

An Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday the 16th day of DECEMBER 2024 at the Royal British Legion, Long Lane, commencing 7.30 pm, to discuss planning applications 22/00860/FM, 22/00866/FM and 24/02092/F.

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Messrs Rayner (Chair), Cole, Fenn, and Storey, Mrs Arnold, Mrs Edwards, Mrs Peacock and Mrs Wilson. Also present 75 members of the public.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies were received from Mr Lambert, Mrs McGeeney and Mrs Peckham.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: There were no declarations of interest.

The Chair outlined the meeting format and said a list of material planning considerations had been placed on each chair for information. He said a Public Speaking session would take place after which the Councillors would consider all comments and then vote by secret ballot on planning applications 22/00860/FM and 22/00866/FM which would be counted and the results announced. Planning application 24/02092/F would then be discussed and a vote taken in the public domain. He explained the position a Parish Council has within the Borough Council's planning system and the role of their Planning Committee, and strongly advised members of the public to log their own comments on the Borough Council's planning portal.

Mr Storey then explained why he could not and would not take part in the debate nor vote on any of the planning applications at the meeting due to his position on the Borough Council's Planning Committee. He said he would take on board all public comments as well as the Parish Council's resolution on each application in order to make a balanced decision on what is best for the area and people he represents.

PUBLIC SPEAKING: The meeting was suspended for Public Speaking. Several members of the public spoke of their concerns and reasoning as to why they felt the Parish Council should object to planning applications 22/00860/FM and 22/00866/FM.

PLANNING:

1. Planning Application 22/00860/FM: Demolition of existing buildings and construction of new buildings in connection with pig finishing provision and other associated works at Feltwell Farm, Lodge Road (accompanied by an Environmental Statement) – A vote was taken by secret ballot and results were announced as follows: 6 Councillors against, 1 in favour, Mr Storey abstained. Application REFUSED due to the harmful impact the pig finishing provision will have on residents' health from high levels of chemicals such as ammonia being emitted through the air causing respiratory diseases; concerns regarding diseases such as swine flu spreading throughout the village and causing devastation to other local farms as well as harming residents; the adverse impact ammonia pollution will have on village life itself; increased traffic movement on village and surrounding roads which are not suitable for the astronomical amount of traffic the pig finishing provision will generate (the Access & Design Statement quoted incorrect traffic movement figures - the roads are already at 79% capacity not 25% as stated - raising the question of what other information had also been incorrectly stated); concerns over water abstraction and the fact that there is no full management plan for the forecast 150 tonnes of water abstracted a day and the negative effect this will have on residents.

2. Planning Application 22/00866/FM: Demolition of existing poultry sheds, construction of 20 new poultry sheds, 4 workers dwellings and associated infrastructure at Airfield/Methwold Farm Brandon Road, Methwold (accompanied by an Environmental Statement) – A vote was taken by secret ballot and results were announced as follows: 6 Councillors against, 1 in favour, Mr Storey

PLANNING (CONT)

abstained. Application REFUSED due to the harmful impact the poultry provision will have on residents' health from high levels of chemicals such as ammonia being emitted through the air causing respiratory diseases; concerns regarding diseases such as bird flu spreading throughout the village and causing devastation to other local farms as well as harming residents; the adverse impact ammonia pollution will have on village life itself; increased traffic movement on village and surrounding roads which are not suitable for the astronomical amount of traffic the poultry provision will generate (the Access & Design Statement quoted incorrect traffic movement figures - the roads are already at 79% capacity not 25% as stated - raising the question of what other information had also been incorrectly stated); concerns over water abstraction and the fact that there is no full management plan for the forecast 150 tonnes of water abstracted a day and the negative effect this will have on residents.

3. Planning Application 24/02092/F: Installation of an Omni antenna on the top of the existing telecommunications tower, a GPS module and 3G antenna finial attached to a new gantry pole in conjunction with the Omni antenna, an equipment cabinet with a volume of less than 2.5m on a new concrete base, an electric meter supply cabinet at ground level for ease of access for meter readings and ancillary apparatus such as cables and ducting connecting the Omni antenna to the equipment cabinet at Argiva Transmitter Station, Old Brandon Road – 6 Councillors in favour, 1 no comment, Mr Storey abstained. Application SUPPORTED.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

Meeting closed at 8.45 pm.
