

2 September 2024

24/00264/F

Wild Luxury - The Wild Glamping Company, Drove Orchards, Thornham Road,
Holme Next The Sea

Report of the Executive Director of Environment and Planning, pursuant to the Scheme of Delegation

Parish:	HOLME-NEXT-THE-SEA and THORNHAM
Purpose report:	of TO NOTE THE DECISION TAKEN IN RESPECT OF PLANNING APPLICATION 24/00264/F.
Location:	DROVE ORCHARDS, THORNHAM ROAD, HOLME NEXT THE SEA
Summary Planning Application 24/00264/F was determined under delegated powers as a result of the applicant/agent's failure to disclose an interest relating to a direct relative of a Councillor of the Authority. This procedural irregularity has been identified.. The application was approved subject to conditions. The purpose of the report is notify Members of this procedural irregularity which will be reported to the Monitoring Officer.	

1. THE APPLICATION

1.1 Section 1.1.2 of the Planning Scheme of Delegation allows for the Executive Director – Environment & Planning to have powers delegated to determine planning applications, listed building applications, and applications for advertisement consent under delegated powers except :

d) when it relates to a development proposal submitted by or on behalf of a Councillor of the Authority (or their spouse/partner or another direct relative) or by any member of the Council's staff (or their spouse/partner) who is involved in the planning or development process.

- 1.2 The application was determined under delegated powers and the decision notice was issued granting permission on 7 August 2024. Taking the information submitted with the application into account, it appeared to be the correct procedure in accordance with the Planning Scheme of Delegation.
- 1.3 Subsequently, it became apparent that there was an error with the decision-making process on the side of the applicant/agent and their failure to declare on the application form that a direct relative of a Councillor of the Authority had an interest.
- 1.4 The application form states that Drove Orchards and the Wild Luxury Glamping Company are joint applicants. However, the land relating to the application site is solely owned by OAJ Investments Ltd which is in the ownership of a direct relative of Councillor Jamieson. In accordance with Section 1.1.2 (d) of the Planning Scheme of Delegation, the application therefore relates to a proposal submitted by a direct relative of a Councillor of the Authority.
- 1.5 Given that the landowner is directly related to an elected member, the Planning Scheme of Delegation removes the mechanism for the decision to be made at officer level. Whilst the decision has been made under delegated powers without the knowledge of this interest, it is correct to report the matter to Planning Committee to note this procedural irregularity. Should the application have been presented to Committee, the same recommendation would have been made. The decision making process is therefore fully transparent and will be reported to the Monitoring Officer.
- 1.6 The delegated report and decision notice are attached as Appendix A and B.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 Given the unfortunate events identified above, Members are asked to note the report and that the decision has been issued. Officers will work with the Monitoring Officer to ensure that these circumstances do not happen again.