

Defford and Besford Parish Council

Minutes of The Planning Committee

of Thursday 16th June 2016
at Besford Community Hall

Present: Cllrs Jane Thompson, (Chairman) Roger Atter, Julian Clarke, Ian Spiers and Hazel Wakefield.

Absent: Cllrs Patricia Steel, Nicola Szabranski and Clive Woods

Also present: Linda Blake, Clerk; 4 members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received and were accepted from Cllrs Patricia Steel, Nicola Szabranski and Clive Woods.

2. Declaration of Interests

None.

Public Question Time – see notes at the end of these minutes

3. Planning

a) Application Number W/15/03130/PN, Rifle Range, Salters Lane, Besford

Members of the Planning Committee discussed the above planning application.

It was **RESOLVED** that Defford and Besford Parish Council would object to the Planning Proposal in its current form and request that further information is provided, in particular with regard to noise nuisance before any decision is taken.

Concerns would be raised in relation to the following points:

- The fallout of clay targets either on livestock or people from the proposed shotgun shelter. This is of particular concern given the proposed siting and direction of fire, next to neighbouring grazing land and also in the close vicinity of Tiddesley Wood.
- Serious concern with regard to noise disturbance. The Parish Council do not believe noise from the shot gun shelter will be contained within the original built MOD firing range land and this noise still needs to be fully assessed. There does not seem to be any adequate noise buffer zone or measures in place to reduce the impact of noise. It is therefore likely that noise disturbance from the shelter will affect neighbouring properties in particular, but also neighbouring villages such as Besford and Birlingham. The noise will also be distressing for both local livestock and wild animals.

- There is a need for more specific data relating to usage numbers and frequency and times of use of the range.
- Concerns that the design of the Shot Gun Shelter is not adequate. It is proposed to be open on three sides, when a closed shelter with appropriate sound proofing would assist in the reduction of noise disturbance.
- The direction of shot from the Shot Gun range currently aims straight at Tiddesley Wood and Bow Brook which runs very close to the site. What are the implications for the fallout of clay targets into the wood and / or the brook? Could an alternative location of the shelter be considered?
- More minor concerns relate to how the Army Cadet Force intends to advise members of the public using the local area and public footpaths through Tiddesley Wood when the range is being used. Previously a coloured flag was used to indicate when the range was in use, but with many open paths throughout the woodland, this does not seem to be an adequate arrangement.
- The Parish also assumes that adequate security measures, licenses and insurance would be held as part of this application.

The Parish Council objects to this proposal in its current format and asks that further information is provided, in particular with regard to noise nuisance before any decision is taken.

b) Other live Planning Applications as raised by Committee members

None.

The meeting was closed at 8:10pm.

Public Questions / Comments

Members of the public made representations on Planning Application W/15/03130/PN, Rifle Range, Salters Lane, Besford. The main points made were with regard to noise, location and design of the Shot Gun Shelter and the enforcement of safety and security measures.

Signed by the Chairman