

HAWKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

PLANNING COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING OF HELD
WEDNESDAY 31ST OCTOBER 2013 AT 6.30PM IN
HAWKLEY PARISH HALL

Draft

PRESENT: John Scutt (Chairman); Geoff Brighton; Jilly Caesar.

Also present: Peter Cregeen; Nick Davis; Charlie Butcher; County Councillor Vaughan Clarke; District Councillor Judy Onslow; District Councillor David Parkinson, Portfolio Holder for Planning.

Sue Harwood (Clerk) was in attendance, and in excess of 30 members of the public.

1) Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

2) Minutes of last meeting held September 25th 2013

These were approved and signed as a true record.

3) Planning Applications

SDNP/13/004733/CND Half Acre, Hawkley GU33 6JS

Variation / Removal of Condition 1 of EHDC/20245/31 to renew permission for a further temporary period or to make permanent

SDNP/13/04731/CND Half Acre, Hawkley GU33 6JS

Variation of Conditions 1, 2 and 3 of EHDC/20245/029 to retain the site on a permanent basis for 2 additional families and increase number of caravans on site from 4 to 6 to include 2 additional caravans.

Chairman John Scutt introduced both planning applications and proposed they be considered in tandem. In view of the high level of interest, the dialogue was opened to the floor. A considerable discussion ensued. Several points were raised including: planning law appears to discriminate in favour of the travelling community; apparent inaction of EHDC over many years towards establishing authorised sites; unacceptable nature of this site in the open countryside; increased traffic and consequent danger to other users including horse riders of which are many in the area; why so few horses on the site and why have fences been taken down if this is the applicants' main business; other commercial activities are being pursued; can planning conditions be effectively enforced in the future as appears to have been unsuccessful so far; why are the SDNPA not taking a greater role in determining this application.

District Councillor David Parkinson outlined the great difficulties in identifying and establishing authorised sites in the district, despite immense efforts to do so over many years. He acknowledged that human rights legislation has had an unfortunate impact on national planning policy and a bold change in the law is required but that there is little appetite for it. It is intended that following successful adoption of the Joint Core Strategy, and then the National Park's own strategy document, both authorities will conduct an allocations procedure and so by expiry of any future temporary permission, it should be possible to identify a suitable authorised site at which point permission might then reasonably be refused.

The Chairman summarised the Parish Council's response - to object to permanent permission being granted in either case, to ask for further temporary and to object to further intensification of the site for residential use. Detail of the response to be agreed by Councillors. He encouraged all residents who so wished to submit their own responses by the necessary deadline.

The meeting was then closed at 7.40pm.

Chairman

Date