

MINUTES OF EASTRY PARISH MEETING HELD AT THE PARISH ROOM, CHURCH STREET EASTRY ON WEDNESDAY 21st NOVEMBER AT 7.30pm

Present: N Kenton (Chairman of the Parish Council) S Wells Clerk to the Parish Council
 Dist Cllr Steve Manion
 61 Electors of the Parish
 2 Members of the public

Number of Electors on the Parish Register as of this date 1911

Cllr Kenton opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. He explained that even though this meeting had not been called by the Parish Council under current legislation as he was in attendance, as Chairman of the Parish Council he must preside over the meeting.

1) APOLOGIES

Iris Mollart & Cllr Andrew Barwick

2) CHANGE OF USE OF THE BULL INN, HIGH STREET, EASTRY

This meeting had been called by the following 6 member of the electorate Mrs Fiona Bond, Ms Therese England, Mrs Linda Harper, Mrs Hazel Kendrick, Dr Katherine Schenck and Mrs Karen Scott. As they did not feel that the Parish Council were representing their views on this matter and felt that a Parish Poll (referendum) on this matter should be called.

Following public consultation at the Planning Committee meeting of the 22nd Oct and an open public meeting held at the Village Hall on the 31st Oct and discussion with parishioners during their daily activities in and around the parish. The Councils Planning Committee had met on 5th Nov 2012 and agreed to support the applications but had asked that the following conditions be imposed in response the concerns raised by local people:-

- a) The number of clients is limited to a maximum of six.
- b) That sufficient parking is provided on the site for staff and visitors, when parking spaces are calculated the need for staff change over should be taken into account.
- c) The use to be restricted specifically for the care of clients with Korsakov's Syndrome and other related amnesic conditions as per the detail in the application.
- d) The use be restricted to the care of the most able clients that require the minimal amount of care, this guarantee was stated publicly by the applicants at the Councils planning meeting of 22nd October.
- e) No external signage designating the property as a care home should be permitted. This is important to maintain the street scene and prevent the feeling that the High Street has been taken over by care facilities.
- f) The external look of the historic property should be preserved. The large windows at the front of the building should be kept.
- g) Any plans for the garden should enhance the street scene

Clerk explained the process for calling a Parish Poll.

- Only local government electors for the parish are qualified to vote at a parish meeting or a poll consequent thereon. Each elector can give one vote on any question and no more.
- A question to be decided by a parish meeting shall, in the first instance, be decided by the majority of those present at the meeting and voting thereon.
- The question is then put to the floor and voted on and the vote is recorded.
- The result of the question put to the vote is final unless a poll on the question is then demanded. A poll may be demanded before the conclusion of the meeting by not less than ten, or one-third of the local government electors present at the meeting, whichever is the fewer.

The Chairman went on to explain that Parish Meeting questions and Parish Polls were advisory only, and that neither the Parish Council or Dover District Council Planning department were obligated to take its results into account when making a decision. Also the fact that a Parish Poll had been called would not stop the planning process so it may be possible that the application could be decided before the results of a poll were available. He also advised that the cost of a Parish Poll would be between £2500 and £3500, this cost would come out of the Parish Council funds.

He also informed the meeting that the Parish Council are only a consultee on planning applications and that they do not have the power to grant or refuse planning permission.

He suggested that a better way forward would be to ask a Dover District Councillor to speak at the Planning Committee meeting to give the views of those objecting to the application. Also one member of the public would be allowed to speak in opposition to the application.

A long and detailed debate took place with questions from the floor being answered where possible by the Chairman and Clerk.

Following this debate the wording of a question was discussed, Dr Schenck proposed a draft question that was readout by the Chairman "Do you support the change of use of the Bull Inn to a care home without nursing, for alcoholics and drug users instead of a Community Space?"

After some discussion "Community Space" was replaced by "Public House". The Chairman asked that "without nursing, for alcoholics and drug users" be removed, however the meeting's organiser's insisted vehemently that this was included as they said it was on the planning application, the question was agreed by the majority of those present.

Therefore the following question was put to the meeting

"Do you support the change of use of the Bull Inn to a care home without nursing, for alcoholics and drug users instead of a Public House?"

Vote

9 voted YES,

51 voted NO

1 abstention.

During the debate the Parish Council were asked to change their comment to DDC from Positively Support to Objection. The Chairman instructed the Clerk to call an Extra-ordinary meeting of the Council to discuss this request and the results of the question put to this meeting.

DDC Cllr Steve Manion agreed to speak against the application at the DDC Planning Committee meeting.

Dr K Schenk agreed to speak against the application at the DDC Planning Committee meeting.

The Chairman asked if any one else wish to comment before he closed the meeting, no more comments were taken so he thanked everyone for attended and the meeting was closed.