

CHAIR: Councillor Seph O'Connell  
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**MINUTES of HILLAM PARISH COUNCIL EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING**  
**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021, 7.30pm**  
**held at Monk Fryston and Hillam Community Centre**

**1. Present and Apologies (Chairperson to confirm quorum)**

Parish Councillors O'Connell (Chair), Robertson, Mitchell, Collinson and Tuddenham and District Councillor Mackman. Three residents were in attendance.

**2. Declarations of Interest from Councillors**

Councillor Mackman declared an interest in all matters relating to planning and associated matters.

**3. To discuss the current planning appeal submitted to the Planning Inspectorate regarding Hillam Lane and approve actions deemed necessary**

Councillor Robertson detailed options available to Hillam Parish Council (HPC) for representation in the Planning appeal. He outlined 2 options for councillors to consider.

**Option 1** – “Rule 6” - HPC augment their representation to include both a land agent and specialist legal team with the power to introduce witnesses and cross examine.

Pros- increased involvement in process with ability to cross examine witnesses.

Cons – Expense. Barristers very expensive and costs to the Parish council could be as much as £30,000 over 6 day hearing.

**Option 2** - “3rd Party” - we could have Land Agent represent the Parish Council as far as this option allows, no cross examination and no specialist legal advice. Cost much cheaper, c£6,000 if agreed by agent.

Councillor Mackman pointed out several issues of interest that relate generally to these appeals;

- Selby's case was distinct and separate from HPC. There is a wall between HPC and Selby Council and there is no joint interaction.
- The matter was a planning appeal regarding the development of the Green Belt and whether the appellants could demonstrate very special circumstances that overrode the general rules against development in the green belt.
- There is a national strategy for Gypsy and travellers that needs to be followed which will be taken into account in this matter.
- Anyone can ask to attend the appeal but they should be aware they can be cross examined so should be prepared to substantiate and evidence any case they put forward.

**Resolved:** Councillors debated the Options and agreed that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Party route (Option 2) with the Land Agent making representations was the most suitable for HPC.

**4. To discuss any related Planning items**

No other planning applications received.

**5. Meeting close**

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_