**TILBROOK PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES** of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 1 July 2020 by means of remote conferencing, commencing at 2000 hours.

**PRESENT** Councillors C Paull (in the Chair); M Patterson; K Gutteridge; C Haynes and Mrs J Pilcher.

**IN ATTENDANCE** District Councillor J Gray; C L Thatcher, Clerk to the Council and 5 members of the public.

**26/20 APOLOGIES** received from County Councillor Ian Gardener, who was unable to access the conferencing system.

**27/20 PUBLIC FORUM** was not used.

**28/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**  Councillor Haynes declared an interest in the matter of Summerfield Farm..

**29/20 MINUTES** of the Council meeting of 6 May 2020 were read and approved as a true record of that meeting.

**29/20 MATTERS ARISING**

1. Housing Needs Survey. Councillor Gray said that although the results of the survey were in, nothing is happening with it and Huntingdonshire District Council confirms that nothing will happen until the village has a chance to give feedback.
2. Summerfield Farm. Councillor Haynes was invited to speak by the Chairman. He said there were a host of issues made on the website which need a response. The original application was for 40 pitches plus 5 caravans and that is what we are going back to. This application has involved the Planners at all stages, including the enforcement team. It was re-submitted in February and validated in June and is straightforward, as all we are intending to do is increase the number of pitches and include 5 caravans. He has had quite a number of letters of support which are not yet on the website

A member of the public said that there has to date been no increase in employment and the pub has been full at weekends. There has been a loss of amenity for those living around and it has been running at this level for the past 5 years. Mr Haynes says there has been only one breach of conditions but in fact there have been many more - noise, smoke etc. The business benefit is very marginal, but the loss of amenity is huge.

Another resident commented on the speed of motorbikes and other vehicles along the B645 and that there is no footpath on the campsite side, making it very dangerous for pedestrians..

A resident commented on the noise from the campsite but Councillor Haynes pointed out that there had been no complaints made to Environmental Health in the past 6 years.

The Chairman invited District Councillor Jonathan Gray to speak. He said he had nothing further to add, except that there is in the planning framework a presumption of acceptance but control can be exercised by the use of conditions.

*Councillor Haynes left the meeting, took no further part in the discussion and did not vote.*

The Chairman invited members to give their views.

Councillor Patterson said he hasn’t changed his view, he feels the site is too close to the centre of the village for enlargement. A number of residents have contacted him about the proposed enlargement and he feels there shouldn’t be any vans or motorhomes permitted.

Regarding the west field, he feels that should not be included in any permission.

Councillor Gutteridge said that we are a very small village and this could be a very large site within the village and has the potential to overwhelm the village.

Councillor Mrs Pilcher said that whilst there is a clear benefit to other businesses in the village she does have concerns about traffic.

The Chairman said his fears were the balance between the village and the site.

It was proposed by Councillor Patterson, seconded by Councillor Mrs Pilcher and unanimously agreed to recommend refusal for the following reasons -

* Tilbrook is a small village with an electorate of just over 200 people. An increase of visitors as is proposed has the potential to overwhelm the village.  Whilst the applicant might argue that an increase from 25 pitches to 40 is insignificant and will not have further detrimental effect on the village, we would draw your attention to our comments when objecting to the original application ((11/01950FUL) for up to 25 pitches. At that time we pointed out that the increase in population of this small village could, with 25 pitches, equate to between 29% and 39% of the settled population and we believed this to be too much.  Experience over the past 6 years has confirmed our fears, as witness the complaints of residents.  Allowing this application will only make the situation worse.
* Loss of amenity, particularly for close neighbours of the site, which is situated within the village, not in open countryside.
* Noise, both early morning and late at night.
* Smells from cooking - the nearest neighbour is just 18m from the site.
* Concerns over road safety, especially if caravans and motorhomes are permitted.

*Councillor Haynes rejoined the meeting.*

1. Subsidence Claim. The Clerk reported on correspondence with both the insurers and the agents and that confirmation of which trees are to be felled is still awaited.

**30/20 PLANNING**

The following applications were considered -

20/00353/FUL Summerfield Farm - to increase the number of tents and motorhomes from 25 to 40 and to include up to 5 caravans as currently conditioned by application 1101950FUL.

A full discussion took place and that, and the decision, are reported as item 29/20 above.

20/00824/HED Verge opposite 2 Church Lane - grub up and replace hedge. This is for record only. A recommendation of refusal has already been made.

**31/20 CORRESPONDENCE**

A request for donations was received from MAGPAS. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Pilcher, seconded by Councillor Patterson and agreed that the sum of £100 be donated.

**32/20 ACCOUNTS**

a)The following were approved for payment.

K & M Lighting Streetlight maintenance 50.26

1. ON Energy Streetlight energy 142.50

C L Thatcher 3 months’ pay 406.57

HMRC PAYE 101.40

MAGPAS Donation 100.00

**33/20 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR** Councillor Gray said that little had changed in the past month. The Council was now in ‘recovery mode’. The closed leisure centres have cost £800,000 per month in lost revenue and the car parks £250,000. Fortunately, HDC has the second largest reserves in Peterborough or Cambridgeshire - only the County Council has more.

When the indoor gyms can re-open that will make a big difference.

He feels that there is a lot of coronavirus bad news to come but he is heartened by the activity taking place in the smaller business units.

He is very pleased that the services to residents - refuse collection etc - have been fully maintained throughout.

**34/20 MEMBERS’ POINTS OF INFORMATION.**

No points were raised.

**35/20 NEXT MEETING**

The next normal meeting of Council will be held on 9 September 2020, commencing at 2000 hours in the Village Hall if permissible, otherwise by remote conferencing.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2055 hours.