

# Weedon Parish Council

Clerk to the Council Mrs Ruth Millard

## Minutes of the Meeting of Weedon Parish Council held in the Methodist Chapel on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2013 at 8.00pm

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### 33/13 PRESENT:

Cllr Joanna Rose (Chair) Cllr Wendy Kett, Cllr Tom Jameson-Evans,  
Cllr Justin Sellers, Cllr Nigel Winnett, Cllr Chris Measures,

Clerk Ruth Millard.

In attendance: District Cllr. Ashley Bond & County Cllr. Netta Glover  
27 member of the Public

### Receive Apologies:

Cllr Kirsty Ashurst,

### Public Meeting Open Forum:

Cllr JR gave a résumé of the Planning Application to date. The Parish Council had been given to understand that this application would be decided on its unsustainability. However the officer's report recommends granting temporary planning permission on the grounds of potential future lack of Gypsy & traveller sites. The Parish Council and 2 residents will be speaking at the Development Control Committee Meeting (DCCM), on the 9<sup>th</sup> May 2013. The Parish Council has 5 minutes speaking time and all residents have 5 minutes speaking time, split between them. The Parish Council has employed professional consultants to advise it of the strategy to take at the meeting as well as on the officer's report. Therefore the Parish Council will use the bullet points of the advice given and the 2 residents will concentrate on the lack of sustainability of the site and the impact that granting permission would have on the attractive landscape.

### Questions from the residents

*Does the Development Control Committee have to give reasons if they permit the applications?*

Yes, they have to give reasonable Planning reasons whether they permit or refuse the application.

*As the application is for one static caravan and one mobile caravan, if permitted, could there be more than one mobile caravan at any one time?*

Technically no, with permission for one the applicant would be breaking the planning consent if two or more were parked in the field at the same time.

County Cllr Netta Glover reminded the residents who were speaking at the DCCM, that the first speaker should keep a close watch on the time, as it is easy to over-run leaving the second speaker with insufficient time to put their case.

A representative of Hardwick Parish Council (HPC) said that Weedon Parish Council (WPC) had the full support of HPC and he would speak at the meeting if needed, but WPC looked to be in complete control of the situation.

In reply Cllr JR thanked him for the support and would speak at the DCCM on behalf of both HPC & WPC.

*A resident said that she had heard of a few sites in the area, that had permission for Gypsy and Traveller caravans, which had been vandalized. Could these sites not be tidied and reused?*

Certainly AVDC had enough sites earmarked for the present time.

*Had anyone taken any photographs of the site underwater in the winter?*

Yes, they would be submitted along with the photographs taken this evening.

*A resident detailed the bus route and the time it would take if he attended the meeting.*

This was a good indication of the unsustainability of the area, if one did not drive.

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*A resident felt that the villages were being abandoned, as D. Cllr AB could not speak at the meeting. The villagers should not think that way. Dist. Cllr AB would not be able to speak as he had a pecuniary interest because his land neighboured the area. He had asked a Cabinet member to stand in for him. Although the Cabinet member would not be able to vote, she would be able to guide the committee.*

*A resident, with land adjoining the site, where the applicant keeps horses, said that when the applicant's stallion got onto his land no-one in authority helped him to resolve the problem. The only help he received was from the PCSO.*

*A resident remarked on the length of time this application had taken to get to committee. Cllr JR agreed that it had taken longer than usual. A positive sign she hoped was that WPC, HPC and all the residents' letters of objection were at the front of the paperwork. Usually these documents were placed at the back. It was not usual for the Committee to go against the recommendations of the officers. When they consider doing so they usually defer their decision until after a site visit.*

*It should be noted that the 30 letters of support for the application were all the same, except for the names & addresses, and not from the immediate area.*

Yes this had been noted and would be commented on at the meeting.

The Keep Weedon Green (KWG) representative said that when applications go to Committee it is the last chance for residents to show their feelings. If it gets refused and goes to appeal, no one will be able to speak at the appeal. He encouraged as many residents as possible to attend the meeting to show support. KWG had Parish Plan Booklets to wave and badges to wear in support.

Dist. Cllr AB reiterated that usually only the neighbours of the land attend the DCCM and it would be impressive if there was a large attendance of residents.

Cllr CM agreed that numbers do count and it was important for as many residents as possible to attend. He raised 2 issues: Child Welfare – would the fact that there is a mother with 2 children of different genders approaching teenage years, planning to live in a two-bedroomed caravan be a child welfare issue? If AVDC had agreed a forward Plan of numbers of Gypsy & traveller sites that were needed, would the Planning Officers have refused permission?

Cllr JR thanked everyone for attending.

**CLOSED SESSION** by RESOLUTION on the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2013 minute 30/13.

**34/13 Declaration of interest in items on the agenda;** For Members to declare personal and/or Pecuniary Interests. None declared.

**35/13 Approval of Minutes;** The minutes from the meeting of the Weedon Parish Council held on the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2013 were agreed by the Council and signed by the Chairman.

**36/13 Planning;**  
**12/02010/APP The Old Stables, Cooks Hill, High Street, Weedon HP22 4DR. Change of use of land to residential caravan site including removal of two stables.**

The Council discussed the information provided by Fran Chick and Roy Buttery. Cllr JR said that there would not be enough time to read the whole advice given, she would use the bullet points and also the personal circumstances of the applicant, to write a speech in her own words suited to her own style of speaking. Dist. Cllr AB advised forwarding the information onto the Committee Members by email. He also advised taking in hard copies of the site photographs along with hard copies of the Consultants' advice.

#### **Date of the next meeting;**

To agree the date of the next meeting as 15<sup>th</sup> May 2013, when the Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting will be held in the Methodist Chapel.

Chairman's Signature ..... Date.....