

South Muskham/Little Carlton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 13th July 2022 at 7.30pm in the Main Hall, South Muskham Village Hall

Present: Cllrs K Brown, D Catanach (Chair), P Jarvis and G Shearing

Also present 7 members of the public.

30.22/23 **Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest**

Apologies – Received and accepted from Councillor Gill and District Councillor Mrs Saddington.

Open Session

There were no members of the public present and apologies had been received from Cllr Mrs Saddington and Cllr Laughton.

31.22/23 **22/00976/FULM – Field Reference Number 2227 Hockerton Road, Caunton - Proposed solar development, access and associated works.**

22/00975/FULM – Land At Knapthorpe Lodge, Hockerton Road, Caunton - Proposed solar development, access and associated works.

The Chair welcomed members of the public present for agenda items 6.1 and 6.2, regarding the solar developments on land at Hockerton Road, Caunton.

With the agreement of Members, the Chair brought forward consideration of those items.

The Chair explained that no comment had been made by Parish Council at the last meeting. No representation had been received from any residents prior to that meeting expressing concern. Members will support objections where people want support and where there are valid planning reasons for objection.

The Chair suspended the meeting at 7.33pm to allow members of the public present to outline their concerns.

The land in the application was out of the way, but there were 6 houses in close proximity, 5 of who had put objections in to the District Council.

The applicant was claiming that there had been timely and effective consultation, yet the adjacent properties had received the same leaflet as everyone else. No representative on behalf of the applicant had been to speak to those most impacted by the proposals. Additionally, there were misrepresentations, errors and a lot of the application documents appeared to be a 'cut and paste' exercise from other applications.

There was a concern around the water supply to the residential properties as supply came cross the site. There had been no mention of protecting this supply in the submitted documentation.

Environmental reports attached to the proposal say will be a major difference effect on the character. The area is rich in terms of wildlife and bio diversity and should be protected.

The area had footpaths across it that were used by residents and ramblers, through open countryside. The proposals included delineating these with 2.6m high panels, and CCTV cameras.

The glint and glare assessment concludes that there will be an impact throughout the year, with temporary vision impairment if looking at it.

Documentation within the application says that the area is marred by the British Sugar Factory, wires and chicken farms. This is not correct. The area is an outstanding farm environment that has been developed over the centuries, but the applicant now claims that does not matter.

It appeared that some reports had been written by people who had not visited the site. Photographs had been included that appeared to have deliberately excluded the adjacent residential properties.

The historical impact report concluded that the historic value was low, but that has been contradicted by an officer from Historic England who outlines that the potential should be very high. Described area as having a lot of

Worried about impact on mental health, with the removal of open space and replacement with solar panels. Support renewable energy but this is Grade 3 agricultural land, which has a value for producing food and should not be lost. The properties are on an elevated position so will look down onto the panels.

There is an active airfield that will be affected.

Wildlife is abundant in the area, with deer following the brook down into Caunton village. There is also an old pond that is used by wildlife that will become unavailable as it is scheduled to be fenced off in the application.

There is a report that considers various roads around the area but it does not include the private road that residents use to gain access to their properties.

The Newark & Sherwood district is attractive to solar farm companies as there is easy access to the grid. This application is a financial play, not a renewables play.

The Chair thanked the members of their public for their comments and observations and reconvened the meeting at 7.55pm to allow Members to deliberate the applications.

After consideration, it was unanimously AGREED, that objection be raised on the above two applications on the following grounds:

Design and visual impact

At the moment the land is Grade 3 Agricultural land used to grow food. The visual impact of replacing with solar panels should not be underestimated on this undulating landscape.

The current public rights of way are through open countryside, with vistas across the undulating landscape. It is proposed that these be delineated by a walled area, and there is also the potential for the applicant to apply to have them diverted. The visual impact of this should not be overlooked.

Privacy/daylight/sunlight

The impact of the glint and glare has not been addressed. The proposed panels are moveable and would follow the sun during the day. This would impact on the adjacent properties as their sunlight would effectively be replaced with glare from the panels.

Noise, smell, pollution

The panels will move as they follow the sun. There will be an impact on adjacent properties of the noise generated by this movement.

Access/traffic

It is expected that there will be heavy movement of vehicles during construction of the site. This will severely impact adjacent roads, as well as Hockerton Road itself.

Health/ health and safety

The negative impact this proposal will have on the mental health of our residents needs to be taken into consideration. At the moment they have access to open countryside and quiet country walks, which is good for their mental and physical health. To replace that with a solar farm they will be constantly overlooking will have a negative impact on their lives and their health.

Ecology, landscape

The ecological impact would be disastrous for the area. It currently provides habitat for a wide and diverse range of wildlife, that has access to a water source. The proposals indicate that this water source would be fenced in, therefore depriving the ecology of a vital resource.

Economic impact

There is an airfield adjacent to the site that does not appear to have been taken into consideration. There will be an economic impact should this airfield have to close due to the glint and glare from the panels.

Cumulative impact

All the above issues come together in a cumulative detrimental effect on the area.

