

**LITTLEBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 30 NOVEMBER 2015**

**Present:** Parish Cllr Mike Gallagher (Chairman)  
Parish Cllr Mick Giles  
Parish Cllr Cate Reid  
Parish Cllr Pamela Evans  
Parish Cllr Melanie Moore  
Parish Cllr Sylvia Wilson  
Parish Cllr Brian Hurlow

Mrs Gail Hubbard, Clerk to the Council  
There were 32 members of the public.

**138. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies received from Cllrs Shaw (recuperating) and City Cllr Stuart Walker who was attending a meeting of the RAAC (formally RAMP) discussing the Planning process.

**139. DECIDE on how to proceed and AGREE response to Sigma Planning ref CA/15/01711/OUT The List**

The Chairman began by thanking residents for turning out this evening.

He then brought everyone up to date with the situation, firstly going back to the initial dealings with Rydons in 2012 when they held an exhibition for villagers. Consultations were carried out and the PC's remit from villagers was to fight against the development. Nothing more was heard for 2 ½ years, then the first application was submitted in December 2014, this went to Planning Committee in June 2015 and was refused. An appeal was subsequently lodged with The Secretary of State. Very shortly after the second application was submitted to The City Council (very similar application, with the top piece of land on offer to the PC), this went to Planning Committee in October 2015 and was granted.

LPC have followed the remit from 2012, which was to fight the development all the way, this has been supported by many villagers, in the form of written responses, attendance at the Guildhall on two occasions and general rallying around in the village. Since 13<sup>th</sup> October LPC have been continuing to explore all avenues, on behalf of the village and a possible Judicial Review was researched. A legal opinion was sought (without charge) and the outcome being chances of getting it overturned are very slim indeed. The costs involved in such action would also be high. The Chairman explained that LPC could not pursue this avenue any further after obtaining this advice.

The legal recommendation was to negotiate with the developers.

The Chair of The Canterbury district CPRE was in attendance at the meeting and he was in agreement that this was the right decision for the PC and village.

The Doctors surgery on Court Hill has now been approved so the offered Doctors surgery for the lower piece of land is not required.

The next step for LPC and the village is to decide if LPC want to accept the offer of land and negotiate a financial settlement for the future maintenance of the sites.

First piece – area at the top of The List

Second piece – bottom of the development (site of proposed Doctors surgery)

There were various suggestions from the floor and Cllrs regarding the two pieces of land, the main ones can be summarised as below;

- People would like to see the land protected from future development
- A play area on the lower piece of land was suggested
- Others not keen on play area on this site, Littlebourne already has a very well equipped play area in the centre of the village
- A commercial business plus a community centre (one could fund the other)/something to bring money back into the parish
- A public toilet
- A heritage centre
- New parish office
- A sports field
- A commercial centre would create traffic, like a doctors surgery would have
- Space is needed – nothing at the top or bottom. Give everyone space and protect it
- Turn top piece into a woodland, use endowment to plant trees( will retain water)
- Try to involve the community(get the school planting trees on the land)

A full consultation will be carried out with the village to decide what to do with the parcels of land and if a building is wanted on the lower piece.

LPC are to respond to Sigma saying that yes we wished to take up ownership of both parcels of land and to open up discussions. A meeting would be set up for LPC to meet with them as soon as practically possible.

A working Committee will then be set up, to include Parish Councillors and residents.

The Chairman thanked the residents for attending.

The public meeting closed at 8.40pm

Signed..... (Chairman)

Date.....