WORLESTON & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes from meeting regarding driving range application 18/4439N, 15th October 2018.

Held at Worleston Village Hall – 8pm

**Parish councillors present**. Andy Hudson (Chair), Gary Basford, Harry Dutton, Mark Astbury, John Schofield (Vice Chair), Alan Sproston, John Thomasson, Malcolm Holman.

**Apologies.** Gary Vernon, Fred Percival and Pete jones.

Approximately 34 members of the public present and Chris Green, Ward Councillor

1. Meeting opened at 8pm with an introduction from chairman Andy Hudson.
2. A presentation was given by Mr & Mrs Need on their application.
   1. Their family and their own history with the parish
   2. The key elements of the design regarding access, lighting, positioning of the range within the boundary and its construction sympathetic to its surroundings.
3. **Public Forum.** 
   1. Mr Wallace, a resident and consulted neighbour gave a presentation on behalf of closest neighbours to the application. The key points to the objection raised being:
      1. Highways – Concern over access to the site from Main Road
      2. Potential for golf balls to land on the neighbouring property. A potential danger to horses and people at the equine facility. Also, the contamination to sileage. Mr Wallace has engaged a golf course architect who has criticised the proposed design.
      3. Light pollution from the floodlights. Screening in winter lost as the trees are deciduous.
   2. **Comments from Worleston residents**. Five residents spoke and raised the following primary concerns:
      1. Health & safety of horses due to golf balls landing in the neighbour’s field
      2. Highways – Main Road in the vicinity of this location has a history of accidents
      3. Change of use of land from open, agricultural use
      4. Viability – Golf facilities at Reaseheath College, Alvaston Hall and Brookfield have closed down in the area suggesting that it is not a viable business venture
      5. Noise – the sound of golf balls being hit will be a noise nuisance
      6. Location – the view that if the applicants could use other land within the vicinity that falls within their families ownership (i.e. closer to the FJ Needs factory) then many of the concerns could be alleviated.
      7. The chair read out a letter of support from a resident who could not attend
   3. **Comments from non residents.**
      1. A non-resident who uses the neighbouring equine facility raised Health & safety of horses due to golf balls landing in the neighbour’s field
      2. A local business within the parish was in favour of the application. Positive for staff wellbeing.
      3. The chair read out a letter from a business in a neighbouring parish in support of the application adding to the appeal of Worleston as a leisure location.
4. **Councillors debate and decision**.
   1. Members of the council have visited the proposed site at the invitation of Mr and Mrs Need and one of the neighbouring properties at the invitation of Mr Wallace.
   2. The general comments from council were summed up as a good idea but in the wrong location and that the benefits are outweighed by the negatives.
   3. The councillors all agreed to object at this time to the application on the basis of:
      1. Road safety
      2. Concerns for neighbouring property
      3. Change of use of land (request to Planning that if granted, a condition be imposed that the land reverts to agricultural use should the venture not commence or cease).
      4. Proposed by Andy Hudson and seconded by John Schofield
5. Meeting closed 9.10pm