



Huntingfield Parish Council

Minutes

Minutes of an Extraordinary General Meeting of Huntingfield Parish Council held on Wednesday 4th December 2024 at 7 pm in the Hub

Councillors attending: Cllr David Blackmore (Chair), Cllr Julie Collett, Cllr Sarah Kline and Cllr Edward Watson. Also attending were 25 residents (a 20-year record) and 2 representatives from Wilderness Reserve

100.24 Apologies and approval of absences. Apologies from Cllr Emma Ward, Cllr Carla Kruger, District Cllr Julia Ewart and Parish Clerk Carol Hume were noted and accepted.

101.24 To receive Declaration of Interest. None

102.24 To consider requests for dispensations. None

103.24 Public participation session – To discuss the Parish Council response to an application made by Wilderness Reserve Suffolk for a Premises Licence at Blyth Barn, Laundry Lane, Huntingfield, Halesworth IP19 0PY (formerly Valley Farm)

The chairman summarised the purpose of the meeting which is to hear resident's ideas about the above application so that HPC can put together a written representation to be sent to the Licensing Authority at East Suffolk Council before 16th December 2024. There would be no time limit on speaking, discussions need to refer to the four main points as indicated. Individuals are able to submit a personal response to the application too.

Overall comments

There was general concern among residents that the site is being advertised as open to potentially 270 guests from April 2025 with a 24-hour licence which will encourage anti-social drinking and possible drug use, leading to a big impact on the village. There will only be 21 staff to administer to these people which is surely unrealistic. The application applies to 3 holiday lets. There is no planning application submitted or approved for a facility able to host 270 guests. There was concern the site was being developed and there would be retrospective planning permission sought. Applying for retrospective planning permission has been done with other planning applications by the applicant. A reassurance was given that there would be no helipad on the site. A resident who lives closest to the site said he has put up with disruption for 4 years with construction traffic and workmen speeding in the area. Chapel Barn which is outside Heveningham is on a similar scale to the proposed site but it has a larger road, is in an elevated position and is not on a Quiet Lane.

Crime and Disorder

There was general concern about the licence being for 24 hours which could lead to crime and disorder due to excessive drinking.

Public Safety

The access to the Blyth Barn site along Laundry Lane would mean increased traffic including double decker buses used to transport people in and further building traffic even after April 2025. Residents have been told that Laundry Lane will only be used until the new access road is built but no application for that has been made as yet. It was agreed there should be no licence granted until the new access road is finished. A planning application has been submitted in connection with the new crossing from Chapel Barn, but as this doesn't directly affect Huntingfield it was not on the consultation list.

The current access would be via Brick Kiln Lane which is a Quiet Lane, single carriageway road making it unsafe for vehicles. There is no known restriction on drink-driving on internal Wilderness Reserve roads so junctions where patrons could drive to across the public road will be unsafe. Concern about health responders and their access to the village if roads were blocked by site traffic.

Prevention of public nuisance

The same restrictions should apply to Blyth Barn as to the Hub i.e. doors and windows closed at onetime and the building should be empty and closed by midnight. Huntingfield is a quiet rural village and the prospect of 200+ people being outside when smoking, talking, playing music etc. will create noise. It will also create a fire hazard. There would be noise associated with lots of people getting in and out of cars and driving out of the site. Residents in Heveningham can hear loud music from Chapel Barns so the same would apply in Huntingfield. Concern was raised about the amount of food waste (and the noise of bottle recycling) and light pollution in what is a dark skies area. A trustee of the Millenium Green spoke of concern about the effect on the natural environment in what is a quiet place that is treasured and used regularly as one of the gems of the village.

Preventing children from harm

The prospect of 24-hour drinking and possible drug use near the young people of the village along with the pollution created by all the visitor vehicles and the additional construction traffic putting children crossing Brick Kiln Lane to reach the playground or wait for the school bus at higher risk of injury (as highlighted in Olly's letter).The children's playground amenities may be used by drunk visitors putting children at risk of injury. The Quiet Lane requirement is that drivers should slow down so that pedestrians, children, horses etc. can use it safely. There is a possibility that antisocial behaviour could spread outside the Blyth Barn site.

104.24 It was agreed the PC would summarise the concerns of residents and submit them to the Licensing Authority . A copy of the PC submission would be shared publicly with residents (see attachment below). Residents were encouraged to send their own submissions if they would like to.

105.24 Any other business – None

Meeting closed at 20.00 pm

Minutes signed as correct:

Chairman _____ **Date** _____

Carol Hume
Huntingfield Parish Clerk huntingfieldclerk@gmail.com



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