



Dulverton Town Council

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The Clerk

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Minutes of the Meeting of Dulverton Town Council Planning Committee

Held on Tuesday 14th March 2017 at 10.00am, in the Council Office,
Lady Street, Dulverton.

Present: Chairman: Mr Gerry Lewis, Cllrs: Mrs Louise Parrish, Mrs Margaret Rawle.

Apologies:

None.

Deferment of business for comment by the public.

None.

Declarations of Interest:

None.

Planning Applications:

Exmoor National Park Authority 6/9/17/103:

Proposed extension to sheep shed (834m²) (FULL) Ashwick Manor Farm, Dulverton, Somerset.

Observations: Members consider that the proposals will promote economic sustainability by encouraging further employment. No objections.

Final Approvals:

Exmoor National Park Authority 6/9/16/134:

Certificate of Existing Lawful Use and Development for the existing use of the flat over The Coach House as ancillary accommodation to the main dwelling house at Northmoor House (Amended description 07.02.17) (CONDITIONAL)
Land at Northmoor House, Windball Hill, Dulverton.

Withdrawals:

None.

Refusals:

None.

Correspondence:

Ms Maria Casey, Planning & Property Lawyer, West Somerset Council - Re: 3/09/002.
Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for an Existing Residential Use Property: Caravan at Clayford Andrews Hill Dulverton TA22 9RH.
Responses from members at Appendix A.

Issues to be raised with permission of the Chairman:

None.

Date of next meeting:

To be determined.

Chairman

Appendix A

There is an article in this month's Exmoor Magazine about Kate Hetherington (saddler business with John McDonald at Clayford) and it states that she has been there for 15 years so the 10 year timescale is probably correct. Due to this timescale probably nothing can be done about refusing it on the other hand comment could be made that DTC does not support this sort of thing and planning permissions should be sought in the usual way. These are my comments as member of DTC Planning Committee.

Cllr. Margaret Rawle

Kate Hetherington has lived in this caravan for at least 11 years and works alongside John McDonald in their shared workshop at Clayford. In fact her and John are the only people in the country who make bespoke harness for competitive carriage driving and working agricultural horses - the whole package. She is a Master Collar and Harness Maker and won the top prize for her work in 2013 from the Worshipful Company of Coach and Coach Harness Makers. She has worked with John for 22 years at Clayford including the 4 years of her apprenticeship with him.

The caravan she has lived in for nearly 11 years is now in need of replacement. I would support this application wholeheartedly as this is the type of skills that we want to keep on Exmoor.

Cllr. Judy Ernest

In reply to the specific question, I am aware that Kate Hetherington has lived in the caravan for that length of time. She is, along with John McDonald an award winning saddle and harness maker of very high repute, very well known locally.

As to the approval or not I don't believe that we have been asked for our opinion on that.

Cllr. Gerry Lewis

It is common practice, or was, for permission be it temporary, to be given in the past for the placement of a mobile home/caravan etc.; sometimes given to house people on a build site/working place etc. If no challenge has been made during that time (10 years) then after a period of years an application for continued use can be made. It would seem that this is the case in this instance and the application is just formalising it "for the existing use of land for siting of a residential mobile home with ancillary domestic curtilage, outbuilding and parking".

I believe that if the statement of more than 10 years can't be challenged then refusal won't be an option.

Cllr. Nick Thwaites