

DANEHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Danehill Parish Council extraordinary meeting held on Wednesday 6th May 2015, at Danehill C.E. School.

Present: C. Critchley, J. Blake, M. Wales, M. Wells, M. Mockridge.

Minutes taken by Cllr. Critchley.

Meeting started at 7.32pm

Prayers were said by the Cllr. Critchley.

585. Apologies for Absence

Cllr. Riminton, Cllr. Donfrancesco, Cllr. Lawrence.

586. Declarations of Interest

None.

Cllr. Wells arrived 7.36pm and had no declarations of interest to declare.

587. Minutes

The minutes of Danehill Parish Council meeting dated 26th March 2015, having been previously circulated, were agreed and signed as a true record.

Proposed Cllr. Blake, seconded Cllr. Mockridge. Voting 4 for, 1 abstention (Cllr. Wales).

588. Matters Arising

None.

589. Christmas Tree Farm and Field along side School Lane

Cllr. Wales requested that Christmas Tree Farm and the field were discussed separately. The Chairman agreed and Cllr. Wales declared an interest in Christmas Tree Farm.

The Chairman shared and gave two copies of background information, to ONLY Cllrs. Wells, Mockridge and Blake, as the content included information regarding Christmas Tree Farm. It was stated that the one piece of the information was NOT to be read out, as it was confidential to the discussion and that all information shared would be returned at the end of the meeting. The chairman started by reading a communication from Cllr Riminton see attached (589A), which helped set the background and open the discussion. No comments made regarding Cllr Riminton's letter. The chairman then read the FIRST communication receipted by the Parish Office from Mr Mileman, the Enforcement Office see attached (589B). The letter was poorly written and at times made no sense, but the spirit of the letter was understood. The chairman asked the councillors to review the second document for information only. The chairman then made it clear that the purpose of this agenda item was for the council to decide if they feel it necessary to issue a letter to Mr Mileman and Kelven Williams, (Head of Planning at Wealden District Council) supporting one of two positions; the processes of a Lawful Development Certificate (LDC) or the processes of Retrospective Planning. The chairman made it clear that my not sending a letter at all, would indirectly give support to the LDC processes, as this is the current route favoured by the Enforcement Officer. It was further explained by the chairman that the 'spirit' of an LDC is intended to address 'legacy' planning issues, whereby LONG established practices/buildings have not followed current planning policies. i.e. a

barn built 50+ years ago, and used for storing machinery. The LDC was understood NOT to be a practice for current planning infringements. It was acknowledged by all councillors that information was lacking to make an informed decision, by the fact that the council, despite repeated requests have been asked to be consulted and a part of the restoration plan agreement with the Carters. No restoration plan has been made public or presented to the Parish for consultation, so it is difficult to understand what the proceedings are for the field. Christmas Tree Farm is equally unclear if the restoration plan includes any or no restoration activity. The council debated and a proposal was finally put forward by the Chairman to progress/conclude the agenda item. Two proposals were made; one for the Field and one for Christmas Tree Farm. Cllr Wells asked that in the proposal of any letter(s), that a strong remark/sentiment should be made regarding the 'lack of transparency' in the handling of this public and local issue. The Chairman proposed: A letter supporting retrospective planning should be the proper course of action and that an LDC should not be granted. This was repeated twice to address both the Field and Christmas Tree Farm. The proposal was seconded and the council agreed the action. Cllr Wales abstained on the Field and didn't vote due to his interest in Christmas Tree Farm.

The council asked that the Clerk share the letters before issue to all current (former) councillors and upon issue copies to be sent to all interested parties.

590. Danehill Parish Council Fun Day

The council agreed that the Family Fun Day to be planned for 20th June between 12.00 and 16.00.

591. Date of Next Meetings

21st May 2015

Meeting closed at 8.27pm

Chairman..... Date.....

Anyone requiring sight of any attachments to these minutes, please contact the Clerk 01825 740 731

