

KILMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk – Mrs Ruth Burrows Email: parishclerk@kilmingtonwiltshire.org

Minutes of the extra Parish Council meeting held on Monday, 24 October 2022 at the Stourton & Kilmington Home Guard Club commencing at 7.30 pm

Present: Councillors G Cotton, R Flower, Mrs E Hames, G Hunt, C Reeves, C Webster

Also in attendance, Cllr George Jeans (Unitary Wiltshire Council), the Clerk (Mrs Ruth Burrows) and 11 members of the public.

Public Open Session

Prior to the start of the public session, the Chairman said that it was good to see so many members of the public had come along. However, he reminded those present that Parish Council meetings are not public meetings and there are specific regulations by which we are bound. Members of the public may speak in the public session on any item on the Agenda for up to three minutes and that is the only opportunity unless invited to do so by the Chairman.

The agent acting for A R Diesels stood and addressed the meeting. He said that following the meeting on 4 July the concerns raised by the PC and residents, as well as the objections published on the Wiltshire Council (WC) planning portal, had all been given extensive consideration in consultation with professional advisors. As a result, a number of changes have been made to the plans to reduce the scale of the development. The details of these could be viewed on his Planning Statement Addendum and included reduction in the floorspace and of the ridge height of the workshop. With regard to WC's Highways concerns, further consultation has been undertaken with Bellamy Transport and again, the full details of this can be viewed on the WC portal. He said that Mr Reeves had listened to and considered the concerns of local residents and has reluctantly revised his plans so that the scale of development is significantly reduced. There will be an impact on the village but what he has now proposed will be much less of an impact.

A member of the public spoke for over 3 minutes outlining his objections to the proposed development. His view was that the revised plans are still far too ambitious for the current site and that any increase is not acceptable. He reiterated his view that the rural roads through which vehicles had to travel to arrive at the site are just not suitable especially for the number of HVG's which would be entering the site. He did not think that having an MOT station in situ would improve and lessen the impact because the plans indicate that the applicant is hoping to expand his business so that more HVG's would be tested if DVSA accreditation is approved. He said that the site was not suitable for an expanded business which would be much more suited to an industrial estate close to the A303.

A member of the public said they thought that since the last meeting there had been more vehicles coming through the village than before and asked if there are any restrictions on the route HVG take to leave the village. She felt there had definitely been an increase in traffic although admitted this could be perceived rather than factual.

A member of the public said he had lived in the village for less than 3 years but since that time there had been a large increase in the number of HVG's on the village roads. He said recalled that a few months ago one mounted the pavement and his wife was nearly knocked over. He said that the village roads are not up to existing traffic let alone an increase which will come about if the expansion of A R Diesels is permitted to go ahead and planning approved. *The Chairman said residents should try to separate the HVG through traffic using Kilmington Common and Stourton Lane from this planning application. The problem of too many lorries, vans and cars on rural roads is countryside and not just limited to Kilmington. He said in this respect, the Parish Council has requested a comprehensive survey to be undertaken by WC's consultants the purpose of which was to try to get the speed limit on Stourton Lane and Kilmington Common reduced to 30mph which would help but it wont stop HVG's from driving through.*

106. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr A Reeves

107. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS & DISPENSATIONS

Cllr C Reeves declared an interest in item 109.1 being the applicants' father.

108. MINUTES – the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday, 5 September 2022 were approved and signed as a correct record of proceedings.

109. PLANNING

(All applications can be viewed on Wiltshire Council's website [Planning – Wiltshire Council](#) – and type in the relevant application number)

109.1 Application to consider at the meeting:

PL/2022/03915 (AMENDED PLANS/ADDITIONAL INFORMATION) - erection of a workshop building and provision of an extended service yard for A R Diesels Ltd, Cote Lane

The Chairman said that we had heard from residents this evening and despite the efforts of the applicant to reduce the expansion, it hadn't won over many, if any, of them. The community were finding it difficult to divide/separate the problem of lorries through the village and the traffic generated by A R Diesels. He said he would be trying his very best to get the speed limit reduced on Kilmington Common and reiterated that it is a nationwide problem with commercial vehicles forced to use rural roads which were not built or designed for them.

