

Chaddleworth Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 6th December 2016

Councillors present: Cllr Murphy (Chair), Cllr Mills, Cllr Pooley, Cllr Ballard, and Parish Clerk K Lloyd.

Representatives from Pro-Vision Planning attended to answer questions from the open forum on planning application Wessex Saw Mill along with Edward Saunders (J Passey & Son).

1. **Apologies** - Cllr Bourne , Cllr Mcallister and District Councillor -Cllr C Hooker
2. **Declarations of Interest** – None.
3. **Open Forum to discuss the following planning application.** (time limit at Chairman's discretion)

16/02954/FUL- Wessex Saw Mill Wantage Road Great Shefford Hungerford Berkshire RG17 7DQ

Change of use of Old Wessex Saw Mill from the repair, storage and sale of agricultural and heavy goods vehicles to an animal by-product, intermediate plant and horse cremation facility.

Objection from Chaddleworth Parish Council

Chaddleworth Parish Council met and invited representatives from Pro Vision Projects, Stuart Michael Associates, (Alaister Aitken) GF Environmental (Geoff Fynes) and Edward Saunders (J Passey & Son)

A number of technical questions were put to the above. In our opinion none of them were answered satisfactorily and there was a deal of obfuscation. One of our Councillors had contacted the supplying company of the Volcan 1000 to enquire about specification. He was told that the 'Volcan 1000' is solely for the incineration of pigs, sheep and other similarly sized animals and not horses and so we were worried about that. When put to Mr Saunders that the incinerator company 'Spectrum Waste's recommendation that the Volcan 1600 is the preferred incinerator for horses and cattle because of its more efficient combustion and (more importantly) the size of its opening and combustion chamber he became quite truculent which concerned us.

As the meeting progressed it became more and more apparent that answers given by the applicant's team were not fulsome and there was a great deal of prevarification. The flooding issue that has occurred in 1993/4, 1995, 2007, 2012/2013 and 2014/2015 was not addressed at all. We all worry that no plan is in place to mitigate the situation should a flood occur. We would like WBC's assurance that all steps are taken to avoid ANY contamination of either the nearby bore holes or the SAC/SSSI at the river Lambourn. The storage tanks shown in the application were 'used' ones and that also worried us as it seemed to us that standards were based on price and not quality. Alastair Aitken (Stuart Michael Associates) told us all that these were merely 'illustrative examples' but in fact they were quotations given by the company Regal Tanks and on checking were destined for the site. One of these 'examples' is now sold!!! This was yet another example of obfuscation that concerned us.

On a business synopsis one of our Councillors has a great deal of experience having been a very successful bookseller with 3 outlets for over 50 years. His opinion is that at 2 horses per week (quoted by Mr Saunders the applicant) with 4 staff the business as portrayed is not viable. We would like conditions placed on the applicant that this level of business remains static and that if planning permission is given there would not be any 'ramping up' of turnover

In addition the gain of a mere 4 employees to the area as opposed to the possible loss of 70 employees at Paul Coles Racing Yard 31 (51 during the flat season), HEROS (15 staff) Grace Muir, NAWT (14 staff), and Ambitions Equine Centre (10 staff). This is a realistic concern due to the extreme sensitivity of horses to the smell of blood/death. In our view this is a very flawed application and we reject it.

There is a very viable site at the Lambourn Business Park (unit 6 a 'available') that is nowhere near a water course and is at the top of the Downs and nowhere near any habitation.

Finance

Cheques approved in meeting

100393	CMJ Services (Climber & cradle swing post)	£5,797.20
100394	K.Lloyd – Parish Clerk	£365.04
100395	Mrs H Anderson (litter pick)	£16.00
100396	Chaddleworth Village Hall	£25.00

Date of next meeting - Tuesday 10th January 2017.

Every meeting in 2017 will be held on the first Tuesday of every month apart from August.

8.50pm

Close