

Coberley Parish Council

Minutes of the Extraordinary Coberley Parish Council meeting on the 27th June 2019

Present; Cllrs McGaw, Piggott, Powell, Marshall and Thurnham

Also present; Clerk to the Parish Council & 1 member of the public

19/25. To receive apologies of absence

None

19/26. To receive Declarations of Interest on items on the agenda

Cllr Piggott stated that he owns the neighbouring wood land and will not take part in the discussion about Badger Wood nor will he vote on any decision to be made.

19/27. To discuss planning applications received

19/01714/FUL – Badger Wood

Following discussion it was resolved that the Parish Council objects to this application, comments attached as appendix 1

19/02047/AGFO – Land Parcel at Ullenwood

It was noted that no prior approval was required for this application

19/01898/FUL – Wistley Heights

It was resolved that the Parish Council has no comment to make on this application

19/01912/FUL – The Forge

It was resolved that the Parish Council has no comment to make on this application

18/01615/FUL – Land at Ullenwood Court

It was resolved that the Parish Council has no comment to make on this application

19/28. To approve payments to be made

Payments were approved by all signed by Cllrs McGaw & Marshall

19/29. To receive Internal Auditors report

The Internal Auditors report was noted by all, it was agreed that the Risk Register would be reviewed at a future meeting

Signed.....

Date.....

19/30. To approve the Annual Governance Statement

Cllr McGaw read out the assertions in the Annual Governance Statement which was duly approved and signed.

19/31. To approve the Annual Accounting Statements

The Annual Accounting Statement was noted and approved by all members

19/32. To agree and sign that the Parish Council is exempt from a Limited Assurance Review for the year 2018/19

It was resolved that the Parish Council is exempt from a Limited Assurance Review and signed by the Chair & RFO.

19/33. To discuss the way forward with complaints received about the Shooting School

Cllr Thurnham had made a site visit to be aware of the issues raised by Parishioners. It was agreed that the group who are concerned with the noise at the Shooting School should approach the owner directly in the hope to reach a resolution.

19/34. To receive an update from Cllr Thurnham regarding Community Led Housing event and agree Parish Council's position regarding way forward on affordable housing in the Parish

Cllr Thurnham will investigate further and will continue discussion at a future meeting.

19/35. To agree dates of future meetings

It was agreed that the next meeting would be arranged for the 25th July and that the Clerk will find out dates that are suitable for all in the coming year.

Meeting closed at 8.20pm

Signed.....

Date.....

APPENDIX 1

Planning Application 19/01714/FUL: Change of use from woodland to Forestry with Forest School (D1) and the erection of outdoor classroom/store and compost toilet at Badger Wood Ullenwood Coberley Gloucestershire

Coberley Parish Council (CPC) has met on Thursday, 27 June and considered this application.

CPC is generally supportive of such ventures and recognises the benefit to children by introducing them to a natural environment, echoing the many letters and comments submitted in support of this application.

However, CPC is most concerned that the natural environment and eco-system must be protected and, therefore, believes that the present location is the wrong place to introduce a Forest School, in that it a) is endangering an ancient, semi-natural woodland and its flora and fauna, b) is harmful to the AONB, c) is too close to residential dwellings such that noise levels from activities are unacceptable d) has hazardous access from the A436, whether via the direct access route or that being recommended via the Barber Wood car park.

We do not believe that activities such as are being promoted on the business' web site and indeed, reported by local residents, can have anything other than a negative impact on the natural environment and the ecology of the area.

There are significant detailed objections from local residents and from the Woodland Trust and the Badger Trust.

The applicant's web site refers to 'the disused badger setts'. However, reports from local residents are that the badger sett is still active and that access tracks have been created in close proximity.

With regard to the proposed buildings, the 'shed' is 6.5 x 5m, which is actually a good-sized room (a shed would be 6.5 x 5 feet). Alongside this is the covered decking area, itself an extension to the building, which takes the length to 16 metres. This is totally inappropriate for the location.

The proposal and activity reported to date are contrary to The National Planning Policy Framework (Paragraphs 172, 174a and 175 c), the Cotswold District Local Plan (Policies EN7 and EN8) and the Countryside and Rights of way Act 2000 (Part IV, paragraphs 84 & 85)

The development plan with the proposal refers frequently to 'minimising impact' thus accepting that the development will have impact.

Although there is reference to access not being recommended from the A436, but rather via the Barber Wood car park, it is reported that there is much use of the A436 access. Indeed, access via the Barber Wood car park requires use of the hazardous Cowley/Ullenwood crossroads on the A436.

Coberley Parish Council therefore urges that this application is refused and that the Forest School is required to relocate to a more suitable area

Signed.....

Date.....