

# WETHERSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES of an Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held at Wethersfield Village Hall on Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr J Barker (Chairman)  
Cllr A Bowers (Vice Chairman)  
Cllr R Burdge  
Cllr N Godley  
Cllr D Martin  
Cllr Mrs E Newell  
Cllr B Vincent  
Cllr P Schwier (Braintree District Council)

In Attendance: 28 Members of the Public  
Mrs A Lucas (Clerk)

### 1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr M Taylor

### 2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

### 3. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION TO DISCUSS PLANNING APPLICATION 17/00313/FUL, LAND SOUTH OF SILVER STREET, WETHERSFIELD: ERECTION OF 12 DWELLINGS WITH ASSOCIATED ACCESS AND LANDSCAPING:**

#### **Introduction from the Chairman**

The Chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting. He went on to explain that two members of the public had registered to speak and would be asked to do so first. He stressed the meeting was for Parish Councillors to listen to residents' opinions and concerns about planning application 17/00313/FUL and **not** site WETH 414's inclusion in the Local Plan. He explained this has to be accepted as it has been through a full consultation process without any objections being received by Braintree District Council during the consultation period.

The following key points were raised by members of the public:

- Owners of properties adjoining the site requested support from the Parish Council in objecting to the planning application as it currently stands.
- Adjoining properties will suffer from loss of light or overshadowing.
- Adjoining properties will suffer from loss of privacy.
- Adjoining properties will lose visual amenity.
- Adjoining properties will be dwarfed by the proposed development.
- Adjoining owners feel their existence has been completely forgotten by the proposed development and they have not been shown any consideration.

- The number of proposed dwellings is twelve, which is one more than recommended by the Planning Officer.
- It is proposed to build one property close to The Old Coach House's boundary wall which dates from 1727.
- Concern was expressed that parking on the grass verge opposite Meadside may be prohibited and will be significantly reduced to make way for the entrance to the proposed development. Meadside residents are unable to park outside their own properties due to the lack of dropped kerbs.
- Residents of Meadside feel they have been ignored by the Parish Council.
- Concern was expressed that, in time, the whole field will be built on and linked to the proposed development site in West Drive.
- The proposed new access to the development was highlighted as potentially dangerous as that section of the B1053 is very busy and near a slight bend.
- A suggestion was made to relocate the access to the proposed development off the road to the sewage works which is owned by Anglian Water.
- There was strong opposition to the proposed 5 bedroom properties. It was felt Wethersfield requires affordable homes for local families, not executive style houses.
- The density of housing on the current plan is felt to be too high.
  
- *There was also considerable discussion and strong feelings expressed against the inclusion of site WETH 414 in the Local Plan.*

The Chairman urged residents who are unhappy about the proposed development to write individually to Braintree District Council objecting to the planning application. He reminded them to keep comments relevant to 17/00313/FUL. This needs to be done by 30<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

**4. WETHERSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL ON PLANNING APPLICATION 17/00313/FUL**

It was agreed that the Parish Council will submit a response which will incorporate the views of residents. This response will be copied to any residents who left their email addresses on the attendance sheet and it will also be placed on the community website.

- 5. NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL:** The next meeting of Wethersfield Parish Council will be the Annual Parish Meeting which is to be held on 5th April 2017 at 7.30pm in Wethersfield Village Hall and will be followed by an Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council.

The Chairman thanked everybody for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Signed: .....  
Chairman

Date: .....

