

EASTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Special Parish Council Meeting of Eastham Parish Council held in Eastham Memorial Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday 8th JANUARY 2015

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

In Attendance: Clerk, 11 members of the Public.

1. **Apologies:** None.

2. **Declaration of Interests –**

- a. Register of Interests – no changes reported.
- 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 –**

- a. **14/01127/FUL – Oaktrees Caravan, Highwood, Eastham WR15 8PB – Retention and resiting of existing mobile home.**

It was agreed by all to object to this application. The concerns raised by residents should be quoted. Cllrs feel the applicant is giving misleading information on his applications. It was agreed rural businesses should be encouraged in genuine applications. Clerk to draft response for circulation, District Cllr is being kept fully informed of this matter.

- b. **14/01584/PDU – The Stables, Field on Highwood, Eastham, Worcestershire. 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. There was no supporting information given by applicant. It is in an area of open countryside and would be detrimental to wildlife. Clerk to draft comments for circulation.

6. **Date of next meeting: 24th March 2015**

7. **Meeting closed 8.58pm.**

Signed-----
Chairman

Date 24th March 2015

Residents of Highwood presented their concerns to the Parish Council on this latest application. Clerk to ask District Cllr if site visit could be arranged and for Highways to come and look at subsidence that is awaiting repair. 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, no neighbouring land purchased by applicant
- Applicant not living onsite at all times, visit animals daily.

Other objections raised-

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

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- New stable block would not house many alpacas, where would their shelter be? Goats and horses also been onsite needing shelter
- Water runoff is of concern to residents living below this site
- Business plan does not take into account leasing of extra land, vets fees, food costs. Also third year figures have income not relevant to an alpaca business.
- One resident to circulate alpaca research information to forward with objections.
- There is a supporting bank where they wish to move caravan to which could cause disturbance to Highwood Road running above as well as being detrimental to the roots of an ancient hedge.
- It is in an area of open countryside,
- Highwood Lane awaiting work by WCC on subsidence, do not need increased large vehicles