

# EASTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of Special Parish Council Meeting of Eastham Parish Council held in Eastham Memorial Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2014

Present: Cllr Inge (Chairman), Cllr Adams, Cllr Horsfall, Cllrs Arnold, Cllr Moseley, Cllr Conway, Cllr Worsley

In Attendance: Clerk, 10 members of the Public.

1. **Apologies:** None.
2. **Declaration of Interests –**
  - a. Register of Interests: No changes.
  - b. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests – None declared.
  - c. Other Disclosable Interests – None declared.
3. **Dispensations –**
  - a. To consider written requests from councillors for the council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) – None received.
4. **Public Question Time –** See notes below.
5. **Plans to comment on at this meeting –**  
**14/01640/PDU – Building at The Oak Trees, Highwood, Eastham WR15 8PB – Prior Approval of Proposed Change of Use of Agricultural Building to a Dwelling house (Use Class C3), and for Associated Operational Development -**  
It was agreed by all to object to this application. The concerns raised by residents should be quoted. Cllrs feel the applicant is using a loophole in the law to gain this permission, delays created by MHDC on Enforcement action has been detrimental to this case. Concerns regarding delays by court in hearing the case, to request judge for third hearing be fully briefed to ensure decision made. Concerns MHDC do not have to inform Parish Councils of this type of application. Clerk to draft response for circulations, residents asked to write to MHDC direct and copy to Clerk. District Cllr is being kept fully informed of this matter.
6. **Date of next meeting:** 24th March 2015
7. **Meeting closed 8.58pm.**

Signed----- Date 24th March 2015  
Chairman

---

Residents of Highwood presented their concerns to the Parish Council on this latest application. All were disappointed with the judge's decision. It was felt initial delays by MHDC in taking this matter to court had created greater issues for the Parish. The letter that the agent sent with this application had discrepancies in it which need to be addressed by applicant before MHDC give a decision.

### Discrepancies in application details -

- Number of alpacas on land is 10-15, not 36 as quoted
- No agricultural vehicle movements seen, some private vehicles' use site.
- Company mentioned in letter not registered at Company House but is supposed to be an established business
- Hectares quoted incorrect, they are double the size of original purchase, no neighbouring land purchased has been purchased by applicant
- Barn is visible to other properties, can be seen on approach roads to area
- It is in an area of open countryside,
- Sales of wool on ebay seen to be very slow
- Highwood Lane awaiting work by WCC on subsidence, do not need increased large vehicles
- Applicant not living onsite at all times, visit animals daily, if work is undertaken by applicant mobile unit could be onsite for years, this is felt to be unacceptable.

### Other objections raised-

- Size of land not enough to sustain an alpaca business – only 5-6 alpacas per acres is advised

## EASTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

- 50% of this land is covered by woodland, plus the area taken up by the large barn, car park area, storage units behind barn, new stable block and mobile home
- New stable block would not house many alpacas, where would their shelter be? Goats and horses also been onsite needing shelter
- Fencing and gates are at least 6 feet high and border Highway and footpath, not in keeping with area and unnecessary, why has this not been subject to planning application
- Water runoff is of concern to residents living below this site
- Old barn has been made larger and doors put on since purchase, it was an old 4 bay Dutch barn, it is felt improvements were done with a view to putting this application in