

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Fillongley Parish Council Held at Fillongley Village Hall on Wednesday 4th September 2024 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr A R Pargetter, Cllr D Wardley, Cllr S Taylor, Cllr J Hooke, Cllr S Onions and Cllr C W Antrobus. Clerk: Mrs H Badham. There were 30 members of the public in attendance.

14138 AGENDA ITEM 1 APOLOGIES

There were Apologies received from Cllr A White.

14139 AGENDA ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman invited members who wished to do so to make declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest in respect of items on the agenda. None were made.

14140 AGENDA ITEM 3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the previous Council meeting held on Thursday 18th July 2024, having been previously circulated and read, were then approved on the proposition of Cllr Antrobus and Seconded by Cllr Onions. All in favour.

14141 AGENDA ITEM 4 PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Meeting Closed. There was much discussion regarding PAP/2023/0071. There were points raised regarding;

- Visual impact and the breadth of properties affected
- Visual impact to drivers through the Parish
- Loss of best and most versatile agricultural land
- Flood impact and the number of inaccuracies in the applicants report/study and “solutions” to ameliorate them
- Local benefits of the solar farm
- National benefit of the solar farm
- Wind farms are being paid to be turned off and not generating electricity as the grid is not able to use electricity to where it is needed so investment should be made in the infrastructure and leave farmland to produce food
- Other solar farms in the area
- Likely costs of fighting the Appeal
- Possible outcomes of the Appeal
- Whether the PC should spend money to fight the Appeal
- Where the money would come from
- Meeting re-opened.

14142 AGENDA ITEM 6 MATTERS FOR DECISION

- a. To discuss the Appeal of PAP/2023/0071 (Land 800m South of Park House Farm, Meriden Road; Construction of a temporary Solar Farm providing 47.7MW output, to include the installation of ground-mounted solar panels together with associated works, equipment and necessary infrastructure) which was refused by NWBC, and to decide whether FPC should become involved as a Rule 6 participant at the forthcoming Appeal.

- Cllr Antrobus proposed that FPC should be involved and had a seat at the table of the Appeal, securing the services of a planning consultant and also a Solicitor to represent FPC. Seconded by Cllr Hooke.
- Cllr Antrobus further proposed that FPC write to all NWBC parishes to try and secure their support, both written and financial, and also set up a funding webpage so that Parishioners who wish to assist, and are able, can donate. Seconded by Cllr Onions.
- Cllr Taylor suggested a leaflet drop throughout the village as there are a lot of Parishioners who are not aware of the plans. This was agreed unanimously, and the Clerk will write a document and circulate to Councillors for agreement.

There was discussion as to which planning consultant to use as the Clerk had secured cost indications from 2 companies suggested by NWBC, but it was agreed to “get the ball rolling” immediately and gather further information from the Consultants before making a decision.

Meeting closed at 8.20pm.