

**ASHFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER**

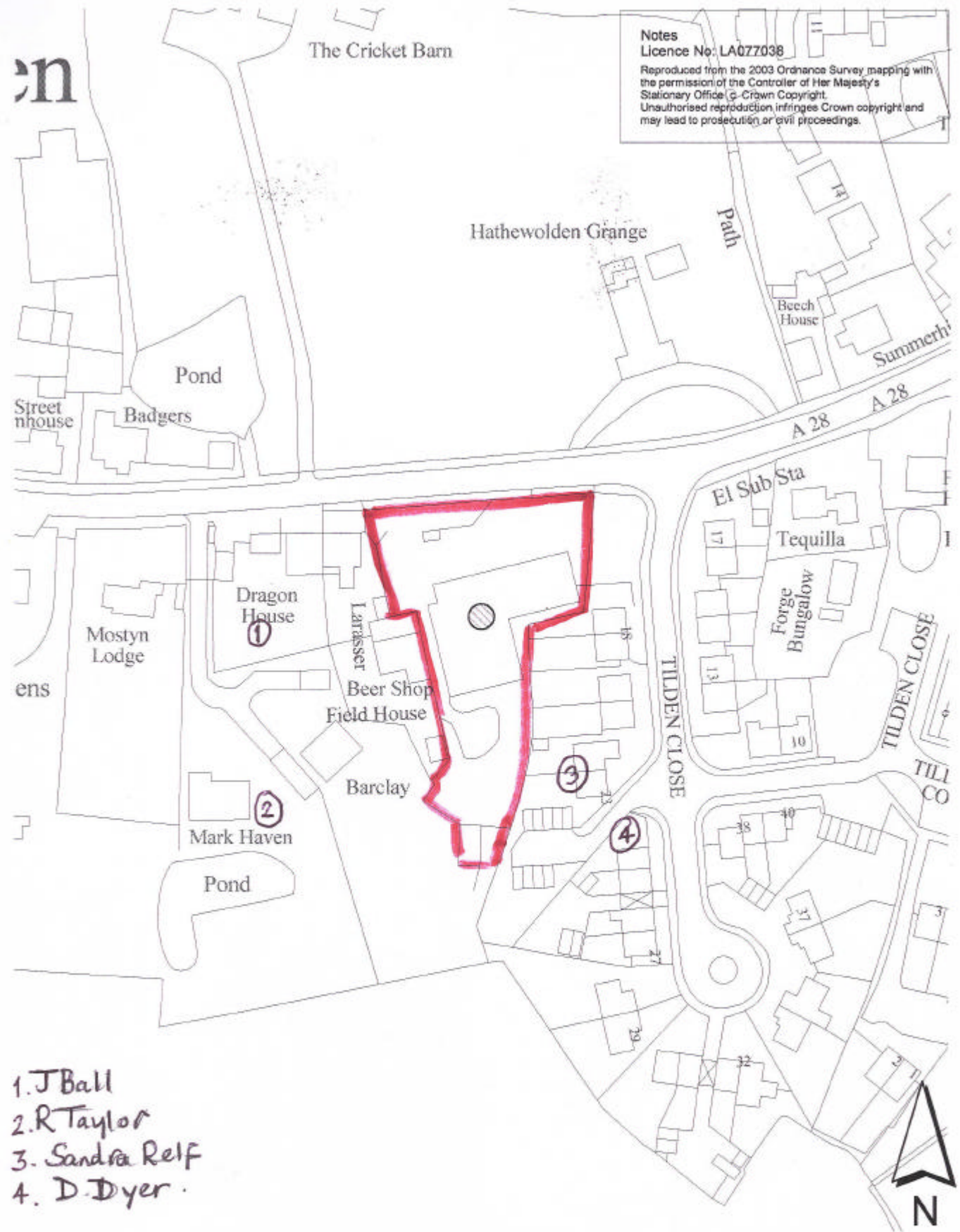
**STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**17 JANUARY 2005**

**HIGH HALDEN PARISH COUNCIL –  
APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

1. I have received applications for dispensations from four members of High Halden Parish Council to enable them to speak and vote at meetings of the Parish Council and/or its Planning Committee when matters relating to formulation of the Parish Council response on planning application 04/02145/AS are being discussed. This planning application relates to a proposal for 8 residential & 3 live/work units on the former Moriartis Workshop site in Ashford Road High Halden as shown edged on the attached plan. The four parish councillors have prejudicial interests in the application by virtue of the proximity of their private properties as shown on the plan. The Parish Council consists of 7 members, although there is currently one vacancy. Therefore more than 50% of the Council's members would be unable to participate and the business of the Parish Council would be impeded as they would be unable to formulate a response on the planning application. The Parish Councillors wish to be granted dispensations to speak and vote on this matter since they believe the application relates to a key site in the village and the Parish Council ought not be prevented from formulating its response to statutory consultation on the application. The relevant Parish Council meeting is due to take place on Tuesday, 18 January 2005.
2. The Relevant Authorities (Standards Committee) (Dispensations) Regulations 2002 provide (amongst other things) that a Standards Committee may grant a dispensation if the transaction of the business of the authority would otherwise be impeded by, or as a result of, the "mandatory provisions" because the number of Members of the authority that are prohibited from participating in the business of the authority exceeds 50% of those Members that are entitled or required to so participate. If the Standards Committee concludes that, having regard to these matters, and to all the other circumstances of the case, it is appropriate to grant the dispensation, then they may grant it.
3. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT each of the Councillors referred to below be granted dispensation to enable them to speak and vote at meetings of the Parish Council and/or its Planning Committee when matters relating to formulation of the Parish Council's response on planning application 04/02145/AS are being discussed, notwithstanding that they have prejudicial interests therein by virtue of proximity of their private properties, such dispensations to expire when the Parish Council's response has been formulated and submitted to the Borough Council.

Mr John Ball  
Mr Robert Taylor  
Mr David Dyer  
Ms Sandra Relf



- 1. J Ball
- 2. R Taylor
- 3. Sandra Relf
- 4. D. Dyer

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