ALMELEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council
Held on Wednesday 15th December 2021
at Almeley Village Hall at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors: Michael Handley (Chair), Rose Proctor, and John Crippin

In attendance: Emma Thomas – Clerk

Public: 1

1. **To receive apologies for absence**
   Apologies were RECEIVED and ACCEPTED from Cllr. Andy Cross

2. **To receive declarations of interest and written requests for dispensation**
   None

3. **Open session**
   3.1 **To receive views of local residents on parish matters**
   None

Cllr Colin Powell joined the meeting

4. **Planning**
   4.1 **To consider applications for determination by Herefordshire Council**

   4.1.1 213944 - Land adjacent to Lower Wootton Farm, Wootton Lane, Almeley, Herefordshire, HR3 6PX
   Reserved matters following outline approval 204136 - Erection of a single dwelling house, garage and access with all matters reserved save access.

Cllr Martin Skyrme joined the meeting

It was RESOLVED to object to this application for the following reasons:

- No details are given of wall finishes, drainage details or other matters which are reserved for future approval.
- The proposed building would sit obliquely opposite three heritage assets, the Grade II listed Lower Wootton Farmhouse (now called Lower Wootton House), its adjacent Grade II listed barn and the nearby Springrove Farm (classed as a non-designated heritage asset).
- The proposed house would sit in a prominent position with extensive views to the south and west. It would therefore be visible from a wide area of the west of Almeley Parish.

Given the above issues it is very difficult to determine whether the application will comply with the following NDP policies:

ALM1 requires development to fit sensitively into the landscape.
ALM2 requires proposals to retain the landscape character of areas within the parish.
ALM3 states that development that adversely affects features and settings of listed buildings or other similar heritage assets will not be permitted.
ALM5(a) requires development to respect traditional character, where appropriate, by adopting a design approach utilising a range of materials and architectural styles that are sympathetic to the development's surroundings, and incorporating locally distinctive features.
ALM5(b) states that new innovative design or features should be of high quality and fit sensitively within the street scene, village setting or rural location.
ALM5(c) requires development to respect the scale, massing, density and character of existing properties in the vicinity.

4.2 To consider a response to Herefordshire Councils Local Plan Update – Pre-consultation survey – Appendix 1
It was RESOLVED to submit Appendix 1 as the Parish Council response

5. **Finance**
   5.1 **To consider the following invoices for payment**
   5.1.1 Clerk's December salary
   The above invoice was APPROVED for payment by BACS

6. Parish Maintenance

6.1 To consider Public Space Protection Orders concerning dog mess

It was REPORTED that since the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, Local Authorities have the power to introduce public spaces protection orders. This makes it an offence not to clean up dog mess in certain areas.

It was RESOLVED that the clerk should write to Herefordshire Council requesting they exercise their power under the above legislation and make such an order for Spearmarsh Common for the following reasons:

- The primary school use it as a playing field
- It is also used as a community sports field
- There are concerns about the disease "toxocariasis" for users of the Common
- Herefordshire Council own the Common and should therefore be responsible for it.

7. Correspondence –

- *Letter of thanks to the PC regarding the Bells Orchard sign* - NOTED

The meeting closed at 19.35

Signed: [redacted] Dated: 12-01-22