

PISHILL WITH STONOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held in connection with Planning Application P13/S1186/FUL - The Quince Tree, Stonor, Opening Hours held at The Village Hall, Russells Water, on Monday 20th May 2013

<u>Present</u>	Mr.T. Dunn	Chairman
	Mr.S.Stracey	Vice-Chairman
	Mr.P.G.Godfrey	
	Mr.R. Hunt	
	Mrs.D.Newell	
	Mrs. P. Pearce	Parish Clerk

Also present 27 parishioners and members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence Received following the meeting: Mr. and Mrs.W. Murdoch
2. Declarations of interests (existence and nature) and Dispensations with regard to the Agenda None.
3. Introduction
The Chairman welcomed all those present and briefly outlined the planning application.
Mr.Dunn then introduced Mr. R. Wyndham-Smith, who had requested the opportunity to address the meeting on behalf of the applicant.
4. Mr. R.Wyndham-Smith on behalf of the applicant
The applicant is seeking to vary the Planning Consent terms for opening hours at the Quince Tree. Unusually, the Quince Tree has had strict opening hours imposed under the original planning applications, rather than through Licensing. Establishments of a similar nature in the area are not subject to Planning restrictions for opening - the hours of trading are all dealt with under Licensing - and this is seen to disadvantage trading capabilities at the Quince Tree. The applicant therefore wishes to regularise the situation and bring the trading hours into line with other pubs and restaurants in the area.
5. Open Session
The Chairman invited parishioners to address the meeting. Several issues were raised, encompassing a wide range of subjects, but the Chairman emphasised that the meeting was convened purely to judge the merits of a relaxation of the planning conditions governing Quince Tree opening hours. The chief source of concern was perceived to be the noise aspect of longer opening hours. After discussion, it was proposed to the applicant that some 'softening' of the car park area could be achieved by planting to the rear wall, behind the building. Regarding music, a report from Sharlan Acoustics is yet to be received by SODC. It was stressed that SODC Licensing Authority would provide assurances on noise aspects.
6. Parish Councillors' opinions
Mr.Dunn invited each parish councillor to give their opinion in turn:

Mr.Richard Hunt	A compromise regarding noise ought to be possible. The community and the Parish Council should support the Quince Tree, which is an asset to Stonor village and the community at large.
Mr. Guy Godfrey	Mr.Godfrey agreed with Mr. Hunt that the success of the Quince Tree is important to the local community. Noise late at night should be kept to a minimum, possibly by choosing the events carefully and informing guests on exit that their consideration to the local community regarding noise would be appreciated.
Mr.Simon Stracey	Mr.Stracey agreed with Mr Hunt and Mr.Godfrey, saying that legislation through the courts to vary the planning conditions would be draconian and that negotiation with SODC is the best

solution. Mr.Stracey added that the facilities offered at the Quince Tree were outstanding and that the community was fortunate to have a local person who was willing to pay attention to its concerns, rather than a conglomerate who would not necessarily take note of local cares.

Mrs.Doreen Newell

If interior noise is of concern, then this could be easily solved by the increased use of soft furnishings. On the exterior, extra planting, possibly to the rear car park wall, could be helpful. Mrs. Newell added that the Quince Tree should be supported by the community and the Parish Council in order to contribute to the vibrancy of Stonor.

Mr.Thomas Dunn

Mr. Dunn agreed with the other four parish councillors.

7. Summing up

Mr.Dunn took note of various concerns regarding the operation of the Quince Tree, but pointed out that these could not form part of the meeting, which was purely to consider the merits of longer trading hours. It would appear that there was a disadvantage with the current restrictions, which did not give parity with similar local establishments. The noise aspect was the chief concern locally and it was recommended that the applicant take due note.

8. Resolution

The proposal to support the Quince Tree application was unanimously agreed by the Parish Councillors, who recommended approval of the Planning Application, noting that the applicant agreed to explore opportunities to reduce the noise as much as practicable.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman declared the meeting closed.

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Chairman