



## HERNHILL PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held online on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2020 from 7:37pm to 8:21pm.**

**Present:**

Cllr. J Geliot (Chairman of meeting) Cllr Couzens Cllr B. Heller  
Cllr A. Rumble Cllr S. Castle

**Also Present:** Mrs R. Parr (Clerk, Andrew Bowles (KCC) and 8 members of the public.

**156 APOLOGIES**

Cllr S. Edgington Cllr C. Page Cllr B. Heller

**157 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

None.

**158 MINUTES**

- A. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 22nd June 2020 (153-155) having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

**159 PLANNING**

- A. Planning Proposal - North Kent Memorial Park and Crematorium

The Chair outline that the meeting was to discuss the early proposals from the crematorium and gain feedback to send to the company concerned. There would be no vote but the meeting was to allow people to express their views for and against. The Chair then invited members of the public to speak

Ms Congdon mentioned that she lives in Staple Street not far from the entrance to the Faversham Showground. She commented that the publication sent out by Memoria was misleading as the cover picture shows the crematorium in a landscape with no other buildings nearby, which is not the case. Ms Congdon also had concerns regarding the amount of heavy traffic that would occur along Staple Street, especially since the junction with the Thanet Way would be busier as a result of the new Fairbrook Grove housing estate at the former Silver Sands Nursery site. The information provided by Memoria also referred to pedestrian access, which was unclear as to what this would be as currently there is no pedestrian access along Staple Street.

Mr Brownrigg had concerns over the permanence of location of such a crematorium to that of a church with regards to burials and remembrance. Unlike the church, being a commercial company, would it have the same lifetime commitment and was there any such guarantee how long a company would last. Hence Mr Brownrigg felt

that a churchyard or municipal type of cemetery is more appropriate. In addition, Mr Brownrigg considered that the design of the crematorium was not a comforting one for the respect of the dead and that it gave the feel of a crude shed-like construction in favour of commercial profit.

Mr King raised the issue of traffic concerns given that the crematorium would operate on a 9-5 basis, 5 days a week. With parking for 100 cars, that could translate into 200 cars on the hour each hour, which would potentially mean circa 1600 cars a day. Particular concern was given to those coming from the direction of Canterbury and that they would come through Staple Street.

Mr Wilson was not able to attend the meeting but had emailed his view to the Clerk, which were read out. Mr Wilson considered that the development would cause traffic problems and that it was not a peaceful site suitable for such a purpose given its location close to the noisy Thanet Way carriageway.

The Clerk has also received correspondence from Mr Reveley, who lived close to the entrance of the Faversham Showground and the Staple Street and Thanet Way junction. He commented that any burial site should be 30 metres from any water courses and there was such a course by the entrance to the Faversham Showground and that this alone should preclude the development from going ahead. Mr Reveley also raised that there should be a requirement for formal consultation with respect to change of use from that of agricultural land. The size of the plot was considered to be too small to cope with burials for the long term. Concerns were also raised in respect of traffic use at the Thanet Way junction given the lorries from Dunster House and the new Fairbrook Grove residential development along with those HGVs that would occur during any construction at the site. In addition, concerns were raised regarding any traffic coming via the Boughton side of Staple Street. Mr Reveley considered whether access from the Nash House side by the A2 may be better placed to cope with such traffic.

Cllr Couzens agreed with issues raised in respect of traffic concerns. Even if from the Canterbury direction, the crematorium was signposted to go towards Brenley Corner, people would still follow sat-navs and go through Boughton and Staple Street. Any traffic entering and leaving the crematorium both ways along Staple Street would cause conflicts. Cllr Couzens also commented upon the loss of the use of Faversham Showground except for Sundays and Bank Holidays. Concerns were also raised in respect of the flooding that occurs regularly by the Faversham Showground entrance and the impact this also has on traffic. Consequently any plans should include an upgrade to the entrance. A query was raised as to whether there were no smoke/smell associated with such a site.

Cllr Bowles then joined the meeting. He declared that he was related to the applicant. However, he offered advice that if the junction with the Thanet Way was not deemed suitable for such a volume of traffic, then the council should consider pushing for Section 106 contribution to upgrade the junction.

Cllr Rumble commented that she had no objections for the use of the site as a crematorium but that there were concerns regarding traffic and the suitability of the Thanet Way junction. Cllr Rumble mentioned that there could be positives for the local economy from such a development through use of the local pubs and employment.

Cllr Castle had concerns with regards to traffic and access road transport links to the

site.

Cllr Geliot commented that she had no objections to the use of the site in principle and that a crematorium was better than that of a lorry park. With the number of new houses in Faversham, there was probably the need for such facilities locally. Crematoria are usually well landscaped and well tended. However, Cllr Geliot could not see how the traffic issues could be resolved. Cllr Geliot then summed up the for and against, stating that the traffic implications were the main concerns and the suitability of the current Thanet Way and Staple Street junction. The Clerk would write to Memoria providing feedback.

- B. Planning Proposal - 20/502829/FULL: Erection of small barn and equipment store for compact tractor and associated attachments, including fruit and vegetable storage. *Land Rear Of Plantation House Plumpudding Lane Dargate Kent ME13 9HB*

Cllr Couzens commented that the location of the development was at the back of the plot of land, away from any development and not overlooked. However, there was not enough information regarding the design of the barn and that the planning portal did not have any elevation drawings. Cllr Castle and Cllr Rumble had nothing further to add. The applicant, Mr Carter commented that he had lived there for 30 years and that he needed somewhere to securely store machinery in looking after the orchard. The orchard was tended for supplying apples for a local cider company and for the development and cross pollination of trees and varieties. The Chair commented that as the elevations were not on the planning portal it would not be possible to formally respond without them. Mr Carter then showed a copy of the elevation plans to all on the call and that he would contact Swale Borough Council to arrange for them to be added online as it was unclear why they had been missed off the planning portal. The Cllrs had no objections to the design shown. On the basis that the elevation drawings to be added to the planning portal were identical to those shown, the Cllrs agreed to delegate the response to Swale Borough Council by the Chair and the Clerk for 'no adverse comments'.

In a separate comment, Cllr Couzens raised that there had been revised plans submitted by English Rural regarding the Staple Street Local Needs Housing development. Whilst extra parking had been added, there were no changes in respect to the gap in the hedge nor changes to the garages. Cllr Couzens was concerned that English Rural had not sufficiently taken on board the Council's Feedback. The Clerk commented that the next stage of the process was pencilled in for the 23rd July, where the application would be presented at the Swale Planning Committee, which would be online.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the Meeting closed.

CHAIRMAN