

Minutes of an extraordinary meeting of Acton Beauchamp Group Parish Council
held at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, 15th. June 16 at Stanford Bishop Village Hall

PRESENT: Robert Wall (in the chair) Richard Potter
 Richard Kuehn Kathy Smith
 Jean Morris (Clerk)

1. Apologies for absence were received from Alec Elliot and Francis Lowden.
2. Declaration of Interest in any item to be discussed – none.
3. To consider planning application 161234 change of use from residential/holiday lets to institutional at Hidelow House, Acton Beauchamp.

A letter was read out by the Chairman, from Alec Elliot. His view was that this proposal would be better sited closer to a town, where there is more to entertain the children. He did not support the planning application.

Francis Lowden had also sent a letter; he supported the holiday lets and was concerned about a number of issues - difficulty in recruiting staff particularly in such a rural area, the applications appears to be rushed through etc;

The Chairman had been told the proposed institution would accommodate autistic children only; that does not appear to be the case.

The proposal is for change of use, it changed from agricultural to holiday lets, it should remain as it is, bringing in money to the area.

Another member felt such an institution would bring risks to the community and was uncomfortable about the change of use.

There were many concerns expressed; in particular the loss of a very good holiday facility for disabled people, a big increase in traffic, fear if the children escape, concerns of the agricultural community, unsuitable place for these children, better suited in or near a town where there is more to occupy them.

A vote was taken:- Support, in favour - none. Against, unanimous – Object – not sufficient reasons to change from disabled holiday lets.

Disabled holiday lets are in short supply; such an asset should not be lost, it is a very good facility. There would be a great loss to the tourist industry for the area.

Hidelow House was exceptionally allowed to benefit from two new specifically built disabled holiday lets, in addition to the converted buildings, which was approved at the time as there was a great need for such accommodation, which have proved to be an asset to the area, these valuable benefits would be lost if the institutional use is approved. In a comparatively short time, surely that need still exists.

The meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.

