

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held in the Village Hall, Tuesday 22nd August 2017 at 7.00 pm.

Present Mr C Reeve, Chairman. Mr P Gibson, Vice Chairman.
Mrs J Baker, Mrs D Twitchett, Mrs G Banks, Mr T Sheppard, Mr B Panton, Mr A Searle.
2 members of the public.

Public Forum

Both members of the public were also members of the Lavenham Society. One took the opportunity to speak. Personally she had come to the meeting in order to get a closer look at the application and, although in favour of the scheme, had serious concerns about the access to the site and the pinch points on Bears Lane.

Apologies had been received from Ms Paris, Ms Smith and Mr O'Mahony.

Declarations of Interest - none

Planning Applications Received:

DC/17/03718 Barn At Clayhill Farm, Clay Hill Farm, Lavenham
Application for prior approval - agricultural to dwelling - Notification for Prior Approval for a Proposed Change of Use of Agricultural Building to a Dwellinghouse (Class C3), and for Associated Operational Development - Change of use of barn to dwelling.
(9 Councillors and the Clerk had attended a site meeting at Clay Hill on Monday evening)

Prop. Mr Searle, sec. Mrs Twitchett, recommend approval. Carried. It was noted that the 'associated land' is not shown on the plans provided.

DC/17/04024 Land Adjacent To Bear's Lane, Lavenham
Planning Application - Erection of 24 dwellings with associated parking, landscaping and open space

The application appears to be a well thought through scheme compliant with the Lavenham Neighbourhood Development Plan and the Parish Council would recommend approval dependent on the preservation of the open spaces in perpetuity and the availability of full public access at all times.

However, the Parish Council is greatly concerned about the location of the access to the site on Bears Lane and suggests that careful consideration is given to realigning the access to the optimum position to ensure improved sight lines.

Also, an engineering solution must be sought from Suffolk County Council Highways to the pinch points on Bears Lane. The traffic report to the application seems to underplay the existing and future traffic flows. Frequent minor accidents occur and the footpath is narrow. The County Highways should give urgent consideration to this matter to safeguard existing and future residents of this area, which may include the purchase of small areas of garden.

The addition of 24 dwellings in this location will bring the combined number of dwellings on

Bears Lane and in Meadow Close to a total in excess of 140, all dependent on one narrow

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access lane emerging in Church Street. The Parish Council considers that this is not acceptable and could prove to be dangerous should an accident block the lower end of the lane and access be required for emergency vehicles. It is strongly recommended that access for emergency vehicles be created at the existing pedestrian entrance to Meadow Close on Sudbury Road (White Gates), protected from public use by lockable bollards. Or alternatively, design an emergency access from the far end of the public car park in Church Street which could emerge onto Bears Lane. This is again an urgent matter requiring immediate action.

Please keep this council informed of your correspondence and progress with the County Highways department.

Finally, all parking during the development period must be on-site with periodic road sweeping carried out on Bears Lane in order to keep to a minimum the spread of mud and/or dust.

Prop. Mr Sheppard, sec. Mr Gibson, Carried.

DC/17/04146 9-10 Church Street, Lavenham

Notification of Works to Trees in a Conservation Area: Reduce height by 2m, raise crown by 2-3m and reduce by 1m 1 no. Sycamore (T1), Raise crown by 2m and balance lower laterals on 1 no. Walnut (T2), Fell to ground level 1 no. Apple tree (T3), Reduce and shape 1 no. Damson (T4), Fell to ground level 1 no. Holly (T5), raise crown by 2m and reduce by 1-1.5m 1 no. Mulberry

Prop. Mrs Banks, sec. Mr Searle, recommend approval. Carried.

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm.