

MONK SOHAM PARISH COUNCIL

(Draft) Minutes of an Extra-ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 3rd January 2024

The meeting was convened to discuss Planning Application DC/23/00572 relating to the an application regarding to “Change of Use and Extension of Redundant Barn into a Dwelling” at Glebe Farm, School Road, Monk Soham. IP13 7EN

The meeting commenced in 19:32 at the Bedfield Community HUB Pavilion

EX013/24 - 01 Present

- Graham Wigley (Chairman – GW), Charles Bagnall (Vice Chairman – CB), Caroline Berkley (CJB) Julian Sayer (JS), Katy Nette-Thomas (KNT) and Robert Stimpson (RS).
- Geoff Robinson (GR), as Parish Clerk. Four members of the public were in attendance.

EX01/24 - 02 Apologies for Absence

- One member of the public.

EX01/24 - 03 Introduction by GW

GW opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and explaining that the purpose of this meeting was to ensure everyone could have the chance to comment on the planning application. He also explained the current status of Glebe Farm as a MSDC “Non-designated Heritage Asset”, which was fully detailed in the accompanying “Heritage Impact Assessment” on the MSDC Portal.

EX01/24 - 04 Public Open Session

One villager was opposed to the application on the grounds of increased traffic, disruption during the building process, poor access to the site and potential drainage problems. However, the other three members of the public supported the application on the grounds that it would preserve and improve a village asset and provide a home for a local family. One of the three, a near neighbour will explore with the applicant the need to retain access to his property from the track to the proposed development.

EX01/24 - 05 Parish Council Discussion

GW closed the open session at 20:05 and invited the councillors to express their views. No expressions of interest were declared.

Each councillor expressed their views and unanimously strongly supported the application on the grounds that it would enhance a valuable village asset and allow a local family to reside in the village. In addition, it was stated that sustainable development was vital in Monk Soham to allow it to grow and survive for everyone. It was thought that any additional traffic would not be worse than when the building had been used for farming.

However, two concerns were to be advised to MSDC, viz:

- Entrance to the site will be from School Road and is very close to neighbouring properties. It was therefore decided to request MSDC to limit construction work and deliveries to normal hours and also exclude weekends. Also, there must be no parking on School Road and any verge or other damage is to be the responsibility of the contractors.
- The area at the entrance on School Road is occasionally subject to flooding and this had been exacerbated during the recent Storm Babet. Water emulating from the area of the application had been partly responsible. MSDC to be advised that a robust Foul Water strategy should be a condition before the application is approved.

GW thanked everyone for their participation and closed the meeting at 20:15.

Signed.....
Chairman Monk Soham Parish Council