commercial vehicles should not be allowed due to the road.

A parishioner asked whether MBC can overturn a Planning Inspectorate decision from a few years ago. Cllr Collins advised that it could as times have changed since the Planning Inspectorate decision in 1995. MBC no longer has a gypsy policy in place.

Cllr Collins stated that if the application is approved, the Parish Council could ask for conditions, such as landscaping and the removal of the pillars at the gate to make the site look more rural.

Cllr Collins will send an email to Mike Parkinson, MBC Conservation Officer, to establish why the proximity of the site to the listed buildings is not seen as important.

The application is unlikely to be heard by MBC Planning Committee for six months. One person from the Parish Council can speak for three minutes, as can one person from the local community and a Borough Councillor.

The owner of 2 Foremans Barn outlined her reasons for the application to be discussed at item 4.1. At the time of the barn conversion, the MBC Conservation officer was very particular about the details of the conversion, which the owner adhered to. Now the owner would like to change the use to one of permanent residence. There have been a number of incidences of theft, which has meant that various family members have had to take turns staying at the residence for security purposes. This has resulted in the thefts being reduced and incidences of fly tipping have also stopped. It makes sense for someone to live permanently on the site.

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr G Thomas.

**2. COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS**

**2.1 Declaration of Interests**

There were no councillor declarations.

**2.2 Dispensations**

There were no requests for dispensations.

**3. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING MEETING HELD ON 20<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2013**

The minutes of the meeting had been previously distributed and were agreed to be an accurate record. As Cllr Thomas had acted as Chairman at the meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> May, but was not present to sign the minutes, the Chairman deferred the signing of the official copy of the minutes until the next Planning Meeting.

**4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The following applications were considered and recommendations made:

**4.1 2 Foremans Barn, Foremans Barn Road – MA/13/1013**

Removal of condition 1 of MA/07/2199 in relation to 2 Foremans Barn (formerly Unit 1) to allow use as permanent residential accommodation.

Parish Council recommendation: Approve, but do not request the application is reported to MBC Planning Committee.

**4.2 Little Clock House, George Street – MA/12/0152**

An application to remove conditions 1 and 2 and vary conditions 3 and 4 of appeal decision dated 29<sup>th</sup> November 1995 in order to allow permanent unrestricted occupancy by gypsies and travellers and allow the stationing of five caravans (including one tourer) and the parking of four commercial vehicles.

Members consider that the applicant wishes to increase the commercial activity on the site, which is situated on a dangerous road. Members agreed that the conditions imposed by the Planning Inspector in November 1995 should remain in place. The Clerk was asked to arrange a meeting with Mike Parkinson to discuss the conservation aspects.

Parish Council recommendation: Refuse and request the application is reported to MBC Planning Committee.

**5. REPORTED PLANNING DECISIONS**

No decisions have been received from Maidstone Borough Council.

**There being no further planning matters to be discussed, the meeting closed at 9:10pm.**