



WARMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting
Held on Tuesday 13th December 2011
At 7.30pm
In the Village Hall, Warmington.

Actions

1. ATTENDANCE

Mr David Short (Chairman)

Mrs Jennifer Anderson

Mr Chris Ellard

Mr Doug Jose

Mr Ian Middleton

Mrs Morag Wilson

Plus the clerk and 15 members of the public (this figure changed during the meeting as people arrived and left) and Mr David Jackson & assistant as agents for planning item 4b

2. APOLOGIES

Mrs Jo Simpson (previous commitment), Mr Graham Reid (family commitment) and Dr Tim Helstrip (PC dispensation) All apologies accepted

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

None

4. PLANNING (click on link to view)

a) EN/11/01904/FUL - 22 School Lane Warmington -Two storey extension to front of house

Proposed by Mrs Anderson and seconded by Mr Ellard that the council raises no objection.
AIF

b) EN/11/01662 - Tansor Grange - Erection of one wind turbine 500KW with a hub height of 50 metres, rotor diameter of 54 metres and maximum blade height of 77 metres, along with a new access track and field gate.

The chairman closed the meeting, in order to allow questions from the floor and to allow Mr Jackson to answer any queries arising. The point was made that the application isn't actually for development within the parish of Warmington, being in Tansor, but is on the extreme border with Warmington. Warmington is the closest settlement to the proposed wind turbine. Mr Jackson explained that the planning documents submitted included a Visual Impact Assessment (VIA) as well as wind turbine noise impact standard test ETSU-R-97. The noise tests were carried out at 1.5 metres from the ground at the closest buildings to the proposed site at Tansor Grange Cottage and the cottages between the site and the A605. The test indicated that the noise would be well below the standard considered to be acceptable, and the calculations in the report based on the results suggest that impact in Warmington would be within the levels considered to be acceptable.

The proposal is that the turbine would generate electricity for the farm on which it would be sited, with production surplus to requirements being fed back into the national grid, and that surplus being sufficient to power approximately 700 homes. The design of the turbine means that it does not require a 'long tail' as some of the current turbines have, with an elongated rear and there is also an increased efficiency, with the blades starting to turn at wind speeds of 2.5 meters per second. The matter of bats has been addressed in the papers forming part of the planning application and because there is a possibility of rare bats in the area, the rotors would switch off half an hour before dusk and on again after dawn, eliminating danger to bats, but allowing the rotors the potential to start very early in the morning in the summer. The points put forward by the members of the public were that the land owned by the applicant allows for plenty of other sites; that the tests carried out were not representative of the

potential impact neither in Warmington, taking into account the prevailing wind conditions; nor at a particularly representative time (19th July – 2nd August 2011) nor over a suitable length of time – a week was not deemed long enough; health issues (not just noise, but underlying implications caused by low frequency interference); marketability of property, alternative location (higher on the ridge of Tansor Wold). Mr Jackson pointed out that the pre-application scoping report had identified a number of possible spots for the turbine, but these had been dismissed due to either visual impact or distance from access to the national grid in order to feed back surplus electricity). The RAF has insisted that the size of the proposed turbine is reduced in order that the blades do not intrude into radar space. The revised proposal will be resubmitted at reduced height of 40metres giving a rotor height of 67metres. The reduction will reduce the level of noise produced by the turbine.

Mr Ellard made the point that the parish council is only able to make representation regarding material planning considerations – matters beyond the remit of planning legislation cannot be considered by the planning department (e.g, house prices or where applicants live). He also suggested to people present who felt strongly that they have every right to write to the planning authority too (East Northamptonshire Council) stating their points of view.

The chairman reopened the meeting, and after further deliberation it Mr Ellard proposed that the parish council objects to the proposal on the basis that the wind turbine is too close to the village and that insufficient tests have been carried out to assess the potential affects of noise, affecting the quality of life and other potential health issues on the settlement area of the village, taking into account the prevailing wind conditions. This was seconded by Mr Middleton and carried unanimously.

c) EN/11/01853/FUL - Horsefords Poplars Farm Main Street Tansor - Construction of a 1400T Agricultural Bulk Store

Proposed by Mr Ellard and seconded by Mrs Wilson that the council raises no objection. AIF

d) EN/11/01152/FUL - Proposal for 21 dwelling at Stamford Lane - To consider possibility of part of provision of open space contribution off site and to consider additional contribution towards facilities at the Fun Field

After some discussion, it was agreed that this matter cannot be decided without consultation with the fun field committee, but that the clerk should reiterate to the planners that an improved building on the site would be sought.

The clerk mentioned that the PR company working for the proposed developer of the site had been in touch to discuss the housing mix on the site. The housing strategy for this part of the district states that there should be a mix of houses in new development, not just larger 4/5 bedroomed properties, to maximise the sustainability impact of new development. The planning authority would like the developers to include some smaller, and therefore less expensive, properties. The developer is opposed to this approach and is making a case against this by using the parish council's concerns about the number of houses on the plot of land and insisting that if there had to be smaller houses, there would have to be more houses. Members agreed that as this had not been on the agenda, and a revised planning application was due to be submitted in any event, a decision would be reached in January

5. Community Infrastructure Levy Consultation and Neighbourhood plans

Mr Ellard, Mrs Wilson and the clerk had attended the workshop run by East Northamptonshire Council (ENC) regarding the emerging legislation. After explaining some of the background information, which is, by the admission of ENC, quite sketchy and difficult to understand in parts, it was agreed that the parish council would want to see some CIL contribution coming

directly to the community by way of the parish council and the parish council will start to consider, and perhaps consult, on the priority projects for the village and how any CIL contributions would be allocated

6. CEMETERY – Arrangement for bin collection

It was proposed by Mrs Wilson and seconded by Mr Ellard that the council should opt for wheelie bins over bagged collections

Although the meeting had finished, as the clerk had omitted to allow for public participation time on the agenda, the chairman allowed public input. There was a discussion surrounding the emerging legislation concerning planning and development during which ideas that have come forward via the media were put forward, but it was explained that the new proposals suggest that communities can have a minor influence over where development can occur, but cannot prevent development nor do very much to maintain the traditional 'organic' development of a community settlement.