

Pipe and Lyde Parish Council

Minutes of The Parish Councillors are summoned to an Extra Ordinary Meeting of Parish Council on Thursday 9th December 2021 at 19.00 in Lyde Church

In attendance: Alan Paske (AP, Chairperson), Ron Williams (RW, Vice Chair), Phil Meadwell (PM), Donna Flowers (DF)

Also in attendance 10 members of the public and Emma Noble, Parish Clerk

1. **To receive apologies of absence – none received**
2. **To receive declarations of interest and written applications for dispensation – AP (Chair declared an interest under item 4.3 on the agenda and will leave the room when it is discussed).**
3. **Public Forum –**

3.1. Local Residents – At Chairman's discretion, up to 10 mins will be allocated for the public to make representations.

The Chair welcomed members of the public to the meeting. It was confirmed that two members of the public were the applicants for Planning 214046 and the remaining members of the public were in attendance to also discuss planning application 214046. AP invited the applicants and members of the public to discuss the application 214046 under item 4.1 on the agenda.

4. Planning - To comment on planning applications determined by Herefordshire Council.

4.1 Planning application P214046 Land at Lyde Court Lyde Cross Hereford Herefordshire HR1 3AE, Land at Lyde Court Lyde Cross , Hereford Herefordshire HR1 3AE, Proposed change of use of land, as an aerodrome consisting of the continued use of a grass airstrip, re-use of an existing barn as hangarage and for maintenance and associated landscaping.

AP opened the discussion. Three parish councillors had recently visited the site of the application to witness the noise levels of aircraft taking off/landing and also in the air from the point in the road at which the nearest resident to the site lived. AP informed those present that he had invited the applicant to tonight's meeting and Mr Waring (applicant) was then invited to talk about the application.

Mr Waring expressed his regret at the misunderstanding that the wording in the application has caused and understands that this has caused alarm for local residents. Mr Waring proceeded to inform those present of the following:

That around June/July 2020 his license from Herefordshire Council permitted flying on 28 days of the year. There was no limit to how many times aircraft was flown on these days. During lockdown Herefordshire Council amended the permit to 56 days a year. Mr Waring confirmed that he then received a visit from the enforcement officer regarding the number of flights and the runway that had been installed.

Mr Waring had begun dialogue with Herefordshire Council to increase the number of days he could fly. A pre planning application was put in place and the figures regarding the number of flights was discussed. Mr Waring was advised he could ask for unlimited flights between 10am and 3pm but outside of those hours flight numbers would have to be restricted. The application states 30 flights a day but Mr Waring informed those present that this translates to 15 flights as taking off and landing are classed as individual flights e.g., 15 take offs and 15 landings =30 flights. Mr Waring said those figures are over estimated as his plan was to have around 5 take offs and 5 landings per day over a 7-day week – making it 35 complete flights a week. Although the Pre planning document is confidential Mr Waring informed those present that it was favourable to the number of flights requested. Mr Waring stated that the Ward Councillors for both Lyde and Holmer had no objections to the application. Mr Waring distributed a document regarding aviation and Mr Waring felt his application was in line with green policies. Mr Waring returned to his seat and the Chairman gave members of the public an opportunity to express their views. The following concerns from members of the public were noted:

- The air strip has been installed with out permission
- No archaeological surveys have taken place prior to the airstrip being installed
- The natural meadow has been removed to make way for the airstrip
- No ecological survey had been carried out prior to the air strip being installed

- No habitat survey had been carried out prior to the air strip being installed
- No health and safety report was available for the storing of aircraft and all associated aviation materials - it was felt a consultation with the Fire Service was needed.
- Concerns of noise from increased aircraft
- Concerns of increased flights within the parish airspace.
- The residents in attendance felt that they had been historically supportive in regards of the increase in traffic on roads that are not always suitable around Lyde Court (pulling cars stuck in ditches, buses etc and had always been ok with the functions etc but feel that this application is a step too far.
- Concerns were raised that although flights logs are recorded for the Aviation Authority there is no routine inspection of such documents, which could mean any possible breaches would not be picked up. It was felt more governance was needed.
- It was felt that to suggest the application would 'promote tourism and business' for the area was an exaggeration and that the parish roads could not facilitate any further increase in traffic. If the facility did encourage 'tourism and business' then surely this would mean that more than 5 flights a day would be needed?
- The residents felt that the county already has a perfectly suitable airfield at Shobdon.
- Concerns over carbon emissions
- Residents felt that Mr Waring had already exceeded his permitted number of flights several times over the last 12 months and that trust had been broken.

Mr Waring suggested that the Duchy may be willing to make the lane wider to help with traffic concerns (by using their land alongside the current lane) – residents felt that this would simply make the lane more of a rat run than it already is. Mr Waring stated that he felt if he requested a traffic survey it would come out favourably that the lane would be rated as low use – peak hours are 8.30am -9.15am. If Herefordshire Council refuse the application Mr Waring confirmed he will consider taking it to appeal where he felt it could possibly have a detrimental effect on the housing market within the area whilst the appeal is ongoing.

The clerk confirmed that she had asked Duchy Estates for confirmation of whether they are supporting the change of use on their land and the response from the Duchy office was 'They are aware of the planning application but do not comment on planning applications as a matter of policy. Regardless of the outcome of the planning application, we have not yet made a decision on whether we will permit the proposed change of use'.

The Parish Council took a vote on whether they were supporting or objecting to the planning application. Three members of the Parish Council objected to the application and one member of the Parish Council abstained from voting.

It was therefore RESOLVED that the parish council object to the application on the grounds of:

- Official clarity was needed on exactly how many flights per day as 30 a day was far too many.
- The Parish Council took into account the concerns of local residents
- The increase in traffic on the lane
- Noise pollution
- The removal of the meadow without any ecological or habitat surveys being undertaken
- No archaeological surveys were carried out
- No health and safety/fire assessment was available for the storing of aircraft and associated aviation materials in the proposed hanger.

The applicants and all members of the public apart from one resident left the meeting.

4.2 Planning application 213911 Land at The Highway Pipe Cum Lyde Hereford Herefordshire – Proposed creation of a new vehicular access, extinguishing of the existing 3 no. vehicular accesses and the conversion of the traditional agricultural buildings to 4 no. residential dwelling houses – This application had been withdrawn shortly before the meeting commenced.

4.2 Planning application 214159 Upper Lyde Farm - Proposed change of use of agricultural storage barns to stables and part of horse exerciser barn to stables (retrospective)

AP left the room whilst this item was discussed. It was felt that the application was not detrimental to nearby residents or landowners. It is an existing building and there it was RESLOVED that the three members of the Parish Council support this application.

5. Finance

5.1 To consider clerks salary in accordance with pay scale and budget - £114 26/10/21 –6/12/21 – This was ACTIONED

6. To note date of next meeting – January 31st 7pm Lyde Church

Meeting ended at 8.02pm