**Brent Pelham and Meesden Parish Council**

**MINUTE OF EXTRAORDINARY MEETING**

**BRENT PELHAM & MEESDEN PARISH COUNCIL**

**Tuesday 18th April 2017**

**VENUE: Brent Pelham Village Hall**

**PRESENT:**

Trevor Hughes (**TH**) Councillor and Chairman

Steve Murphy (**SM**) Councillor

Sarah Wotton-Ramsay (**SW**) Councillor

Wilf Dimsdale (**WD**) Councillor

Kate Hinch (**KH**) Councillor

Ken Newstead (**KN**) Clerk

**Minute Item**

**Year.Month.Item**

**17.04.01 Welcome and Apologies for Absence**

The Chair welcomed 31 residents from the Parish who were attending this extraordinary meeting and gave an outline of the discussions held at the previous Parish Council meeting regarding the subject matter of this meeting.

Major Ted Barclay was not invited to this meeting due to a conflict of interest.

**17.04.02 To further Review Planning Application received 21st March 2017.**

3/17/0658/FUL – Qty. 6 houses on land to the South of Owlitts Cottage Brent Pelham.

Objections were heard from the following Brent Pelham residents:

Stephen Wiegold

Tim Hinch

Russell Long

David Bromage

Jo Wakefield

Richard Farrimond

Shirley Lacy

Mark Franklin

Graham White

Kerry White

Roderic Bell

Hannah Cakebread

Kevin Lacey

Peter Sylvester

The issues the Parish Council heard mostly composed of the following:

* Major Ted Barclay could sell off further agricultural land and open the flood gates to substantially more development and that there was no Neighbourhood Plan in place to identify areas suitable for development, furthermore there was no time to develop a local plan before this application is heard.
* New development would upset the rural aspect of the village and is unwanted
* Local schools may not have the capacity for more children
* There are no local shops or play areas for children in the area
* Due to the expansion in Buntingford, doctor surgeries are already overwhelmed
* The local bus service is insufficient
* Drainage in The Causeway is inadequate and cannot cope with existing rainfall or sewer run-off and therefore unfit for any further demand
* Whilst Major Ted Barclay is understood to want to increase affordable housing in the village this application and a previous application do not demonstrate this as his intention

Residents also indicated that they were concerned about objecting to any development as Major Ted Barclay has in the past been very generous towards the community and does a great deal of good work in the village.

Robert Barclay (brother of Ted Barclay) assured all present that drainage on the new properties would be superior to that on existing properties and that effluent in the drainage ditches was due to existing cesspits and not poorly maintained ditches.

The Parish Council was asked if the planning application could be put on hold whilst a local plan is drawn up, but the Chairman explained that the Parish Council has no power over such matters.

Chair Trevor Hughes took time to emphasise that the Parish Council had no more power that a single resident and firmly explained that each resident with a concern regarding this planning application must write to East Herts planning office before April 20th.

Chair Trevor Hughes proposed that the Parish Council should write to the East Herts Planning office and object to the proposal on four points:

* Existing drainage on The Causeway insufficient for current sewer needs
* Rain water run off likely to cause additional flooding
* Insufficient time for development of a local plan
* Insufficient regard for low cost housing

The proposal was seconded by Kate Hinch and carried with no objections.

These objections to this plan were submitted on Wednesday 19th April and confirmation of receipt by East Herts Planning Office were received.

**The meeting concluded at 9pm**

Minutes approved by: .............................................................

PC Title: .....................................................................................

Signed: .......................................................................................

Date: ...........................................