

An extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council took place on Wednesday, 14th May 2014 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Mr Fleming, in the chair, Mrs Abu-Hejleh, Mr Cushing, Mr Smith, Mr Whitmore, the clerk and three members of the public.

Apologies: Mr Mutton

As the meeting was convened solely to discuss the Parish Council's response to the Bentwaters Parks Revised Application C10/3239, no minutes were read, nor other business considered.

Mr Fleming firstly invited the members of the public present to give their views.

Mr Pooley felt strongly that if permission is granted for flying, it will be impossible to monitor, and to keep the flights within the limits of the licence. Visitors to the area have increased hugely over the past few years, by up to 57%. Flying will deter many, and should be stamped on within the AONB.

Mr Sutch also spoke out against it, and saw it as the thin end of the wedge. The noise is intrusive, within the AONB, and not fair to residents.

Mrs Sutch found it distasteful that the applicants originally stated, as she remembered from her time on the Parish Council, that they had no plans to fly from the site and now they are at the last minute trying to add in this significant amendment. She questioned the possibility of the flying school, with its 'circuits and bumps' and was greatly afraid that tourism would suffer.

Mr Cushing then read the draft letter he had prepared, and which had been circulated. He stood by the parish council's previous submission. The current application cannot be cherry-picked, and therefore the whole should be rejected. Mrs Abu-Hejleh supported this view.

Mr Smith did not accept this. He felt that this was picking out one part, the flying, to the detriment of the rest. If the application is rejected, things will go on as they do now. The employment the site generates is needed. The wider picture must be considered, a line drawn and then we must move on.

He supported the traffic figures given in the proposal, and felt that traffic is major problem in Eyke, and that is mostly the result of the housing on the domestic side of Rendlesham.

There is more obtrusive flying from Woodbridge Base than Bentwaters. From his background in aircraft work, he was aware that all flights must be recorded, and felt this could reasonably be expected to monitor and control the number of flights taking off and landing. Extra jobs could be provided, and local business could benefit.

Mr Whitmore supported this view, and felt we need to look ahead for the prospects for younger people.

Mr Sutch took issue with much of what Mr Smith said, particularly about flying movements, and felt that the CAA would not have control over many of the flights.

Mr Fleming felt that SCDC has served the local population very badly over the years, and that the situation at Bentwaters will have to be regularised, but we need to prevent the amount of flying suggested. Residents should be entitled to some peace and quiet.

By a vote of 3 to 2, it was agreed to accept Mr Cushing's draft as a basis for response, with a few minor amendments. Mrs Pooley will provide amended copies by e-mail where possible, for approval before submitting to SCDC. *(A copy is attached)*

The meeting closed at 8.35pm