

**Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 7pm**

**This meeting was held remotely in accordance with the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020**

PRESENT: Cllr Pat Woodfield (Chairman), Cllr Paul Berrisford, Cllr Margaret Briggs, Cllr John Charles-Jones, Cllr Andrew Gough, Cllr Sophie Hopkin, Cllr John Newsome, Cllr Richard Pannell, Cllr Daniel Raynor, Cllr Colin Starke, Cllr Charles Wardle.

IN ATTENDANCE: Averil Marczak (Clerk). 4 residents/members of the public observed all or part of the meeting.

**4165. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No additional interests declared.

**4166. FLOODING MATTERS**

It was agreed to purchase four additional flood warden jackets for new volunteers, at a cost of £220 plus VAT.

**4167. PLANNING**

Application PC1119/GBC 2020/1174 for a development at Timmermans, Lowdham Lane (demolition of commercial buildings and erection of 15 artisan outlets and play barn with catering and toilet facilities, car park, landscaping, revised access and drainage infrastructure) was considered at length.

The Clerk reported that in a survey conducted to gather views of residents, 65 responses had been received. 55 respondents supported the application, 5 neither supported nor objected to the application and 5 respondents objected (Survey Monkey, publicised via Woodborough Facebook page, Woodborough Web and WPC website). 3 emails and a letter from residents had been received and circulated; comments and concerns raised largely focused on the potential impact of the proposed development on the safety of pedestrians and road users.

There followed a lengthy debate, in which strong support was expressed for Timmermans to expand and diversify, but significant concerns raised regarding the safety of access for the extra traffic generated. Some members expressed a view that the Lowdham Lane pavement should first be widened and resurfaced to allow pedestrians to walk to Timmermans and that the speed limit (currently 60 mph) should first be lowered. There was consensus that the entrance and exit to the site needed to be improved, and possibly moved away from the bypass, to cater for the additional traffic safely. Some members felt that the plan should be amended to include a footpath through the site to improve pedestrians' safety.

Between 7.26pm and 7.44pm the Chairman suspended standing orders to allow the applicants to explain some of the details of the application and their ambitions for the project.

Having re-opened the meeting, it was agreed to make the following observations:

WPC strongly supports Timmermans' plans to expand and diversify, but for the plans to be executed safely, the following modifications are needed:

- With additional traffic, there are significant concerns that the existing entrance/exit would be unfit for purpose. A new plan should be developed to widen/improve/separate the entrance and exit. Consideration should be given to moving the entrance and exit further away from the bypass to reduce the risk of traffic turning into/emerging from the site in front of cars leaving the bypass at speed.
- The design should include a footpath or pavement for pedestrians to move through the site safely from the Lowdham Lane pavement and/or the carpark.
- This application should act as a catalyst for the long requested reduction of the speed limit on Lowdham Lane to 40mph. Currently cars leave the dual carriageway (50mph limit) and accelerate on Lowdham Lane (60mph limit) which then reduces to 30 mph at the village boundary.
- This application should act as a catalyst for the long requested widening and resurfacing of the Lowdham Lane pavement to enable pedestrians to access Timmermans safely. The current pavement - even scraped back - is narrow, uneven and only good for single file use.

**4168. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next PC meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm.

The meeting finished at 7.56pm.