

**Minutes of the Planning Meeting held in Parish Room on
Wednesday 20th September 2023 at 5.30pm**

Members Present: Cllr. D Thornton (Chair), Cllr D McCanlis and Cllr S Colson

Also present: Cllr L Thornton (Minute taker)

- 1. To RECEIVE Apologies for Absence.** (LGA 1972 s85 (1))
Apologies were received from Cllr S McCanlis and Cllr L Bloys
- 2. Declarations of Interest and Disclosable Pecuniary Interest Dispositions.** (LGA 1972 sch12, para 41(1))
There were none.
- 3. Public Participation.** (LGA1972 sch12, paras 10(2) (b))
There were no public present.
- 4. The committee resolved to APPROVE the minutes of the Planning meeting 31st August 2023, proposed by Cllr D Thornton, seconded by Cllr D McCanlis.**
- 5. 6/27/23/012 Porlock Arquiva Site, Parsons Hill, Porlock, TA24 8QW**

Proposed replacement of 3 no. antennas, /gps node, cabinet upgrades and ancillary apparatus.

Cllr. D Thornton, as Chair, explained that this application was to remove the existing 3 antennas and supporting steelwork, to be replaced by 3 upgraded antennas on new steelwork plus other associated apparatus. The application to upgrade the existing base station is for the mobile network operator (MNO) Vodafone Ltd, in conjunction with Cornerstone, the site being managed by Cellnex UK, a radio site infrastructure provider. The new steelwork would be slightly higher but the antennas would be mounted at the same height as currently.

Cllr. D Thornton advised that the reason for the upgrade was to provide improved mobile phone signal as the current mast was not fulfilling the contract, being totally over capacity, and, as landlines are being phased out in 2024 to be replaced by internet VOIP phones which would not work during a power cut, improved digital connectivity to provide emergency mobile phone cover is paramount.

The committee agreed that the upgrade was necessary and important, and that whilst there might be more of a visual impact, this would be preferable to using a new site for the mast, which would cause additional damage to new areas.

It was confirmed that to date there was one neighbour response on the ENPA Planning portal from Halsecombe Cottage requesting that they are consulted regarding concerns about the access and parking once the job starts. They ask that they agree on a strategy to achieve this without non 4-wheel drive vehicles getting stuck. The committee felt this request for consultation was very sensible.

Cllr D Thornton proposed to recommend support for the application, requesting Halsecombe Cottage be consulted regarding the access and parking issues they had raised, and to be mindful of the damage to the landscape, road and paths that the work might pose, seconded by Cllr S Colson and unanimously agreed.

The meeting closed at 5.50pm