

CHALFONT ST PETER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Extraordinary Council Meeting** held on Tuesday 18th October 2022 at **6.30pm** at the Parish Council offices, Gravel Hill, Chalfont St Peter, SL9 9QX



MINUTES

In attendance: Cllr Shinner (Chair), Cllr Dale, Cllr Darby, Cllr Harrold, Cllr Hatton, Cllr Jha, Cllr Longshaw, Cllr North, Cllr Rush, Cllr Smith, Cllr Southworth and Cllr Vldar.

Also Present: Vikki Murdock (Assistant Clerk)

CHAIRMAN ISSUED INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING EMERGENCY FIRE EXITS IN THE EVENT OF FIRE

- 88 Apologies received from Cllr Dickson & Cllr Ryan
- 89 Personal or pecuniary interests: Cllr Hatton – member of SENSE
- 90 Cllr Shinner firstly confirmed that the railings referred to in the agenda item were the ones by the Greyhound Pub.

Cllr North then explained that the planning application from the Epilepsy Centre presented a huge development (975 houses), whilst the timescales for interested parties to respond was the same as for any planning application. In a short space of time there had been a strong community reaction with over 100 objections on the Buckinghamshire Council planning portal. The proposed density of the development would impact local resources (GP services, sewage etc) and this was all in Green Belt. The application was made by Deloitte, a large company, as is Paribas, also referred to, both having huge resources and going forward, it was possible that if this application was rejected they could put a new application in, appeal the decision or both. This could potentially be a long process. It was noted that this development posed a serious threat to the village, as it would make it much larger.

SENSE had been set up in 2005 to object to a previous application by The Epilepsy Society to build houses on their site and had been successful in the past in challenging that planning application and had resource as well as a lot of experience. It seemed appropriate for the Parish Council and SENSE to support one another through this process. This should not take the form of a 'formal partnership', but one where the two parties support, share and work together on this planning application. It would still be the case that both SENSE and the Parish Council would submit their own separate response to this application.

Cllr Shinner asked each councillor in turn their view on working with SENSE on the planning application and whether our logo should be on the banner proposed by SENSE. The general consensus was that the Parish Council should work with SENSE on this planning application and our logo should be used. Some concerns were expressed, namely;

- Who are SENSE? It was explained that it is a resident group, formed in 2005, to challenge large planning applications within the village.

- That before the public meeting being held on 9th November, there should be discussions with SENSE to establish how this will be run.
- Any wording on literature containing our logo should be checked carefully to make sure it is accurate and not exaggerated or misleading.
- All councillors need to be made aware and kept up to date of any literature going out or decisions being taken involving the Parish Council regarding the planning application.

A motion was proposed stating the following:

‘The Parish Council strongly oppose the current Epilepsy Society planning application and agree to work in partnership with SENSE to build a strong case to object to the application and assist residents in making their objections’. Proposed Cllr Darby and seconded by Cllr Hatton.

It was acknowledged that sometimes decisions needed to be made quickly which could not wait for a committee meeting to be convened.

A second motion was agreed to delegate non-financial and minor decision making regarding this application to named councillors, so that Council could be agile in its day to day decision making when there were time pressures. Proposed Cllr Dale and seconded Cllr Smith

It was accepted that all councillors should be kept informed and that the monthly Chairman’s Report would do this. It was also suggested that an e-mail be sent to all councillors with any relevant information as it was happening outside of this. If there were any concerns, then a committee meeting could be called.

The named councillors are Cllr Darby, Cllr Hatton, Cllr North, Cllr Shinner and Cllr Smith.

A vote was taken and the Chair requested a show of hands. This was unanimous on both motions.

Cllr Smith informed the meeting that an EOM will be called for Thursday 3rd November at 6.15pm to consider and agree the final report from Troy Planning, which will form the Parish Council response to the planning application.

Meeting finished at 7.25pm