

BIRCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Gloria Daniels Vice Chairman: Malcolm Sargent

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY 21 DECEMBER 2020

Virtual Platform Zoom at 7.30pm

PRESENT: G Daniels (Chairman), M Sargent, C Morley, R Hutchinson, D French and
T Clark

IN ATTENDANCE: P Sewell (Clerk), 7 Members of the Public

20.095 Welcome from the Chairman

The Chairman thanked everyone who was able to make the extra meeting.

20.096 To receive and accept Apologies and Reasons for Absence Cllrs Carter, Mele, Howell and Langfield

20.097 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Morley stated that as the Borough Ward member, he would not take part in the discussion or vote, he asked to make some observations at an appropriate time.

20.098 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION RELATING TO THE AGENDA

The Council heard from residents neighbouring the field who listed their concerns about noise, nuisance, intrusion of privacy on the basis of their experience in the summer especially at the application would permit camping for longer and in larger numbers than before. One resident reported that his own application for a dwelling within the curtilage of his property next to the field had been refused as it was considered detrimental to the area. All the residents who spoke indicated their intention to object to the application. The applicants said that the summer opening had been well received by visitors, they had been inspected by the Borough Council. They responded to the concerns raised and spoke about the potential for wider local economic benefit. The applicants had limited the number of pitches normally allocated per acre and more planting was planned to improve privacy, the new entrance would meet Highways' specifications. They had been asked by the planners to produce an ecological report and clarified details about the system for dealing with the foul water. They stated that it had not been possible to extend the camping facilities by the Windmill.

20.099 PLANNING APPLICATION 20/01952/FM – SEASONAL CAMPSITE

The Council considered the application which if approved would take effect in 2022. It noted that at this point there was no comment from Norfolk County Council, the responses from the Environment Agency and Water Management Alliance were queried. The effect on the local ecology was raised but it was noted that an ecological report was to be carried out. The key area of Councillors' concern was the principle of development in open countryside, the impact of potentially doubling the population of the parish during the open season as well as the increased traffic movements on Docking Road. The Chairman said the meeting had been called to give both parties and opportunity to be heard. It was clear that some matters still needed clarification or would be subject to further reports.

▪ **The Chairman stated that in view of the short deadline for responses due to the Christmas period she proposed that a holding objection based on the concerns raised by Councillors should be made, with a request that when more information was available the Council could add or change its response - Resolved**

The Meeting was closed, however Cllr Morley said that he had previously requested to make a comment which he was unable now to do. As the meeting could not be re-opened as members of the public and a Cllr had left the meeting, he advised the Clerk to ensure that the holding objection was clear and robust in case extra time was not permitted by the planning department and the Council's specific concerns were not logged.

Chairman.....

Dated.....