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**Minutes of the Bluntisham Parish Council Extraordinary Meeting
Wednesday 24th May 2017 at 8.00pm in The Village Hall, Mill Lane,
Bluntisham**

Present: Chairman: Mr Mark Berg, Mrs Kathy Searle, Mr Frank Hudson, Mr Roger Steel, Mr Gary James & Mrs Tracey Davidson (Clerk)
Also present: 65 x members of the public & Cllr Carter

Open forum

Mr Mark Berg opened the meeting with a minutes silence to remember those who lost their lives in Manchester on 22nd May.

Colne Road

Mr Mark Berg summarised the survey results the PC collated from the Colne Road proposal and advised that the PC are only a statutory consultee and have no extra power with the planning authority than the general public. However, HDC and the planning committees are keen to hear what the parish council has to say. The meeting was then opened to the floor for any other comments on the Colne Road development:

Survey responses – 1187 delivered 170 returned, 66% of returned surveys were not in favour of the proposal. Principal reasons:

- Overdevelopment of site
- Location
- Infrastructure
- Roads
- Wrong mix of housing
- Over capacity of existing schools – primary and secondary
- Over use of existing amenities

Open forum started at 8.05pm.

One resident raised concern about a potential trade off, Colne Road v Station Road. The PC advised that this wasn't the case and that the Station Road site would be discussed following Colne Road.

Mr Daren Young is part of the group against Colne Road who are meeting shortly and will collate their detailed response and send to the clerk. He asked for the support from the PC speaking on behalf of the community who have expressed there is no need for a build of that size in the village. He also advised there is an open meeting for this action group on 1st June at 7.30pm in the Old Village Hall.

A local resident who lives in an old thatched cottage along Colne Road expressed deep concern with the potential structural impact on her dwelling due to the large HGV vehicles using this road to access the site. She also raised concern with the current infrastructure and the length of time it takes to travel into Cambridge from the village now.

Another concern raised was around the breach of the boundary between Bluntisham & Colne. Another concern was simply it is dangerous to have such a large development opposite the school with young children walking/cycling to school on a daily basis.

A question to Bidwell's was raised about the length of time for the development should permission be granted. The Bidwell's representative responded with approximately 4 years from start to finish. Concern with working from home and running a business from home, which requires peace and quiet was also raised.

A further question regarding how funding one classroom, as per the proposal, can be split between the 7 year groups at the primary school. This funding simply isn't enough to cope

with the potential increase. Also the funds are only paid when the project is completed, how is the school expected to cope in the interim period.

A final concern with an increase in general rubbish in neighbouring fields during the construction phased was raised.

A question was asked to Bidwell's, why this site. Mr Mark Berg advised this wasn't a fair question.

Finally Mr Mark Berg asked for a show of hands for those in attendance, excluding parish councillors, who were in favour and against the proposal:

3 in favour

62 against

The Parish Council then discussed the application and made their recommendation on this site.

Mr Mark Berg offered a 5 minute comfort break before discussing the next planning application. 30 people left the meeting at this time.

Station Road

Mr Mark Berg summarised this application and advised when the staff car park was approved 1301360FUL there was a phase 2 which was for 11 affordable dwellings. This new proposal is for 30 dwellings, 8 affordable social rent, 4 part ownership and 4 commercial units. Mr Mark Berg then opened up the meeting again for comments from all attendees:

Mr Neil Wheatley approached HDC years ago when the previous owner started cutting down trees from this site. At this time HDC put a blanket TPO on the site and he would like to have some valid reasons why HDC would remove this TPO. During the past 20 years since the orchard hasn't been farmed an established eco system has formed, badgers, foxes, bats are all regular animals on site. Further work with the Woodland Trust and the Wildlife trust will take place. with Mr Highland's approval to carry out a full survey of what wildlife is present on site. He advised he is not opposed to the original application for the 11 dwellings on the front of the site with the staff car park, but is strongly opposed to this proposal.

Mrs Joan Gutteridge advised the ecological survey submitted with this application isn't relevant to this site. The site is outside of the village limits and is classed as a rural exception site. No dwellings other than affordable units should be approved on this site and certainly no commercial units.

Cllr Robin Carter advised that as the site is identified as a rural exception site, it can only be developed if there is a need within the village. The allocation of any units should be for those in the village only and they should all be for affordable rent/shared ownership and not for private sale. Examples of other sites which were identified as rural exception sites have done just this. The Paddocks, Earith and Bluntisham Road, Colne.

