

GESTINGTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Parish Council extra ordinary meeting held on Friday 23rd. February 2024 at 7pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs D. Smith (Chair), C. Craig (Vice-Chair), P. Bagby, G. Carey, A. Cooper, D. Green, BDC Cllr D. Holland and Kevin B. Money (Parish Clerk). There were 9 members of the public present.

024/2024 Chairman welcome. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Chairman went on to say that: -

We have 1 item on the agenda to discuss and formulate the Councils response to planning application 24/00209/T56 for - Land Adjacent to Delvyns Lane Gestingthorpe Essex

The installation of a 25m Lattice mast complete with 3 antennas and associated RRU's, 2 300mm dishes, 1 600mm dish, 2 radio equipment cabinets meter cabinet within an associated timber stock-proof fenced compound and ancillary development works thereto.

The application is available to be viewed on BDC's planning website and I do hope that you have all had an opportunity to view.

A copy of the application is on the table to the front.

The application has been submitted by Galliford Tye as agent for Cornerstone Telecommunication Infrastructure Ltd.

This is a "Prior Approval application" under the provisions of planning legalisation relating to mobile phone masts. BDC have 56 days to determine with a deadline of 29th. February 2024.

As you will be aware – GPC is not the planning authority – the application will be determined by BDC and we are a mere consultee.

It is essential that as a PC we are fully aware of the views of all our residents in order that we can formulate a balanced submission to BDC.

With that in mind and referring to our agenda we have allowed 30 minutes for public comment with each speaker having a 3 minute slot.

When you are invited to speak could I ask you to state your name and address. Could I also request that if the comments you are proposing to make have already been made by a previous speaker – then please keep your comments short and to the point.

I am mindful that everyone has an opportunity to speak, although please avoid repetitions of the same point.

025/0204 Apologies for Absence were received from Cllr. P. Collett, Mr. Leslie Crumpton-Taylor

026/2024 Public participation session – 30 minutes allowed

Cllr D. Smith stated the session by saying that his thoughts are that this is the 4th. planning application for mobile phone mast to serve the village. We have objected to the previous 3 applications and these were refused by BDC. We cannot challenge principle or development – just design and siting. I'm mindful that the first application was submitted in May 2019 and here we are some 5 years later having the same discussion. There clearly is a need for mast to serve the village, although I accept that, unfortunately, not all areas will be covered. Could I refer to the supplementary information submitted as part of the application.

- 1) You will recall that the case officers report suggested looking at a site adjoining the wood – the correct site
- 2) Smart metering
- 3) Lattice Mast – as opposed to "tree"
- 4) Site meeting – Cllr Craig and discussion at GPC meeting
- 5) Refer to map on page 6
- 6) Reasons
- 7) Site selection process – details an alternative site that has been considered

In Summary

- 1) I would have preferred to see the mast located to the back part of the wood
- 2) We must accept that not all the village will have coverage but by far the majority will.

Other Benefits

- a) Smart meters
- b) Phone coverage as BT network withdrawn
- c) Emerging service for people passing through the village and working remotely
- d) Am also mindful of Media comments

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On Balance

If this is the best site we can achieve let's go for it

BDC website as at 3pm today – 10 comments submitted – 1 General comment – 1 Objection comment – 8 Supporting comments from across the village

In addition, the village Facebook page comments are clearly supportive. Those who do not accept the need for a mast, although have concerns over the proposed site. Unfortunately, they have not put forward any other potential sites

Michael Sharp read out a comprehensive response which was well received by residents and Councillors
The Clerk read out a statement from Cllr P. Collett, who could not make the meeting.

Other comments from the residents and Councillors are below

- Improved mobile signal. Poor service and needs a solution. Process of notification has not been followed with no local consultations.
- No consideration for Gestingthorpe Design statement.
- GT damaged environmental impact. Not compatible with BDC RLP79 policy
- Listed buildings within the site area
- Trees will be overshadowed and may be damaged
- Mast has grown by 7m +
- Lower mast would be easier to disguise
- Source of power is still unclear.
- Alternative sites are available
- Delvyns Lane surface requires re-surfacing after installation
- This site is the less obtrusive place that have been suggested
- Will the signal be better for the village
- Mast serves only Virgin or O2 networks
- Power cables must go underground
- After 5 years of wrangling with Galliford Try it is with great reluctance although the mast will have a permanent prejudicial impact on the beautiful views towards the Leys Wood and surrounding countryside.
- The height of the mast as at the site visit it was indicated that a height of 18m could suffice.
- Now that planning is in, the height has risen to 25.5m. Thus, making it very visible and towering over the little wood.
- If there is a power cut does the mast still work. There is some form of battery back-up.
- Coverage of the core of the village
- GT has not engaged with the villagers and Parish Council
- The mast siting will cause an inconvenience to some

027/2024 **24/00209/T56** - Land Adjacent to Delvyns Lane Gestingthorpe Essex

The installation of a 25m Lattice mast complete with 3 antennas and associated RRU's, 2 300mm dishes, 1 600mm dish, 2 radio equipment cabinets meter cabinet within an associated timber stock-proof fenced compound and ancillary development works thereto.

RESOLVED: GPC has No Objection to this planning application

Cllr A. Cooper proposed to have a GPC response of No Objection to this application. Cllr G. Carey.

All Agreed

028/2024 **Closure of the Meeting**

To close the Meeting having considered and determined all items of business

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 7.40pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed

D. Smith

14th. March 2024

**Chairman
D. Smith**