**St Leonards & St Ives Parish Council**

Planning Committee Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 21st May 2020 at 7.00pm

Held as a Virtual Zoom meeting

Members present: – Cllr J B Parker

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| Cllr A Davies  Cllr R Bryan | Cllr K Gawler  Cllr Mrs S Marshall | Cllr Mrs K Neale  Cllr J W Parker |

**In attendance:** Mrs Ann Jacobs Clerk to Council; Cllr B Goringe and six Members of the public observing

**Public speaking**: Members of the public spoke in relation to 20/0499 – St Ives First School, MUGA application. In support: The Head Teacher explained that before submitting the proposal they had looked closely at Planning Policy and noted that St Leonards was under provided for and had a lack of provision of recreational space identified in the Local Plan. The main ethos of the proposal is to serve the School. A grant of £50,000 awarded requires us to offer out the facility to the wider community. I note that some residents have concerns about the floodlighting but we took advice on this and these are down lights which is why they have to be so high. The light pool will not reach the road. Parking provision outside of school hours can be provided, 20 spaces are available in the school car park and in need then a further 30 spaces can be provided on the playground, as there would be no school traffic at the same time we do not see that as an issue. The size of the MUGA would restrict the suitability to hire it out to some groups, it is hoped that the local community would use it. All of the groups currently using the school outside of hours are known to us and are strictly managed, we have already been approached by a walking football group. The trees removed were dangerous and there is a health and safety issue due to the roots behind and prior to removal falling branches. The grant is dependent on the facility being open to the public but the times are not stated. The aim of this proposal is not commercial it is to improve the children’s facilities. The comments were fully supported by another Member of the Public.

Objecting to the proposal: The biggest issue is noise. The hours of use are stated at 9am to 10pm 365 days of the year. No matter how well managed putting 20 people not just children but adults on an outside court playing a game is going to cause a fair amount of noise, add to that spectators and the additional noise of cars arriving and leaving and there will be noise. Housing is very close to the site and some of the children of the school are in that housing. On school nights the same children aged 2-11 are expected to go to bed at a reasonable hour yet are likely to be disturbed until at least 10pm. Lack of toilet and changing facilities is particularly relevant at present due to the virus and the need for hygiene. Others raised concerns about the tree felling which took place last year and whether permission had been obtained. Environmentally a professional bat survey seems to be absent and yet bats are known to be present in this area. Parking is currently a big issue for those living close by and this proposal would increase traffic in the immediate area until after 10pm at night all year round. Light will be an issue and a test should be undertaken before this proceeds if it is permitted. This looks to be a commercial venture and I question whether it would require the permission of the Secretary of State as it removes a large area of the general playing field of the school. Noise from hiring out the swimming pool had already been an issue but it is only for a limited time, this proposal is for 365 days and until after 10pm at night. There are plenty of other sports areas in the Parish and surrounding communities so there is no lack of local facilities.

The meeting was reconvened.

**292. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest:** None.

**293. Apologies for absence**:

**294. Minutes –** Minutes of the meetings held on 9th April 2020 page 61 were agreed unanimously as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Cllr K Gawler, seconded by Cllr Mrs S Marshall. The Minutes will be posted to the Chairman for signing and returning.

**RESOLVED: To accept the minutes of the meetings held 9th April 2020**

**295. Matters Arising:** None from 9th April 2020. The meeting scheduled for 30th April 2020 was cancelled due to insufficient business.

**296. Correspondence, for information only:**

* Enquiry from an Agent potentially considering a new shop – responded to without prejudice a formal application is awaited.
* Questions put to Agent re MUGA response copied to Members for further information
* 36 Lions Lane further comments submitted to Case Officer. Subsequently the application has been approved.

**297. Planning Decisions –** lists emailed 14th May 2020 noted

**298. Planning Applications**:

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| **App** | **Address** | **Proposal** |
| **20/0312** | |  | | --- | | 40A Hurn Road, Ashley Heath, Ringwood, BH24 2AL- First floor extension.  Internal alterations and refurbishment.  Rear and side extension to existing building footprint. | | No objection |
| **20/0383** | |  | | --- | | 10 Oaks Drive, St Leonards and St Ives, BH24 2QT - Single storey side extension and new access | | No objection |
| **20/0499** | |  | | --- | | St Ives County First School, Sandy Lane, St Leonards & St Ives BH24 2LE - Erection of a multi-use games area (MUGA) comprising synthetic surface, 3m high perimeter ball stop netting and 8 x 8m lighting columns | | Members discussed the proposal at length. There was considerable concern about the impact on those living close by in relation to noise and lighting particularly outside of school hours and questioned whether the requirements of policies HE2; HE3 HE4 and LN7 were being met.  It was agreed unanimously that they could not support the proposal in its present form. Whilst there were some merits and benefits to the school they had serious concern about the impact of the proposal on residents and the environment particularly in relation to the hours of opening and number of days of use. Cllr Bryan will ask that this goes to the LPA Committee if the Officer is minded to approve and asked that a Member of the Committee supports him at that meeting. |

**7.55pm The meeting adjourned for 10 minutes to allow for Members to go outside and do the NHS community**

**support clap.**

**8.05pm the meeting reconvened.**

**299. Exchange of Information**:

**1. Next Meeting scheduled for 11th June 2020 provided sufficient business. The meeting time will be moved**

**Forward to 6.45pm whilst meeting virtually.**

**2. Cllr Bryan will make enquiries concerning the removal of trees at the school and also question the bat survey requirements.**

**3. Cllr Bryan a recent fire on the A31 came close to requiring the evacuation of Oaktree Park and possibly Victory Oak development. Cllr Bryan will contact Cllr Goringe about the availability and preparedness of the Village Hall if it was required as an emergency shelter.**

**4. Cllr Gawler raised the issue of new patch repairs on Heath Road as weeds were already growing up through the patches. Cllr Bryan will look into this.**

**Meeting ended at 8.31pm**

**Chairman**