Mr Malcolm Oneil asked where the main entrance would be as the garage forecourt is a dangerous junction already without the increase of more traffic 20 yards down the road. There are constant blind spots with lorries parking on the road and the entrance to the forecourt making it impossible to exit the garage safely.

Mr Mark Berg then asked for a show of hands from those in attendance, excluding parish councillors, who were in favour/object to this proposal.

2 in favour

30 against/abstain

The parish council then discussed the application and made their recommendation on this site.

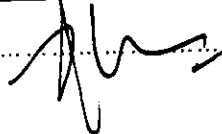
Mr Mark Berg offered a 5 minute comfort break before discussing the next planning application.

No other comments were raised by those in attendance on the remaining agenda items and only 3 members of the public remained at the meeting.

45 **Dispensation Forms received & decisions given - None**

46 **Declarations of interest for items on the agenda - None**

47 **Apologies for absence - Mr Rob Gore, Mrs Philippa Hope, Mr Martin Crowhurst, Mrs**



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| | Cynthia Curtis, Cllr Steve Criswell, Cllr Mike Francis. |
| 48 | Minutes of the Parish Council meeting dated 3rd May to be approved and signed by the chairman – This item was deferred to the next full PC meeting. |
| 49 | Matters arising from previous minutes – None. |
| 50 | Field Store Improvements & use confirmation – the clerk advised that the works to the improved security of the field store would be completed on 2 nd June and stressed the importance of the security of this store. It was agreed that the only people who would have keys to this unit would be Mr Ray Frost, Mr Peter Searle, Mr Richard Saltmarsh (to pass onto the cricket club ground keeper), clerk & caretaker. Should any water be required for the pitch maintenance the clerk is to request the caretaker carry out this watering, on instruction from the football club. <i>(Proposed Mr Frank Hudson, seconded Mr Gary James. All agreed.)</i> |
| 51 | <p>Planning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve new planning committee TOR – following the meeting on the 3rd May the clerk was asked to produce some TOR for a planning committee. These were shared via email on 9th May for comments and to approve at this meeting. Mr Gary James expressed deep concern with the potential separate planning committee who has executive decision making powers. It was agreed for all to review the TOR and to share comments with the clerk for a decision to be made at the next PC meeting on 7th June. In the meantime Cllr Kathy Searle will be happy to arrange site visits and ask for any other parish councillor to attend with her. • H/5004/17/CW – Envar Composting Ltd, The Heath, Woodhurst – Section 73 planning application to develop land without complying with condition 7 of planning permission H/05037/09/CW & Conditions 2 & 5 H/05021/11/CW – The Parish Council voted to APPROVE this application, with the caveat that the county highways reviews the traffic movement and safety along this road including this site. <i>(Proposed Mrs Kathy Searle, seconded Mr Frank Hudson. All agreed with the exception of Mr Mark Berg who does not support this proposal)</i> • 17/00951/HHFUL – Residential extensions – The Witches Twist Chicken Farm, The Heath, Bluntisham. The parish council voted to APPROVE this application, the clerk is to check the agricultural restriction on the site. <i>(Proposed Mr Frank Hudson, seconded Mr Roger Steel. All agreed with the exception of Mr Gary James who abstained from voting.)</i> • 17/00906/OUT – outline planning application for residential development of up to 135 dwellings & additional parking for St Helen's School – land west of Longacres, Colne Road, Bluntisham – The parish council unanimously REFUSED this application. The full reasons can be found in Appendix 1. <i>(Proposed Mr Gary James, seconded Mr Roger Steel. All agreed.)</i> • 17/01015/OUT – Proposed residential & commercial development – Land North of 10 Station Road, Bluntisham – The parish council unanimously REFUSED this application. The full reasons can be found in Appendix 2. <i>(Proposed Mr Gary James, seconded Mr Frank Hudson. All agreed.)</i> |

Meeting closed 22:11pm Next meeting: Wednesday 7th June 2017

Future Meeting dates

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| Wednesday | 5 th July | 2017 |
| Wednesday | 2 nd August | 2017 |
| Wednesday | 6 th September | 2017 |
| Wednesday | 4 th October | 2017 |
| Wednesday | 1 st November | 2017 |
| Wednesday | 6 th December | 2017 |