

**ST LEONARDS & ST IVES PARISH COUNCIL
EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday 29th February, 2008 at 6pm**

Subject of meeting - Forestry Commission – Creation of recreational open space

Members Present: Cllr Mrs J House

Cllr Mrs V Bell	Cllr Maddock (arrived 7.32pm)	Cllr Mrs S Smith
Cllr. M. Dyer	Cllr M. Packham	Cllr Mrs A Warman (Left 7.30pm)
Cllr N.R. Hindmarch	Cllr Mrs K Redknapp (left 7.50pm)	Cllr R Warman (Left 7.30pm)

In attendance: Mrs Ann Jacobs, Clerk and well over 200 Members of the Public and press

Due to the number attending the Clerk gave a brief emergency procedure introduction.

527. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Mrs House declared: "I have sought guidance from the Monitoring Officer - I am declaring a personal interest as I have been informed that my Stepson is a member of one of the action groups against the proposal. I have not formed any view on the matter and am not influenced by the views of my stepson. I will make my own decision based on the material considerations laid before me at this meeting."

Cllr Mrs Redknapp declared a Personal and Prejudicial interest – It may be understood by some parishioners that Cllr Mrs Redknapp has already determined her view on this issue as she fully supports the objectors to the proposal. Cllr Mrs Redknapp urged her fellow Councillors to also support the objectors. Cllr Mrs Redknapp will leave before any debate on the issue.

Cllr Mrs A Warman declared a Personal and Prejudicial interest as she had declared her view publicly on 27th February. Mrs Warman will not be present for any debate on the issue.

Cllr M Dyer: Intends to take part as currently there is no planning consideration to be made. However, if this changes and a planning application is made he will then have to declare an interest and not take part in it.

528. To receive Apologies for absence: Cllr Willetts, Cllr Dudman due to a potential conflict if the matter goes before Licensing at the District Council.

529. Chairman's introduction: Cllr Mrs House: This meeting has been called by the Parish Council due to the extent of public concern reported to this Parish Council over the Forestry Commission Proposal to create recreation space and its uses.

It is important that I now stress to you quite clearly that the Parish Council has no statutory powers in respect of this project as tabled but has arranged this meeting to facilitate a means of communication between residents and the Forestry Commission

Our spokes person Cllr Mrs Stephanie Smith will now provide information which covers the initial approach, and a report from the recent screening meeting. This will be followed by an address from Mr Bruce Rothnie of the Forestry Commission. The formal part of this meeting will then be closed and opened for public questions.

Mr Steve Ricketts from EDDC has also kindly agreed to be here this evening should there be any questions in respect of licensing

530. Council spokesperson: Cllr Mrs Smith gave details of the initial approach to the Council and read out the report from the Councillors who attended the screening meeting held on

1st February, 2008. Details of which appear as appendix A with these Minutes in the Minute Book.

531. The Forestry Commission: Mr Bruce Rothnie of the Forestry Commission (FC) gave an outline of the proposal. It was stated that the FC have no intention of allowing vehicle access from Horton Road. The proposal is to clear an area of forest for a recreational area which will include a week end concert. Parking on site for between 1500 and 2000 vehicles is anticipated. ~The FC manage similar events at other sites and have done for a number of years. There is no intention to permit access from the Ashley Heath side. The FC has encountered very little problem with unauthorised access at the other sites. If there is any real concern from unauthorised access the FC will have to think about this issue.

The next stages are:

- i) Public consultation – several open walk in sessions have been booked at the village hall
- ii) Felling licence – 28 days to comment. The FC will let the Clerk know when applied for.
- iii) Licensing – to be applied for

The Chairman then closed the meeting to open for public questions to Mr Rothnie. A brief of the concerns raised is attached to these Minutes as Appendix B in the Minute Book.

A show of hands was requested from the audience by a member of the public those in favour of the proposal 2, the rest showed against the proposal.

532. Mr S Ricketts, Licensing Officer for EDDC - gave a brief explanation of what is required in the licensing process and how Members of the Public can make representations if they so wish. Mr Ricketts also explained that whilst the Parish Council is no longer a statutory consultee, residents can ask the Council to represent their views on their behalf. A direct request to do so would have to be made to the Parish Council.

7.32pm Cllrs R and Mrs A Warman left the meeting

Cllr I Maddock arrived at the meeting.

7.50pm Cllr Mrs K Redknap left the meeting

533. Chairmans Closure - At the close of the meeting residents requested the support of the Parish Council and their attendance at the licensing hearing when called for. The Chairman then closed the meeting to public involvement and put the request to support the objectors at a licensing hearing if called, to the Members. This was put as a resolution before Parish Councillors present and the vote in favour was unanimous.

RESOLVED: To support the residents views in opposing the licence application based on the current proposal.

It was made clear to the audience that a direct request asking for representation has to be made for the Council to action.

The meeting closed at 8.03pm

Chairman