

## STOWLANGTOFT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**MONDAY 19 AUGUST 2019 AT 6.00 PM  
THE MEETING ROOM, ST GEORGE'S ROAD**

Present: Cllrs I Cassidy (Vice Chair), J Catchpole, D D'Lima (Chair), H Godfrey, Mrs J Godfrey, N Kaines and J Orlopp. Mrs A Bryant (clerk) was also in attendance. Members of the public also attended.

*(Cllr Cassidy took the Chair)*

44 **Apologies for absence:** Apologies for absence were received from County Cllr Mrs Storey and District Cllrs Richardson and Mrs Turner.

45 **Declaration of interest:** No declarations of interests were declared.

*(Cllr D'Lima arrived at 6.10 pm)*

46 **Finance Report:**  
The cheques were signed.

47 **Planning matters:**  
Discharge of Condition(s) – DC/19/00283 3 Almshouses, The Street, Stowlangtoft, IP31 3JN – The Parish Council noted that conditions 4 (render specification), condition 5 (roof covering materials), condition 6 (roof light and doors) and condition 7 (eaves and verges) had been discharged.

Received – DC/19/03446 Creation of 2 No. earth bunds at land at Bridge Farm, Ixworth Road, Stowlangtoft – The Parish Council noted that an application had been received and noted that the deadline for comments had been extended to allow the Parish Council to call an additional meeting to discuss the application.

Cllr Godfrey questioned what the application was for as he felt the bunds would not protect the Applicants property and would in fact funnel any noise towards the property. He added that he was sympathetic to the Applicants Wife and her condition. He questioned what material would be used to create the bunds and suggested that the application should have been submitted to the SCC as a minerals application. Cllr Godfrey also commented that the application went against Planning Policy as it would affect the open countryside view. Cllr Godfrey added that in recent years, the Applicant had submitted a planning application for a rifle range and he was concerned that the earth bunds application would be a pre-cursor to the rifle range application being resubmitted.

The Applicant replied that his Wife had had a tumour removed as youngster and had been left with deafness in one ear and hyper sensitivity in the other. He explained that the road noise had got progressively worse over the 20 years that they had lived in the property. He had held discussions with Environmental Health and the Highways Authority. The Applicant advised that additional hedging and double glazing had been installed which had helped but noise could still be heard. The Applicant had trialed a row of 4ft high bales along the edge of the field which had addressed the noise problem to a degree. The Parish Council noted that the Applicant had applied for a 6ft earth bund as, officially, that height would not require planning permission, however as the area in question fell into a landscape area, planning permission was required. The Applicant clarified that the earth bunds would be formed using top soil and would then have wild flowers and native shrubs

to soften the edges. They had considered planting an evergreen hedge alongside the field but felt that would impact on the surroundings more than the bunds which would be more natural. The Applicant added that there was no intention to resubmit the planning application for a rifle range as it would exacerbate his Wife's condition.

Cllr Mrs Godfrey questioned why the materials for the bund had not been listed in the application and why an acoustic test had not been undertaken. The Applicant stated that a company instructed to install the bunds had submitted the planning application and used his name. He explained that the Planning Consultants and the Planning Department had been in detailed discussions and an acoustic test had not been requested.

In light of a neighbouring property submitting their comments on the application, the question of sound proofing the garden area nearer the property was raised. The Applicant replied that additional hedging had been installed with a further hedge on the inside however the road noise was still evident.

Cllr Kaines reported that he had walked the area around the Applicants property and reported that road noise coming from the Ixworth direction could be heard more than road noise directly by the Applicants driveway. Following discussion it was felt that this could be due to cars accelerating away from the A143/A1088 Ixworth roundabout towards Stowlangtoft. Cllr Kaines stated that he did not object to the application and felt that the introduction of the earth bunds with wild flowers and native shrubs would be an advantage to insects and wildlife.

Cllr Catchpole advised that he would rather see a narrow tree belt and native hedging, such as hawthorn or mixed species in place of the earth bunds as he felt it would be more in keeping and would absorb the noise.

Cllr Mrs Godfrey raised concern at the lack of acoustic testing and questioned how the Application knew that the earth bunds would work. The Applicant replied that the temporary 4ft bales had impacted on noise levels more than the introduction of double glazing.

Cllr D'Lima stated that he did not object to the application. He was taking the application on face value that it had been requested on medical grounds. Cllr Orlopp added that he did not object to the application either.

Cllr Cassidy clarified that in light of discussions, the Parish Council could submit their view with suggested conditions. He questioned whether the Applicant would be happy for a condition to be added regarding the rifle range application. The Applicant confirmed that he would due to the impact on his Wife's condition. It was also felt that conditions regarding the material to be used in the bunds and one relating to MSDC's responsibilities regarding ecological matters should also be added.

The Clerk clarified that the Parish Council's view appeared to be one of no objection with the following conditions:-

- the material used to create the earth bunds should only be top soil and no rubble or hazardous waste;
- MSDC should dispense their responsibilities for ecological issues as outlined in the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and any other ecological legislation that is applicable; and
- the Applicant pledges not to subsequently submit any application for increasing the use of the rifle/clay pigeon shooting facility within the quarry.

Cllr Kaines moved the above proposal, which was seconded by Cllr D'Lima, and unanimously carried. **The Clerk agreed to submit the Parish Council's views regarding application DC/19/03446 on this basis.**

- 48 **Date of next meeting:** Monday 16 September 2019 at 7.15 pm in the Meeting Room, St George's Road.

The meeting concluded at 6.43 pm.

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Chairman