Cllr Flower said he was abstaining from discussions and voting.

A lengthy discussion took place on the resubmitted plans and A R Diesels' agent answered many questions posed to him by Cllr Hunt.

- What could site be used for if Mr Reeves decided that he no longer wished to service lorries and he wanted to let the site, what businesses could operate on that site under the existing B2 type planning approval. *The Agent replied that and that currently only a similar type of business would be able to operate and planning permission would be required for any other type of business.*
- What percentage of new business customers were expected to come to the site within a 5 mile radius. *The Agent replied that information was not available but the data the business has is obviously how many HVG's come in for inspection and repair that are then taken away to centers in Shepton Mallet or Frome for MOT. That is an important aspect and one of the key objectives of this proposal. The business has looked at what it is currently losing and could capture if DVSA accreditation approved and that will decrease the number of HVG's coming and going into the site. The business plan is not just about expanding the amount of raw work but to improve the efficiency of how the business operates. The Bellamy Transport report predicated a 25-30% increase growth in the business.*
- What account has been taken of the River Avon catchment area as a European site and the discharge of nitrates. *The Agent replied that it only applies to overnight and new residential accommodation.*
- What steps have been taken since the last meeting regarding lighting situation and dark skies. *The Agent said that any existing issues have no relevance to this application and it should be noted that the comments and concerns voiced since, had never been raised prior to this application. However, Mr Reeves has said he will take action to correct anything that is required. With regard to this application, the Agent said the external lighting to the new workshop would be in accordance with ANOB requirements.*

The Chairman said that it will be a condition of this application, if successful, imposed by WC Planning that all lighting has to comply with dark skies lighting regulations as they apply to an enterprise in a ANOB area. Cllr Jeans confirmed this.

Cllr Hunt summed up by saying this current application is the third in the last 10 years, the second requesting expansion and no doubt within a few years, another would be submitted for further bays so when would the site become too big, as in his opinion, it should not be in the middle of a village of the size of Kilmington.

Cllr Webster said clearly there is a still lot of local objection but he applauded Mr Reeves revisions on the scale of the expansion and on the improved landscaping. He said he was very much in favor of supporting local businesses but the expansion however it was considered, would mean more vehicles in and out of the site and hence on village

roads. With the vast majority of residents being against it, he must take this into account as a councillor elected to represent them.

Cllr Mrs Hames had mixed feelings and she was keen to keep local businesses in the village especially since we have lost the pub and the school but it had to be accepted that the increased traffic which would be generated by the expansion is a problem.

On a proposal by Cllr Hunt, seconded by Cllr Webster and agreed by the majority, the Parish Council would **object** and the following wording would be submitted to the WC planning portal:

Kilmington Parish Council has considered the revised application and acknowledges the reduction in scale and the repositioning of the proposed new building, together with the enhanced landscaping. However, the Parish Council feels that the proposed changes do not materially alter its previous objections.

109.2 Applications considered/determined since last meeting:

PL/2021/09744 erection of single unit of holiday accommodation at Street Farm, The Street.

PC Response: No objection subject to conditions

LPA: Not yet determined

PL/2022/06380 conversion of agricultural workshop/storage building to form a 2-bed dwelling at Treoaks, Butts Lane

PC Response: Support

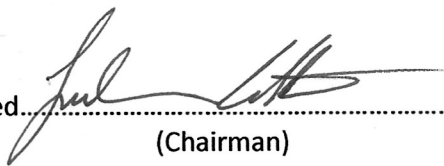
LPA: Refused (04.10.22)

110. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 14 November 2022 commencing at 7.30 pm in the Home Guard Club.

Members are reminded that the Parish Council has a general duty to consider the following matters in the exercise of any of its functions: Equal Opportunities (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status and any disability), Crime and Disorder, Health & Safety and Human Rights.

Meeting closed at 8.57pm

Signed.....



(Chairman)

Date.....

14/11/22