

**Minutes of Additional Hitcham Parish Council Meeting held via Zoom  
on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2020 commencing at 7.30pm**

Present: Allan Scott, Chairman; Pauline Squirrell; Wendy Crease; Jim Morgan; Cllr Robert Lindsay;  
Doreen Neun, Clerk

Apologies for Absence: These were received from Paul Marshall due to technical issues and Rob Whiting due to family illness.

1. Play Area Annual Inspection:

Following discussion it was agreed by those present to apply for the full inspection package as advised by Babergh District Council. Proposed: Mrs Squirrell. Seconded: Jim Morgan

2. Survey Response to SALC on behalf of Collaborative Communities COVID-19 Board:

Answers were discussed and agreed to this short survey concerning what, if anything, was needed to help with serving the community at this time. The Clerk sent the Council's response. It was felt that out of the help options being offered, Advisory; Communications and Up-to-Date Information were relevant to Hitcham at the moment.

3. Planning Matters:

a) Brickhouse Farm new dwelling revised application:

Mr Scott had looked through the revised documents and studied a resident's detailed objections response sent to Planning Officer. Although there seemed to be a slight building revision it was agreed the major objection was still the road access. Problem is clearing of ancient hedge to make entrance which drops down into a cutting. Is the splay sufficient in regard to what we know about speed of road and line of sight. The higher the road speed the wider the entrance splay needs to be. It will be impossible to make a sensible entrance without moving a lot of soil and there was scepticism as to whether it could be done at all. At the time of the site visit Mr Morgan felt the owner thought Highways were happy but it was considered this may not be the case. When the traffic survey was done recently for the proposed Causeway development it found the average speed was 35mph but Bury Road is faster, but no detailed survey was carried out. Babergh could be asked to provide a traffic survey using documented information. At the moment there is not the usual volume of traffic due to OBH not being open. Mr Scott liked the eco houses in area but is this the right site for this one. Mrs Squirrell felt the same. It was agreed that without reassuring road data we cannot approve the application. Cllr Lindsay felt that if Highways don't think survey worthwhile then they won't do it although Planners do want local knowledge. If we believe junction dangerous we still can't approve. Cllr Lindsay agreed to have a word with the case officer on our behalf.

b) Cheyneys, The Causeway re-application: Rear extension and Workshop/Annexe:

It was felt by that there was no reason to object to the extension plan which is at the back of the property and will give much needed space to the family. The amended annexe plans which reduce the height, position and size will make it invisible from the road which was the only minor objection from one Councilor last time. It was not understood why the Planners had felt it detracted from the 'High Street'.

c) Holmwsood, Bury Road: proposed holiday let:

We did not object last time and there was no objection this time as current building is not pretty and it would be a perfect location for a holiday let. Also it is not the only one in the local area.

However, Babergh seemed hostile to a holiday let provision.

d) Revised Plan for Proposed Development on Land North of Lower Farm Barns, The Causeway:

At this point Mrs Squirrell left the meeting due to pecuniary interest.

Last time we recorded resident's objections as well as our own concerns. One councillor had objected strongly against the development. However, being realistic where are we going to have more houses. This development is close to the village centre with good entrance visibility. New plan showed one entrance off road which then diverted off to all new houses and field access. The major concerning factor is that there should be a footpath incorporated, although this would have to end at Primrose Cottage leaving only a short unpaved area before shop. The hedge-line should be moved back to allow for pavement inclusion. Other areas of the village have no footpath and this is often complained about, but this is a good opportunity to put in a pavement. It was agreed the question of a pavement would be the bases of our report to Planners. Proposed: Mr Morgan.

Seconded: Mrs Crease.

Mrs Squirrell re-joined the meeting. She confirmed that these are plans for the future as developers have yet to be approached. Cllr Lindsay asked if there was clarification as to who would be paying for the pavement. Mrs Squirrell stated that this will need to be negotiated between Babergh planners and developer at the time. Pond will be left as is.