

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF PETTISTREE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 24th MARCH 2015 IN THE PARISH ROOM AT 7.30 PM

Councillors present: Mr J Hallett (Chair), Mrs M Chilvers, Mr G Hind, Mrs R Leigh,
Mr T Rowles, Mr P Westrope

In attendance: Mr C Mann – Parish Clerk
J Bidwell – County Councillor
W Notcutt
7 members of the Public

The Chair welcomed all those present and outlined the process of the meeting with the public forum being given ample opportunity to make comments and ask questions on the planning application before the Council session. The Councillors and Clerk introduced themselves to the meeting and Councillor Watt's apologies were noted. The Chair thanked William Notcutt for taking the time to attend, make a statement and be available to answer questions.

1.0 Public Forum

1.1 The Chair asked William Notcutt to start by giving an overview of the history, current situation and the reasons behind the application. The Warehouse site or "Shed" as it is known locally had been built in 1982 and traded as an integral part of Notcutts nurseries. In 2007 a management buyout created the John Woods Nurseries business (named as such because it was its name in 1897 when bought by Notcutts). An office block was added in 2008. Then the tough trading conditions and adverse spring weather for several years caused the business to struggle and when a loan from Notcutts Nurseries (not William Notcutt) was not renewed in 2014 the business went into a CVA. In order for the business to survive albeit at only a quarter of its original capacity a loss of jobs and cost cutting took place. It still needs to reduce its outgoings and this led to discussions with the owner of the site, William Notcutt, about leasing the warehouse part of the site and potentially the office block to another operator. Commercial discussions are ongoing with an unnamed company who required the site to bring products in via Felixstowe and re-distribute around the country. A ten year lease was proposed with traffic movements envisaged at somewhat less than currently allowed with a small but increasing number of staff employed. The application would change the use from agricultural to B8 warehousing. The Chair thanked Mr Notcutt for the update and before going to questions wanted to record the Council's thanks for the work done in the Community by John Woods nurseries e.g. grass cutting and helping with the Jubilee Apple Avenue. A comment was made that a B8 warehousing status would not restrict any future change in vehicle movements and would Sat Navs for non local drivers send the HGV's through Pettistree? Councillor Bidwell thought that any major change would require further planning consent and Mr Notcutt said that three conditions currently in place would continue. They were the access road, no vehicles between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. and parking restricted to one side of the site. As the site is currently agricultural no rates are payable but this would change if the application is approved. Comments on staffing, size of vehicles, vehicle movement's numbers, routes and future options were discussed at length. The Public Forum was closed and all bar the Pettistree Parish Councillors and the Clerk left the meeting at this point. They were thanked by the Chair who pointed out that they could remain if they so wished.

Closure of Public Forum and commencement of Parish Council Meeting

2.0 Apologies - Councillor Mike Watts

3.0 Declaration of Interests - All Councillors were Pettistree residents.

4.0 Minutes:

4.1 The 3rd February 2015 minutes were approved and signed as a true record at this meeting so they could be put on public record in advance of the election.

Councillor Westrope had to leave the meeting for urgent family reasons at 8.25 p.m. and gave his sincere apologies.

5.0 Matters Arising from the previous meeting:

5.1 The Chair reviewed Councillors comments on the planning application form and it was clear that it had general support in continuing to provide local employment. However, some of the concerns expressed in the Public Forum were mirrored by Councillors and it was agreed that at least the current restrictions relating to times and volumes of vehicle movements should remain in place with no major changes allowed without further consultation.

6.0 Dates for future meetings:

6.1 The dates for the next meeting were noted and although always welcome, the next time for Ruth Leigh would not be in the capacity as Councillor. A vote of thanks for her work during her tenure was recorded.

Tuesday 12th May 2015 Pettistree Parish Council AGM in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Tuesday 12th May 2015 Pettistree Parish Council Meeting in the Village Hall at 7.45 p.m.

Tuesday 19th May 2015 Annual Parish Meeting in the Village Hall at 8.00 p.m.

Tuesday 7th July 2015 Pettistree Parish Council Meeting in the Parish Room at 7.30 p m

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.

Signed: -Dated: