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**MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF GRESHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

**Held on Wednesday 3rd March 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom**

Present: Cllr. C. Arnold, Cllr. S. Ilsley, Cllr. S. Smith, Cllr. G. Wright

In Attendance: Mrs. S. Hayden (Clerk)

One member of the public

The Meeting was opened at 7.47pm due to connection difficulties

1. To elect a Chairman for this meeting

As the Chairman, Cllr. Wright was attending by telephone and the Vice Chair was not in attendance, it was proposed and resolved that Cllr. Smith would chair this meeting.

2. To consider and accept apologies

Apologies were accepted from Cllr. H. Deegan, Cllr. D. Jacobs (unable to attend via Zoom) and Cllr. A. Sanders

3. Declarations of Interest and any dispensations of disclosable pecuniary interests

None

4. Public questions, comments or representations

A member of the public stated that he would be objecting to the application. We needed a new network, but it needs to be done properly. He felt there should be a plan for mast coverage over the area. The documents in this application were generic, not specifically local and they did not show the whole area to be covered by this mast. The Gresham Supporting Document which appeared to be a “cut and paste” of a template, contained errors, including reference to the “town of March” which is not Gresham! The mast would not be screened by trees as stated in the application. It was also not an industrial site as claimed, but a small sewage treatment site. He could not understand why it could be permitted development on somebody else’s site with a different use. He felt the Parish Council should object and ask for an application for planning permission to be made.

5. Planning

To discuss and agree observations and comments on (prior approval) planning application *PA/21/0292 Telecommunications development comprising installation of a 25m high lattice tower with 3 antennas on a 6m x 6m concrete slab with ancillary development within 1.8m high fenced compound – Sewage Works, Chequers Road, Gresham*

Cllr Smith agreed with the member of public. The area of coverage, the height of the mast and different sites was discussed. Cllr. Arnold agreed that questions need to be answered on why that particular site had been chosen. She had noted that the environmental report was “no objection”. Cllr. Ilsley suggested a better site further along Bessingham Road and also showed drawings of artificial trees used to disguise these masts. The lowest point was chosen, hence the high mast. There was a possibility that more operators using the site would increase the density of the mast. The site needed to be a balance between environmental and best operation. The Paston 600 project was mentioned in connection with the Castle. The site notice dates were discussed.

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The meeting adjourned at the 40 minutes Zoom time limit and reconvened 10 minutes later.

Cllr Ilsley experienced a delay reconnecting, but did re-join the meeting

The Chairman then summed up the comments as follows.

1. The application was generic, riddled with inconsistencies and not specific to the area

2. There was no detailed impact assessment

3. The site needed to be researched

4. The environment was beautiful, next to the Castle and these types of mast needed to be managed by NNDC. This proposed mast could be blended better into the area.

5. The Parish Council were not against improved connectivity

The Clerk was asked to draft comments to be circulated to parish councillors for approval before submission to the planning department

*There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.27pm .*

*The next meeting will be on Wednesday 10th March 2021*