

ASHMORE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an extraordinary meeting to consider the planning application made for change of use at land off Halfpenny Lane held at Ashmore Village Hall on Thursday 8th February at 7 pm

Present:-

Chairman – Philip Hamilton

Councillors – Richard Evans , Annette Ruff , Gilly Forge and Andrew Featherstone

Clerk – Vivian Hitchmough

38 members of the public including 2 Trustees of the Estate, Mr Curry and Mr Kinnamont

2018. 13

Apologies

Philippa Kelway-Bamber who had declared an interest
Cllr Catherine Langham

The Chairman thanked members of the public for attending and introduced The two representatives from the Manor Farm Partnership. He had prepared a comprehensive report which had been circulated to the Parish Council on Planning Application 2/2017/20018/FUL. He then proceeded to read the report to the attending public.

The Chairman then answered the questions from the public. He said the Parish Council were aware of the number of letters already filed and if people wanted to register on the NDDC website to make comments there would be help to do this. He explained the Parish Council would meet after the meeting to discuss their final decision. He was asked about the change of numbers and he suggested that the representatives explain why the application had reduced the number of campers from 40 units to 20.

Mr Curry explained that this was an error and the final unit number is 20 units, 60 people. He said that farm subsidies were in decline and there was a need to diversify and there was no intention to expand on the numbers of pitches applied for.. There would also be a restriction to one car per pitch. He was questioned about the passing places to be constructed in the lane and he explained that these would be grass covered plastic mesh and in keeping with the landscape. People seemed concerned about horses using the bridleway as campers could frighten them. They were also against signage to the camp site spoiling the landscape and felt the Wessex Ridgeway would be marred by the camp site. Mr Curry was not aware there was a need for planning for signage.

They felt that Ashmore had so few village facilities it was not suitable for visitors.

The Chairman explained that the camp site opening last year was a trial for 28 days so did not require planning permission. When questioned about the water pipe which was above ground the Chairman said he had been told it would be buried if the application was successful, but that was a health and safety matter and a licence would be needed that would cover such issues.

Mr Curry said fire pits would be allowed.

When asked if the site could be moved 72 feet from the bridleway hedge, Mr Curry said this could be considered.

There was concern over the entrance and the farm traffic in the lane in the summer and Mr Curry said campers would be made aware.

He explained that refuse would be taken away as it was last summer. He said they were asked last year to put the gate up and if they needed planning they would apply for it. He said the septic tank would be emptied when necessary.

Mr Curry was asked if the application were refused whether they would open the site again for 28 days this summer. Mr Curry said they would, but the Chairman questioned whether that was possible as the facilities block had been in place for more than 28 days this calendar year and so required planning permission to stay.

When questioned about caravans the Chairman said the application was for tents only and so not a matter for this meeting.

He suggested the public file their comments on line or email the district council or contact Cllr Catherine Langham. He also reminded people to register on the Parish Council website where information was regularly updated.

The Chairman was commended on his report.

The public meeting ended at 8.10 pm and the Chairman assured the public they were welcome to stay for the Parish Council meeting as this was also public.

The Parish Council then discussed the issues briefly and agreed that comments should be made but more time was needed to consider the draft circulated by the Chairman. The Chairman agreed to amend his draft of the Council's comments and forward via email for observations prior to filing.