Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Savill Hall, Cattistock on Monday, 07 March 2016 commencing at 7.30 pm to consider the planning application for change of use and diversification at Lower Chalmington Farm.

**Present**

Ms Palmer (Chairman) plus Messrs Mitchell, Tosswill, Anderson, Sennett, Gibbs, Browne and Lashbrook were present.

**Apologies**

Apologies were received from Ms Browning and Mr Gregory.

One member of the public, the planning applicant, attended.

**Democratic Period**

The democratic period took place prior to the formal meeting during which the owner of Lower Chalmington Farm whose application was to be considered explained the background to the application, expanded on the reasons the change of use and diversification was needed and answered numerous questions put by members of the Council.

**Declaration of Unrecorded Pecuniary Interests**

None

1. **Consideration of Planning Application WD/D/15/002968**

The application was to diversify the use of Lower Chalmington Farm into the provision of a “Glamping” site and Forest School also to use the proposed facilities for other unspecified events. The Chairman indicated that she had been contacted by many of the farm’s neighbours who had expressed significant opposition to the proposed changes. This opposition was confirmed by other Councillors. The Council considered the application at length with a range of views expressed. The Council understood that there was a need to ensure the viability of the farm but the consensus of those present was that the application was incoherent, poorly worded and incomplete it therefore failed to justify the change of use proposed. Concern was expressed that if passed as presently worded the application would be open to a wide variety of interpretations particularly with regard to the proposal for undefined “other events”. The proposals for a “glamping” site and forest school were considered less contentious. In addition the meeting concluded that the application failed to make clear in sufficient detail the expected improvement in the farm’s viability plus the supporting environmental impact statement was inadequate and lacked authority. The Council also concluded that there may need to be an authoritative supporting Heritage Statement covering the impact of the proposals on two nearby Grade 2 listed buildings, Chalmington House and Holway Farm. The application was undergoing the usual circulation around all Councillors to obtain their individual comments. It was agreed that the circulation should continue so that all Councillors’ responses were obtained. The Clerk would then advise the WDDC Planning Department of the agreed Council view within the deadline set by the WDDC.

**Action:**

1. The circulation of the application to all members of the Council to continue.
2. The Clerk to advise the WDDC Planning Department of the agreed Council view within the deadline

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

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