

SEAGRY PARISH COUNCIL

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Clerk of the Council

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1st June 2026

Development Services
Wiltshire Council
Monkton Park
Chippenham
Wiltshire
SN15 1ER

For the attention of Mr Simon Smith

Dear Simon

Application PL/2025/06615 – Full Planning Permission

Proposed Erection of building comprising 4 No. flexible B8 storage and distribution and/or Class E (g) Commercial, Business and Services units and erection of building for mixed agricultural and equestrian workshop, storage and estate office and stables, all following demolition of existing B8 storage building and site remediation, together with associated parking, servicing, drainage, infrastructure, biodiversity net gain and landscaping and alterations to existing vehicular access

**Building at Seagry House, Off Henn Lane and Startley Road, Upper Seagry
SN15 5HD**

For Thala Family Investments Ltd

I am asked to write to you regarding the decision making process at the Northern Area Planning Committee held on Wednesday 13th May 2026 at 3.00pm.

The Parish Council is not writing regarding the decision made by the Committee albeit being contrary to the Council and local Parishioners' views.

The Parish Council has the benefit of the Draft Minutes of the Meeting and acknowledge that they are, as yet, not Approved Minutes and recognise that there may be lengthy discussions at the next Committee Meeting on the accuracy and that they may be altered.

But in order to progress the Parish Council's argument it is assumed that they will be adopted with no change of wording. This then becomes the factual position.

The Parish Council considers that this decision is flawed and contrary to normal good practice in decision-making. The Council has the advantage of having had a Parish

Councillor in attendance, Cllr Andrew Ball, who actually spoke at the Meeting. The Council is also aware that a recording exists to back up Cllr Ball's views on the discussions that took place.

The Council's understanding is that, as appears to be the case in Committee procedure, the recommendation for approval was accepted and moved for adoption to allow further debate.

There may be some debate as to whether this was sluggishly seconded but the fact is that the proposer later withdrew the proposition. In many cases this would be sufficient but there appears to be ruling at Wiltshire Council that seconder's need to also agree to withdrawal which seems at odds as the seconder's stance does not prevent the mover to withdraw. It is a fact that a seconder cannot independently take over a motion without gaining a seconder themselves.

However, the original mover then moved another motion to defer a decision that was duly seconded. It is clear that the Chair of the Meeting then proceeded to advise the Members that this had become the substantive motion which should now be discussed and determined.

I wish I had been present at the Meeting and could have used my considerable experience in the matters to be able to assess the situation myself but on the evidence I do have it appears to me that the decision was made on a flawed process with Members uncertain as to what was actually happening and that at the time perhaps a pause in proceedings would have been beneficial for all to ascertain who said what and what the solution was. There is/was a clear mis-understanding by some.

With all of this in mind the Parish Council takes the view that the potential decision is flawed and that the application should be reconsidered at the next Northern Area Planning Committee Meeting so that democracy if nothing else is seen to take place.

In the meantime no decision should be issued as again, from memory, despite a Members' decision until a decision is issued it is not legally binding.

Yours sincerely

Vivian Vines

On behalf of Seagry Parish Council