

Minutes of Extraordinary General Meeting

Held by virtual means on Tuesday 7 July 2020, 18:00.

Councillors present: Cllrs Sinclair (Chairman), Chapman, Classen and Thomas. Ward Cllr Richard Keeling
In attendance: 7 members of the public

Lower Slaughter Parish Council conducted this meeting by virtual means in accordance with NALC guidelines. Members of the public were invited to attend the meeting and contact the Parish Clerk for login and password details.

- 1. Chairman's Opening Remarks** - Cllr Sinclair welcomed people to the meeting.
- 2. Declarations of Interest** – NONE
- 3. Apologies:** Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Randles
- 4. The meeting was called for Councillors to solely discuss the appeal submitted against CDC's decision to refuse planning permission for an electric car charging service station (18/01681/FUL) at Scrap Haulage Yard Gilders, Fosseway, Lower Slaughter. The appeal reference number is APP/F1610/W/20/3248674**

Cllr Sinclair set the scene by summarising the background to the appeal for the redevelopment and creation of an Electric Car Charging Service Station at Gilders Scrap Haulage Yard. Gloucestershire County Council Highways department will no longer be objecting to the redevelopment on highways grounds as previously submitted. In addition, Cotswold District Council are proposing not to defend the case due to cost implications and because there is no evidence to support their previous position and therefore, they are unable to provide defence.

Cllr Sinclair advised all attendees that the Council had only very recently been informed of this new position and the EGM was called urgently. A letter has already been submitted to the planning Inspectorate and copies were circulated to interested parties with the login details for the EGM.

Cllr Sinclair emphasised that CDC's planning meeting taking place the next day on 8th July, was not to re-determine the previous decision concluded in November 2019. It was solely to answer a single question on whether CDC should continue to defend the appeal.

Cllr Sinclair also emphasised that no date has been set for the hearing and that the outcome of the appeal is now in the hands of the Inspectorate. Cllr Sinclair stressed that all the information submitted to date would be considered by the Inspectorate and urged individuals to submit their own comments even if they were like those submitted by the Parish Council. It was important to demonstrate that multiple people were concerned about and objected to this development. Cllr Keeling confirmed that this was correct.

Having summarised the current position, Cllr Sinclair invited members of the public to talk and ask any questions they may have. Every attendee took the opportunity to talk and questions were answered by Cllr Sinclair and Cllr Keeling. The discussions were constructive with the following key topics and questions raised:

- ***Will there be a site visit and if so, can LS Community be represented?***
There is no set format to an appeal, but an inspection will take place. It is usual for only the appellant and Inspectorate to be present.
- ***Can we emphasise that there are charging points in other locations and these are not utilised?***
The Inspectorate can be invited to look at the vicinity, but there is no guarantee that will occur.
- ***Will safety implications for walkers and cyclist be considered?***
Reports about safety to pedestrians, cyclists and other motorists will be considered. However, this is a busy road now, with haulage trucks and other vehicles crossing both carriageways. This was considered at the time of the original application.
- ***What is the point of CDC's planning meeting?***
Highways have done a complete U-turn and CDC must decide whether they continue with their objection or withdraw. There will not be a review of the application or appeal notes.

Individual Councillors were also asked to comment. Comments were made but as this application had been discussed by the Parish Council many times before, there were no material changes. The letter already sent to the Planning Inspectorate outlines the Parish Council's position on this matter.

Cllr Thomas did ask Cllr Keeling if the Inspectorates decision was final and would the PC be able to challenge the outcome? Cllr Keeling said yes, but only on a point of law, not on the decision itself.

Cllr Sinclair brought the meeting to a close at 7pm. He thanked everyone for attending and their written/ verbal contributions.

To summarise, Cllr Sinclair confirmed that the Parish Council keenly awaited the outcome of CDC's meeting the next day. He reiterated once again that the strongest argument for the Inspectorate to consider, was the number of individual comments and objections sent to them. Public opinion and the voice of the people as raised by Cllr Chapman would support and strengthen the argument to oppose the development. These added far more weight than one single collective objection from LSPC on behalf of the community.

5. Date of Next Meeting: TBC

Signed : *Kevin Chapman* – Acting Meeting Chair Date : 30th August 2020 (delay due to Covid)