

# HAWKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## PLANNING COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING OF HELD  
WEDNESDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2017 AT 6.30PM IN  
HAWKLEY PARISH HALL

Draft

PRESENT: Geoff Brighton; Jilly Caesar; Jo Humphrey; David Caukill  
Sue Harwood (Clerk) was in attendance, also District Councillor Keith Budden  
One member of the public was present.

**1) Apologies**

None

**2) Declarations of Interest**

None

**3) Approval of minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of February 9<sup>th</sup> 2017 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**4) Representations from members of the public**

None.

**5) Planning Application:**

SDNP/17/00873/CND Mobile Home 1, Half Acre, Hawkley Road, Liss GU33 6JS

*Variation of conditions 1 and 2 of SDNP/13/04731/CND to make the temporary planning permission permanent*

The Parish Council objects to this proposal in the strongest possible terms.

The title of this application suggests that it is simply a variation of conditions to make the Burrows' residence permanent.

However, the Landscape Design Statement is a duplicate of the material submitted in March 2016 in support of the application for a Utility Day Room (SDNP/16/03758/FUL), permission for which was refused. It therefore seems that this application has a separate dual purpose, to seek approval of the Utility Day Room which we deal with separately (see below).

We understand that Ms Penny Amer is the present owner of this site.

There is no supporting narrative explaining why the applicant (Ms Penny Amer) thinks this application is a reasonable proposition. Michael Burrows and family continue to live on the site in compliance with SDNP 13/04371, however Ms Amer has stated openly that her long term intention is to build an 'eco home' on the site. As is well known, a large amount of hardcore has been distributed on the site presumably pursuant to that end. We believe that this application is pursuant to that long term purpose.

The site is located in open countryside and falls within the South Downs National Park. The existing use of the land as a travelers' site has been found to be severely intrusive in the landscape and significantly detrimental to and out of keeping with this rural area.

Original permission in 2007 was granted by the Inspector as personal to the Burrows family, specific to the special circumstances of the family of Michael Burrows, reflecting their needs for accommodation at the time. Specific reference was made to the medical and education needs of the Burrows' daughter, Annie, then 11 years old, whose health was a matter of 'particular importance' and was given 'substantial weight'.

In granting the initial permission, having observed that the position in which Burrows found himself “was of [his’] own making”, the inspector stated: “ .... the onus must rest with [Burrows] to make the necessary long term arrangements to deal with this problem and given the strong objections to the development the site should revert to the former use at the end of this period.” The only evident actions Mr Burrows seems to have taken in this regard has been periodically to seek to extend the period of his permission to occupy the site and to transfer ownership of the land to Ms Amer.

Meanwhile, the express needs of the family have become far less compelling. Ten years on and now an adult, the daughter Annie drives her own car and so has her own independence. The compelling need for her to be resident on site in Half Acre is no longer obvious.

Travelers are defined as: “*Persons of nomadic habit of life ..... , including such persons who on grounds only of their own or their family’s or dependants’ educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily*”. For any Traveler to seek personal permission to occupy a site permanently is, ipso facto, an admission that they intend to occupy the site permanently.

To permit the family, to occupy the site permanently would endorse and perpetuate the adverse impact this significantly harmful development has on this sensitive rural location. The inspector found that landscaping would not “provide any overriding benefit”.

Further, to allow this application would prejudge the outcome of the site allocation process presently being conducted via the South Downs Local Plan and which should be allowed to run its full course.

### **Proposed Utility Day Room**

The site is presently occupied by Michael and Susan Burrows and their family. The Local Planning Authority has been informed (SDNP/16/03758/CND) that Alan Burrows has no intention to reoccupy the site. The touring caravans permitted by SDNP/13/04731/CND are not present and indeed, the Landscape Design Statement attached to the application proposes that they be replaced with a Utility Day Room. So on the evidence available, there is only one family living there.

When the SDNPA last considered the proposed Utility Day Room (SDNP/16/03758/CND) it concluded: “Therefore, there is no requirement for a utility building to provide facilities for two families or for a structure of this size.... This proposal, due its size and scale, for which no proven need has been shown, would introduce an intrusive feature to the detriment of the character and appearance of this sensitive rural location”. The Parish Council agrees with these comments and continues to object to the proposed construction.

The meeting closed at 7.10pm.

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Chairman

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Date