

Wick and Abson Parish Council
Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting held on 19th May 2022 at The Village Hall 6.45pm

Attendees: Stuart Fowell (SF), Peter Crew (PGC) , Keith Hollister (KH) Gaive Golding (GG), Derek Bonas (DB), Simon Alway (SA), Clerk Jo Bray-Warner, and 1 members of the public and Cllr Steve Reade

1. Chair to note apologies and receive/confirm declarations of interest in conjunction with Localism Act 2011

Bronwen Dyson (BD), Malcolm Watson (MW)

- 1a. Chair to explain emergency procedures

Chair provided clarity regarding emergency exits and toilet facilities

2. Opportunity for the public as appropriate to address the Council.

2.1 Member of the public advised PC that a new planning application no P22/02746/F Land off Badgers Brook Lane, Wick, Bs30 5TT has been submitted via South Gloucestershire Council planning portal. Member of the public provided comments regarding a previous application and the conditions within it. Member of the public requested PC to ensure this application was included at June's meeting for full council consideration.

Clerk to action.

Member of public also commented regarding the same property that the residents have installed drainage which runs directly out onto the bridleway.

Clerk to report to Enforcement

Member of the public advised she will report to Enforcement

3. Parish Council to discuss a response to planning application no P21/00116/F Wick Activity Centre

Following a sub committee meeting a response had been pre-circulated for council overview and approval

Wick and Abson Parish Council

Response to Planning Application P21/00116/F

This planning application is for a development where the site does not lie within a village and as such would be inappropriate development in the Green Belt and is outside the settlement boundary and therefore conflict with the provisions of the NPPF and SGC Policy PSP7- Development in the Green Belt which states that inappropriate development is harmful to the Green Belt and will not be acceptable unless very special circumstances can be demonstrated that clearly outweigh the harm to the Green Belt, and any other harm.

Wick and Abson PC is of the opinion that the applicant has not demonstrated any special circumstance that would outweigh the harm that would be done to the Green Belt. New buildings and structures would be built, and surfaced vehicle parking would be introduced where there are currently none and this would greatly reduce the openness of the Green Belt, particularly the parking area in its very prominent position on the skyline, and would significantly mar the rural views in all directions, including the view from the Cotswold Escarpment and AONB. The NPPF requires that substantial weight should be given to any harm to the Green Belt and therefore the harm to its openness must be considered substantial.

The site is situated on the designated Hinton, Doynton, Bitton Wildlife corridor, at a pinch point, and the car park will further reduce the opportunity for wildlife to traverse between the areas. And reduce biodiversity and in contravention of the principles within the South Gloucestershire Bio Diversity Action Plan.

Access to the development is very poor, with the car park being situated close to the Junction of Rock Road, Cleeve Lane and Ham Lane with the expected number of vehicle movements quoted by the applicant being 562 on Saturdays and Sundays, this equates to almost 1 vehicle per minute. However it is suggested that vehicles will move along these small lanes in far higher numbers at certain times, at the start and end of sessions, particularly now the applicants are planning to have more shorter sessions. Inadequate traffic management plans have been suggested which in no way would make this situation acceptable. There would be inevitable accidents and conflict with other users.

The increased volumes of traffic will be great. These single track roads are used by local people for other amenities already, walking, running, cycling and horse riding, and these are clearly incompatible with the volume of traffic envisaged and the continual flow of vehicles will severely curtail these healthy pastimes for residents who actually live in the vicinity.

There has also been some anti-social behaviour in Rock Road, with people illegally entering the lagoons within the quarry, with drug use and dealing occurring in the laybys and field entrances. With the Police continually called to attend, and being unable to control the situation, leaving local residents to be abused by these miscreants and having to put up with the illegal activities. There is nothing within the application to address the issue of trespassing out of hours when the site is unmanned, so it is very likely the illegal activities will continue. In the past several people have drowned in the quarry lagoons during unauthorised swimming excursions.

The ecological surveys which have been submitted by the applicants are now some years out of date and possibly no longer reflect the wildlife diversity of the site. They were also prepared when a different type of management for the area was proposed with a far lower level of human interference, and are insufficient for the new planned use. Surveys in the adjacent Nature Reserve have identified a large number of Bats feeding within the reserve but not roosting, it is suggested that these species are roosting within the quarry, and their roosting and feeding habits will be affected by the proposed development. There may also be other protected species in the site but the documents provided are insufficient to identify if this is in fact the case.

In conclusion Wick and Abson Parish Council oppose this development.

Discussion held

Proposal by GG to accept the comments the sub committee had circulated with the agreed amendments.

Seconded DB

All in favour 6

4. Councillors to provide any updates and confirm any matters for inclusion at next meeting
 - 4.1 Cllr DB advised he had tendered his resignation as a Parish Councillor with immediate effect.
 - 4.2 Cllr KH commented that council still need to arrange a meeting with the Bank to amend

signatories.

Councillors agreed date

4.3 Cllr GG thanked chair for attending the Nature Reserve charcoal burn.

4.4 Cllr GG advised that there is a Global Climate and emergency heating meeting being held at Wick School 22nd June- hosted by Wick Church & Chapel.

Clerk to circulate details- actioned 19/05/2022

4.5 Chair SF advised he had delivered some flowers to Carolyn Williams as a thank you for her service as Chair of Wick and Abson Parish Council

4.6 Chair SF requested a note be placed in Parish Mag thanking Carolyn for her service and also to provide residents details of new Chair & Vice-Chair- Email sent 20/05

4.7 Chair SF thanked Cllr DB for his service as a Parish Councillor

Meeting closed at 19.15