Additionally, there has been no effective engagement or consultation with the local community and Parish Council, just a flyer drop. The applicant has not directly engaged with those that would be most impacted should planning permission be granted.

There has been no explanation or demonstration on how water supplies to the adjacent properties would be maintained should permission be granted.

There are discrepancies and misrepresentation contained within the documentation, i.e., referring to other applications and showing photographs that effectively hide the close proximity of the adjacent properties. The applicant appears to have used Google maps instead of site visits, which gives serious concern on their reliability and representation.

It is also understood that the site was important during the time of the English Civil War and would need to be assessed in terms of archaeological impact.

32.22/23 **Chair's Report**

No report was presented.

33.22/23 **To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 15th June 2022**

Subject to an amendment to Minute no 19.22/23 to read 'although a low key commemoration offering from the PC to Parishioners in commemoration of this once in a life time event', the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 15th June 2022 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair.

34.22/23 **Matters arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere on the Agenda**

There were none.

35.22/23 **Financial Issues**

35.1 To record Receipts

None

35.2 To approve invoices for payment:

Members approved the below invoices for payment:

- Clerk's Wages (June) – £283.40
- HMRC Payment (June) – £70.80
- EDF Energy – Beckitt Field - tbc
- Norwell Groundcare - Mowing of Beckitt's Field (June) - £170
- Royal British Legion – Lamp Post Poppies - £108
- Names.co.uk – Domain Renewal - £28.99
- Names.co.uk – Authenticated SMTP Access - £20.99
- Names.co.uk – Premium Hosting - £208.99

35.3 Quarterly Budget Report as at 30th June 2022

Members received and noted the quarterly budget report outlining the Council's financial position as at 30th June 2022.

36.22/23 **Planning**

36.1 22/00976/FULM – Field Reference Number 2227 Hockerton Road, Caunton - Proposed solar development, access and associated works.

22/00975/FULM – Land At Knapthorpe Lodge, Hockerton Road, Caunton - Proposed solar development, access and associated works.

These applications had been considered earlier on the agenda.

- 36.2 Decision Notice - 22/01130/AGR – Land North of Manor Farm – Fertiliser Storage Tank
Decision Notice – 22/01131/AGR – Land North of Manor Farm – Fertiliser Storage Tank
Members noted the above two decision notices granting permission for the storage tanks as outlined.
- 37.22/23 **Parish Council Matters**
- 37.1 Casual Vacancy
The Clerk advised that no applications had yet been received. The vacancies continued to be promoted.
- 37.2 To consider future projects
At the previous meeting it had been agreed that floral planters be investigated for the noticeboard area at Forge Close/Main Street and along the boundary of Beckitt Field.

The Clerk asked Cllr Shearing if he could measure the Forge Close/Main Street area so the size of planters required could be calculated. Cllr Brown advised that planters would be required for Beckitt Field.
- 37.3 To note distribution of correspondence from the Environment Agency in South Muskham
Members noted that correspondence from the Environment Agency regarding the problems being experienced with dog fouling had now been circulated to all properties in the village.

The Environment Agency Officer dealing with the issue had still not been able to make contact with the land owner. The Chair agreed to try and make contact and ask for a telephone number that could be shared.
- 38.22/23 **Beckitt Field**
Cllr Brown referred to 4 large tractor tyres left over from the Fete. Consideration to be given to them being advertised as free to residents, prior to any disposal being arranged as there would be a cost element involved.
- 39.22/23 **Flooding, Drainage & Emergency Planning**
- 39.1 Training
Members noted that two dates had been given for training. After discussion it was AGREED that Friday, 2nd September was most convenient. A time of 4pm to be suggested.

The Clerk to confirm this with Officers at Nottinghamshire County Council and make all involved with the Emergency Plan aware.
- 40.22/23 **Highways**
- 40.1 Traffic Monitoring – Little Carlton & South Muskham
A resident had queried the traffic monitoring that was ongoing around the villages. The Clerk had established that these were in place as part of a data collection

commissioned by National Highways for the A46 Newark Bypass scheme monitoring.

Concern had also been expressed at the speed of traffic going down the A616 when the A1 was closed overnight recently. The Clerk had raised this with Via to try and get better signage erected.

40.2 Update on highway matters

The Clerk advised that the repair to the traffic island was now scheduled for August. Cllr Mrs Saddington had been asked to take up the condition of the Great North Road direct with officers at Via.

Potholes on Crow Lane had again been reported.

41.22/23 **Correspondence Received**

41.1 Request from Newark & Sherwood District Council in promoting RealHome Service

A request had been received from the Housing Options team at Newark & Sherwood District Council who were looking for ways to promote their 'RealHome Tenant Finder Service for landlords' – for those landlords who have private rental properties within the district.

Members AGREED that documentation could be displayed in noticeboards and promoted on the website.

42.22/23 **Other matters arising not on the agenda**

42.1

Next Meeting – Parish Council – 21st September 2022 at South Muskham & Little Carlton Village

The meeting was closed at 8.30pm

Minutes approved as a true record –