

## **Ticehurst Parish Council**

**Extraordinary Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2022 - 6.30 p.m. The Village Hall, Ticehurst**

### **Minutes**

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**Present: Cllrs. Burley ©, Galpin, Ham, Heapey, Killeen, Lansdowne, Lloyd, Luckhurst, Redknap and Studholme.**

**D. Cllrs. Barnes and Browne C. Cllr. Kirby-Green.**

**Residents of Sedlescombe village were in attendance.**

#### **RR/2022/840/P – single agenda point.**

**The chairman outlined the decision making process on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022 that lead to the approval of the above application at the Planning Committee meeting in Bexhill. Both the chairman and clerk had attended the meeting. The decision to approve the application made by the chairman of the planning committee went against officer advice, was contrary to the Local Plan and the NPPF and Sedlescombe's Neighbourhood Plan.**

**The consequences of approving of a kit house outside the development boundary of Sedlescombe and within the AONB on the basis that it meets the para 80 (e) – i.e. of exceptional merit and design could undermine any protected landscape on a national basis.**

**A group of parish councils have met and feel that a request to the Sec. of State to call in the application was appropriate. A draft letter was circulated to all members in advance of the meeting for their consideration. It was felt that by definition a generic kit house can not be exceptional. Worryingly the manufacturers of the kit house were using the decision to approve within their advertising material.**

**Evidence put forward by the applicant that it had received the approval of the High Weald AONB unit was not accurate – they had commented on the kit house but reserved the right to comment on any proposed location. That information was not provided to the committee. The clerk to Sedlescombe Parish Council spoke on behalf of the application, stating that she represented the local council but Sedlescombe minutes recorded that cllrs. had declined to comment on the application as the applicant was also chairman of Sedlescombe Parish Council.**

**It is understood that the application will be put before the Planning Committee on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022 to consider conditions, but without any plan to revisit the decision.**

***Since then the application will be put before full council on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2022.***

**It was unanimously resolved to send the draft letter to the Sec. of State and to ask the Chief Executive of Rother not to allow the application to be signed off before the complaints to the monitoring officer and concerns of many rural parishes had been answered.**

