

**Minutes of Little Bealings Parish Council meeting held at Bealings Village Hall at  
7.15pm on Monday 16 March 2020**

**Present:** Mr I Ransome (Chairman), Mr M Garnham, Ms D Head, Dr C Hopkins and Mrs M Wilson

**In attendance:** Mrs C Ramsden, Clerk to the Council

**Also present:** District Councillor Colin Hedgley and two residents

The Chairman welcomed those present and asked if anyone was recording the meeting. No one said that they were.

## **1 Apologies, Declarations of Interest and Dispensation Requests**

Apologies were received from Mr Hunter and Ms Saagi, who were away. It was **RESOLVED:**

- to accept the apologies for absence.

Dr Hopkins declared a pecuniary interest in item 3.1.1. on the Agenda: DC/20/0748/FUL: Construction of a single storey domestic annexe – Broombank, Sandy Lane.

There were no requests for dispensations.

## **2 Public Participation Session**

Two residents spoke in respect of item 3.1.1 on the Agenda. The following points were made:

- The height of the proposed development was a concern. Although they were aware that there was no right to a view, the view had been of great importance when they had purchased their property some 40 years ago. They were happy with the development so long as it was not higher than the gutters on the existing house. As the ground was sandy, it would be possible to lower the height by removing sand which would address the problem.
- The property had previously been a bungalow and had already had permission to become a house. This was a new building in the garden, for which there was not room.
- If the views from the property into the valley were lost the property would be worth £50,000 less.

Dr Hopkins presented the application as follows:

- His family had been considering options for “multi-generational living” for some time as he and his spouse wished to downsize. This approach would enable mutual family support, both for young children and for him and his spouse as they grew older.
- It was a passive house and as eco-friendly as possible for heating and water heating.

- He had taken pre-application planning advice from ESC and the application reflected the advice received so that it met policy requirements as follows:
  - The property would still be one dwelling and no part could be sold separately
  - Amenity impact was a consideration in respect of overlooking neighbours and views of the valley
  - The original proposed size had been 'descaled'
  - The windows did not give views into other properties
  - The visual impact of it was blocked by the height of the trees and bushes behind it
- The concerned residents' property was above the trees and there were sheds in between. The land was sloping, but would be lowered and levelled. The building would be lower than the current house height but he was not sure of the actual height and if it would be lower than the guttering.

In response to a question from Councillors he said that:

- there would be four cars at the property but there was already parking provision for five
- there had not been a parking problem in 23 years. He had permission from the farmer owning the adjoining field for parking there for visitors
- should it be required, the area of his land currently used for chickens could be used for parking
- parking would be discrete and private and there would be no parking in the street.

### 3 Planning

#### 3.1 Planning Applications

Dr Hopkins left the meeting in accordance with his declaration of a pecuniary interest in the following matter.

##### 3.1.1 **DC/20/0748/FUL: Construction of single storey domestic annexe – Broombank, Sandy Lane**

The Chairman drew attention to an email comment on the proposal from neighbours, which had been circulated to Councillors before the meeting and raised concerns about parking.

It was noted that the development was not for an additional dwelling or access and that there was provision for parking. After discussion it was **RESOLVED**:

- that there was no objection to the principle of the development or the design, but there were concerns regarding the height of building and ESC would be asked to consider carefully the impact this would have on the residential amenity of neighbours.

Dr Hopkins returned to the meeting.

##### 3.1.2 **DC/20/0902/OUT: Outline Application (Some Matters Reserved) Demolition and removal of all necessary buildings and structures to enable the residential development of up to 300no new dwellings, with access from Portal Avenue,**

**associated open space and landscaping, drainage and infrastructure – Suffolk Constabulary Force Headquarters, Portal Avenue, Martlesham Heath**

It was noted that the application proposed all access from Portal Avenue and that there was no provision for new infrastructure for schools and doctors. After discussion it was **RESOLVED**:

- to object to the application in view of the impact it would have on traffic in the local area, given that it would encourage more use of Little Bealings roads by those seeking to avoid congestion at Martlesham/Kesgrave.

#### **4 COVID-19**

It was noted that an informal residents' support group had been set up for a part of the parish, for those who may need help as a result of the virus or self-isolating. There was no clear advice to date regarding the impact on Council meetings and responsibilities. It was noted that ESC was not offering any support for local residents and **RESOLVED**:

- that the Council would not be directly involved in supporting residents, due to concerns regarding resource, what support would be appropriate and data protection issues
- that the power to determine the Council's responses to planning application consultations be delegated to the Clerk, after consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council, in the event that restrictions on meetings made it impossible for the Council to meet and make a decision on a response within the consultation deadline.

#### **5 Climate Change and Little Bealings**

District Councillor Hedgley confirmed that he had allocated £500 from his next Locality Budget for the Council to use on Climate Change initiatives, should it, for example, wish to publish a leaflet for residents on ideas for local actions.

#### **6 Finance**

##### **6.1 Internal Audit for 2019/20**

It was noted that arrangements were in hand and this would be carried out by the same internal auditor as last year.

##### **6.2 Income and Authorisation of Expenditure**

Income of £53.51 had been received for the vat refund for 2019. It was **RESOLVED** that the following expenditure be incurred:

- Information Commissioner's Data Protection Registration Fee: £40 (LGA Act 1972 s111)
- Hire of Bealings Village Hall for 2019/20: £141.25 (LGA Act 1972 s111)

A schedule of the above payments was signed by the Chairman and cheques were signed by Ms Head and Dr Hopkins.

#### **7 Date of Next Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting of the Council would be on 11 May 2020. However, it was **RESOLVED**:

- that if it was necessary to hold a meeting before then the provisional date for this would be 20 April.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 7.55pm.