



BOUGHTON-UNDER-BLEAN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of the Parish Council held in St Barnabas Parish Centre on Tuesday 2nd January 2024 from 7:34pm to 8:02pm.

Present: Cllr C. Clayson, Cllr S. Moakes, Cllr D. Clayson

Also present: Mrs S. Muteham (Clerk)

142. Apologies

Cllr C. Goatham

143. Declaration of Interests

None

144. Minutes

Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday 19th December 2023 (minutes 138-141) were circulated prior to the meeting and taken as read and confirmed. **Resolved:** The minutes of the meeting held on 19th December 2023 were approved.

145. Current Planning Matters

A. **23/505382/SUB** - Submission of details to discharge condition 14 - Surface Water Drainage Scheme, Subject to 22/501787/FULL. Land Off Staple Street, Hernhill

After discussion the committee noted that their objection in August 2023 to the previous application (23/505852/SUB - Submission of details pursuant to condition 14 (Surface Water Drainage Scheme) of application 20/503666/FULL) was still valid and made additional comments. In summary:-

The natural pond, adjacent to Staplestreet Road, has had the scrub cleared in excess of that necessary for the building of the bellmouth which necessitates a good view of approaching traffic for cars exiting the Crematorium road. KCC Highways have noted that the developer has gone beyond the boundary of the property and removed scrub beyond the remit of the S106 work required to construct the bellmouth junction. This scrub was immediately adjacent to the natural pond already in existence.

The pond does not sit within the boundary of the Crematorium's legal development works. The banks have been altered and the pond itself has been polluted by earth ploughed into it by heavy machinery, which also removed the scrub and which will have also impacted negatively on the surrounding environment which was of a nature to support reptiles and great crested newts in their terrestrial phase. It is illegal to destroy the breeding places of newts, a protected species. Voles also reside in the waterway and badgers in the same area.

The application to remove the condition also shows none of the work done to the natural pond - a run off pipe has been laid to divert road runoff into the pond. Another pipe connects the existing dry ditch to the pond. The quantity of run-off may cause localised flooding, in an area which already has a history of flooding.

Chairman's Initial.....

Of concern also is the plan to divert treated sewage runoff from the crematorium's packet plant treatment into the pond. This would be contamination of the pond and affect the ecology of the site.

The Parish Council would request that Swale Borough Council (SBC) ensures that the CCTV survey document is publicly available and that those who have commented on this submission/application can view this. It would also be requested that SBC ensures that the developer compensates for the habitat loss from the pond by providing an alternative pond.

Signed by the CHAIRMAN of the meeting

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