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MILLOM WITHOUT PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING
AT THWAITES VILLAGE HALL, ON 15 JULY 2024 COMMENCING AT
07.30PM

PRESENT: Cllr C Carrington (Chair), Cllr I Lockwood, Cllr B Wright and Cllr Calsy
Lesley Cooper Clerk
4 members of the public

51/24 Apologies for absence

Cllr D Savage, Cllr V Pogrel, Cllr M Kitchingman, Cllr M Bates, Cllr A Nugent,

52/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

53/24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Proposed by Cllr Carrington and Seconded by Cllr Calsy that standing Orders be suspended to allow members of the public be involved in the discussion of Agenda Item 4.1 the granting of Planning permission to 4/23/2119/0F1.

53/24.1 Points raised

1. Delegated decision and not the committee decision asked for by Cllr Pratt and the Parish Council. **Action:** Request Cllr Pratt to challenge why it was not taken to committee
2. Decision notice sets aside objections around impact on residential amenity and accepts the proposed management plan as adequate.
3. Planning have not properly dealt with the parking issue as raised internally by their own internal consultees so do not appear to have treated parking as a material consideration.
4. No input from Highways re increased traffic flows, sustainable transport is flawed and an underestimation of number of car/car journeys.

53/24.2 Legal Advice

Informal legal advice sought re options available to the Parish Council. General agreement that the decision potentially flawed due to lack of weight given to community concerns, residential amenity and parking/highways issues. LPA did not appear to take into account community's concerns and community concerned that questions to the LPA not answered. Lack of meaningful interaction, although not a legal requirement appears to be poor practice and undermines the community's faith in a balanced planning process. Unusual for a PC to launch a judicial review, only 1 other case found in last 16 years. Approx. cost £25-40k.

53/24.3 Public Participation comments

Lack of confidence in planning process in Cumberland

How safe is any planning application from prejudice?

Handled terribly – no official response to an existing planning application outstanding now for 12 months

Members of the public felt that they had done the work for the planning dept pointing out failures, inaccuracies and works already completed.

Public were advised that they had 6 weeks within that they could complain to the Ombudsman re the conduct of the Planning Department.

Members of public were advised on who to contact should visitors to the house cause a nuisance.

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54/24 To determine if the Parish Council is to challenge the decision of Cumberland Council planning department to grant planning consent to planning application 4/23/2119/0F1

Cllr Carrington proposed that the Parish Council do not seek the advice of counsel as in effect, it would be a cost to Parish Council that would be unlikely to lead to a Judicial Review. The reasoning for this was that the potential exposure to costs for a failed review would have an adverse and undue impact on the financial position of the Parish Council.

It was agreed that this did not mean that there were no grounds to challenge, this is still considered by local residents and the Parish Council to be a flawed decision, placing little or no weight on residential amenity in the face of plenty of case evidence from the planning inspectorate and the Courts and Tribunals Judiciary.

It was generally agreed that Cumberland Planning Department and the former Copeland Borough Planning Department had not dealt with this planning application or the concerns of the community as well as they could have done and the lack of available data online and policy of not publishing objections equated to poor practice.

All councillors present agreed with the proposal.

The Parish Council were committed to keeping the community informed and would continue to monitor the situation and support were required.

Members of the Public thanked the Parish Council for their support in this matter. The Chair thanked the members of public for attending.

55/24 FINANCIAL RECORDS

55/24.1 The following payments were approved:

Buzz Cycles	Gift voucher for cycle event	£31.50
J Benson	Purple custom stamp	£38.46

The following expenditure awaiting invoices were agreed in principle

Village Hall fees for cycle event £ 84.00

Crosby Cakes refreshments £100.00 (approx. cost)

45/24.2 To note the receipt of payments.

None

56/24 DATE OF NEXT MEETING 2 September 2024 The Hill Village Hall, commencing at 7.30pm

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 2040hrs

Signed 

Date..... 