

THORPE MORIEUX PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ADDITIONAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON 1 APRIL 2021 AT 8PM

This meeting was held remotely by Zoom

Present: Cllrs Louisa Pepper, John Squirrell, Jules O'Brien, Ashley Simpson, Keith Lee, and Garry Russell, together with the Clerk, Nicola Smith and the District and County Cllr Robert Lindsay. Fiona Jacques from Belport (Agents for Strutt & Parker on item 4 of the Agenda) was also present.

1. Apologies for absence:

- i. Cllr John Gagen sent his apologies to the meeting;
- ii. Cllrs all consented to the apology.

2. Members' Declaration of Interest:

- i. Disclosure of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests - none;
- ii. No declarations of gifts of hospitality;
- iii. No requests for dispensation.

3. Public Forum:

Fiona Jacques from Belport introduced herself. She had kindly arranged a site meeting for Cllrs ahead of the meeting for the planning matter at item 4 of the Agenda. She confirmed that there had been no advertising of the agricultural buildings to remain as such, and as indicated by the planning officer over a year ago during a pre-application discussion with BDC Planning Officer. Her client (S&P) were not trying to demonstrate a need.

Cllrs indicated the following during discussion:

Concerns about any further plans for the other part of the yard;

Concerns about good enough broadband facilities in that part of the village, is this down to the land owner or is it the persons that buy the property. Ms Jacques indicated that it is likely that it will be the persons that buy the property;

4. Planning:

- (i) Application DC/21/01216 Manor Farm, Lavenham Road, Thorpe Morieux. Full planning application – conversion of and extensions to redundant agricultural buildings to provide 3No residential dwellings; erection of 2No dwellings, (following demolition of agricultural buildings) including provision of amenity space, garaging and parking.

Some Cllr had been able to attend a site meeting.

Cllr Squirrell indicated that he felt that it was an application of two halves: traditional conversion to 3 properties from decent barns that are worth saving. He felt that the 2 new builds were more complicated. Did it set a precedent, but on the other hand the cattleshed conversion is taking an ugly

building and making 2 x new houses. Any smaller properties would look out of keeping with the general scheme under the planning application. His concern was for broadband to those properties, recreational facilities were lacking in particular not even footpaths near the properties for people to just go off for a walk in the countryside without getting in the car.

Cllr Lee also agreed that the barns are beautiful and should be preserved, but he had his concerns about further “phase two” development on the site and it eventually becoming over developed.

Cllr O’Brien was strongly concerned about the lack of broadband to the properties, and that if there were any future plans for further housing on the site there was a serious lack of amenities. Although agreed that the barns were beautiful buildings and should be preserved in some manner.

It was noted that there had been no comments received from villagers (at the time of the meeting no comments were on the BDC website or had been emailed to the Parish Council).

Cllr Pepper, Cllr Russell and Cllr Simpson also expressed their concern/hesitancy about the 2 new builds.

There was also concern from Cllrs about the proximity of a very large working farm (noise and dust pollution) that would be next door to this residential housing, albeit that the farm owner was also the Applicant in this matter and would therefore not be expected to raise any objection.

Cllrs requested that the Clerk draft a response to the planning application on the basis that in principal no objection to the barn conversion but have some hesitancy about the two new builds, and concerns overall about Broadband being supplied to the properties if BDC approved the planning application; and would BDC like to invite environmental officer to consider the proximity to a working farm.

5. Date of next meeting: Annual Parish Council Meeting on 6 May 2021 at 8pm

Meeting closed: 8.42pm