

10323 Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Wickhambrook Parish Council held on 19th February 2015 at 7.30pm. in the Women’s Institute Hall.

Present

Cllrs. K. Sammons (Chairman), S. Bradbury, K. Merritt, J. Walker and J. Wilson.

County Cllr. M. Evans

Clerk R. Medley.

Twenty five members of the public attended the Open Session.

The Chairman opened the meeting by explaining that the Parish Council wished to hear the views of parishioners on the new planning application submitted by Claydon Yield-o-meter Ltd. She explained that the agenda had been published on local notice boards and on the village website but an extract from the agenda, together with links to other websites, unconnected to the Parish Council was published on the front page. Once brought to its attention, the Parish Council asked that certain links be removed, and a disclaimer added to avoid the perception that the Parish Council had already reached a decision. She gave her assurance that the planning application had not been discussed and that a response would be formulated at the 26th February meeting.

She also informed those present that proceedings were being recorded.

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Borough Cllr. D. Redhead and Cllrs. J. Claydon and P Couzens.

2. Declarations of interest in agenda items

There were no declarations of interest.

3. OPEN SESSION 7.35 p.m.

The only item on the agenda was Planning Application DC/15/0194/FUL, an application by Claydon Yieldometer Ltd. for (i) the erection of a new weld shop (following the demolition of five existing buildings), (ii) extension to existing assembly building to create offices, (iii) change of use of existing Weld Shop to Research and Development (iv) provision of hard surfacing, parking and a comprehensive landscaping scheme.

The Chairman asked for comments both for and against the application.

Several people stated that they had no objections to the planning application, were happy with existing buildings and screening and would accept additional building within the farm yard. There was general support for the business, in particular sales, admin. and non-intensive industrial operations but the piecemeal additions were worrisome. Seasonal ebbs and flows of agricultural traffic were to be expected. Concerns were that the current application was just an interim measure and the full application, including the large building, would surface in the future; the assumed increase in traffic flow, particularly lorries; that an increase in local employment opportunities could lead to a reconsideration of the Local Service Centre rating; that rural Wickhambrook was not suitable for a large manufacturing unit and that most of the original reasons for objecting were still relevant. Other comments included the statement that there was little unemployment in the village so new work opportunities held little attraction and there was confusion as to why a new application should be put forward while the original was going to appeal.

The Chairman encouraged members to send their comments direct to the Borough. The Parish Council would make a decision at their next meeting to be held at 7.30 p.m. on 26th February in the MSC Pavilion. Members of the audience thanked the Parish Council for arranging the meeting.

CLOSURE OF OPEN SESSION at 8.05 p.m.

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Chairman

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Date