

HERRINGSWELL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2014, 7.00 PM AT

THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Liz Marchington (Chairman), Selina Boyce (Vice-Chairman), Garry Brown,
Steve Griffiths, Gloria Hicks

In attendance: Cllr Andy Drummond

1. At our last parish council meeting on 8 July 2014, which Cllr Drummond had been unable to attend, and because we were concerned about the Red Lodge Planning Application meeting held on 2 July, it was agreed we should invite Cllr Drummond to an Extraordinary meeting. We requested this meeting to be held within 7 days so as to get an understanding of the reasons for the way he voted.
2. Also, LM wished to make everyone aware that, prior to the planning meeting on 2 July, Cllr Dicker had said there had been an attempt to remove him from speaking and voting at that meeting. Cllr Dicker had clarified to the Legal department that he was going into the meeting with an open mind. He also advised us that this request to remove him had been made by Cllr Drummond.

These are the questions raised and the answers provided:

Cllr Drummond explaining to us that the pre-application meeting discussions, which were in fact none of our business, are held to go through the agenda so that the meeting goes through smoothly. As a District Councillor you are to go into a meeting without any pre-determination and, according to him, Cllr Dicker should not have been involved in the level that he did.

Question: SB: You know of our objections and the huge ongoing problems Red Lodge and Herringswell have with sewerage and other issues plus the application itself was considered as sloppy.

Answer: You will not be able to resolve the sewerage issues until you get more development.

Question: SB: We hoped you would stand up to FHDC and speak against the application in the manner you spoke against Hatchfield Farm. LM: We have lists of our objections affecting people's lives and you have received copies of those as well as having sat in on our

Parish Council meetings knowing these concerns. Why did you choose not to discuss those concerns and why did you start with asking for approval of the planning application.

Answer: I did not expect the application to go through and I spoke against the application at Hatchfield Farm mainly because of the A14/A142 junction. I would prefer development in the district to go to Red Lodge and not Newmarket.

LM then pointed out the quote from the LGA's Councillor Manual which states: *"The councillor's primary role is to represent their ward or division and the people who live in it"* and the Parish Council feel that, as ward member, Cllr Drummond has not adhered to this.

AD responded that he feels Newmarket is not the right place to put housing, no more housing should be built there and that it will not now go ahead, particularly as it has been called in by the Secretary of State. Matt Hancock has intervened because Newmarket is an historic town.

LM The Parish Council feel you can no longer represent us as you have gone against everything we have been working for. Either you represent us or you should resign. We were very happy in the way that Cllr Dicker spoke out about all the issues and reasons why the application should be refused.

Cllr Drummond: I have no intention of resigning. I am not ignoring the sewerage issue and reiterate that, if we want the issues resolved, then we need the additional houses and more growth in Red Lodge.

GH pointed out that there was no mention of developer contribution to sort out the sewerage issues.

LM pointed out that there are more issues other than sewerage and the developer is walking away from their commitments and reducing their level of contributions.

Question: GB: Which ward do you feel you represent?

Answer: Sometimes you have to make decisions that are unpopular and, because my business is based in Newmarket, I am more interested in what happens there.

GB requested that for moral reasons AD should resign his position, we don't have confidence in him representing our ward any more

SG suggested and it was agreed that;

1. we write to the Chairman of the Planning Committee explaining we have no confidence in Cllr Drummond and that our letter is read out to the meeting when the Red Lodge application is due to be heard again.
2. We investigate what our options are as Cllr Drummond will not resign but does not represent our ward any more.

It was very sad that this matter would now need to be handled in a more formal way. It was our intention to try and prevent AD any embarrassment, but his failure to resign or accept he had failed to represent us, left us with no alternatives.

CLlr Drummond was asked for a final time whether he was prepared to resign to which he answered emphatically 'no'. With that the meeting was closed.

DRAFT