

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL PLANNING MEETING OF STAWELL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 5TH AUGUST 2019 AT 7 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllrs Penny Badcock, Brian Lishman (Chairman), Linda Osborne and Simon Thomas.

Also Present: The Clerk (Chris Fry) and 15 members of the public.

Apologies: Cllrs Hugh Gange-Harris and Rod Conaway.

The Chairman opened the meeting outlining the position of this application and opened the meeting up to public discussion. He asked all present to give their views. There was general concern about the lack of any effective screening of the site, also the obstructions along Stawell Road at the entrance of the site.

When everyone had been given the chance to speak the Chairman closed the meeting to the public at 7.36 pm and the councillors then discussed the matter. It was apparent that the feeling was of objection to the application and following the discussion the Clerk was asked to send the following comments to Sedgemoor Planning department:-

Re: Planning Application reference 46/19/00004/CAN.

Proposal: Variation of Conditions 1 and 3 of Planning Permission 46/16/00011 to site 20 touring caravans all year round (Condition 1) and to extend use by HPC workers for an additional 3 years.

Location: Camping Field at Flitchetts Farm Stawell Road Stawell Bridgwater TA7 9AU.

Applicant: Mr Lewis.

The Parish Council of Stawell objects to this proposal on the following valid planning grounds:-

Application no 46/16/00011 was only given permission on the exceptional grounds of the anticipated need for caravan facilities for Hinkley Point workers, and condition 1 clearly states that "the proposed use on a permanent basis would be unacceptable in this location".

The Parish Council finds that this exceptional circumstance no longer exists. We are told that currently only 6 HPC workers occupy the site and HP no longer provide a bus pick-up to this location, and we are told on good authority, that caravan sites much closer to HPC and on the other side of Bridgwater, are currently very underutilised. The Sedgemoor Campus accommodation is also underutilised. **On this basis the Parish Council feels that the camp site should now revert to the existing planning application reference 46/14/00004 which allows for a maximum of 5 caravans and up to 15 tents.**

The Parish Council, in considering this application, is questioning the legitimacy of it as the variations being asked for were conditions on a permission that no longer exists, (46/16/00011 expired 4 months ago on 19th April 2019). The Parish Council feels that some enforcement action should already have taken place to enforce condition 1.

The Parish Council also observes that condition 4, regarding Landscaping, has not been enforced. If a landscaping plan was agreed in writing by Sedgemoor then both the Parish Council and parishioners can see no effect of any landscaping to screen the site at all.

In the unlikely event that, in spite of our observations, the application be allowed and granted permission for a further 3 years, the Parish Council asks that it be on additional condition that the numerous traffic cones on the front of the site be removed and the stones, planters and any other placements be moved to locations behind the reflective bollards placed there by the highways authority. This matter has been a continuous problem raised to the Parish Council since the site

was first located here, and a problem for the local highways personnel.

We ask, does the sign advertising ice cream, currently on the edge of the road, need planning permission?

We would also enquire whether the caravans and tents in the field next to the site require additional planning permission.

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 7.45 pm.