

UPLEADON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Upleadon Parish Council held on Thursday 03 November 2022 at Upleadon Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllr M Manning (Chairman), Cllr E Wood, Cllr H Dunn, Cllr Mrs P Turner, Cllr Mrs W Fabian, Cllr T Rickard

Apologies: Cllr P Dallow - on holiday

Also Present: District Cllr P Burford, County Cllr Mrs G Mosley (from 7.40 pm)

There were 3 Members of the public present

6.00 Apologies and approval for absence

Apologies were given from Cllr Dallow who was on holiday

6.1 Declarations of Interest

Chairman Cllr Manning declared interests and left the meeting.

Cllrs Mrs Turner and Mrs Fabian declared interests in that they were Members of the Village Hall Committee and remained in the meeting and voted, as permitted.

6.2 Cllr Wood as Deputy Chairman took the Chair

6.3 To give consideration to Planning application:-

P1350/22/FUL Land North of Stream Lane, Upleadon, Glos GL18 1EL
Installation of a ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) farm along with continued agricultural use, ancillary infrastructure, security fencing, landscaping provision, ecological enhancements and associated works

6.4 Public participation

Members of the public were invited to speak.

One Member spoke strongly against the application. Their objections included access to the site (very narrow lane), the disturbance to wildlife and to wild flowers, the land is good quality agricultural land with above average corn crops, the adverse effect on their business re the disturbance to their breeding horses, as well as the “eyesore” on the landscape with inadequate hedge screening that will take years to grow. Not as good as wind turbines.

Another Member spoke about how Solar farms had been banned on certain grades of agricultural land but that they were still being undertaken on a “drib and drab” basis.

6.5 Members of the Council gave their views:-

- Objections and concerns – narrow lanes and the traffic generated during construction. Mention is made in the application of a Transport statement & Construction Traffic Management Plan which was not found.
- Agricultural land – 3b classification. Apparent disagreement with local people.

- Concern from nearby resident regarding inadequate screening (length of time proposed hedging will take to grow) and adverse effect on their business with disturbance to breeding horses.
- Wildlife – a Biodiversity Assessment suggests a gain – this too to be at odds with local opinion.
- Greater Crested Newts – Sustainability report of 28/10/2022 suggests need to submit further documentation
- Consultee comment also suggests more information required on safeguarding existing trees especially regarding proposed turning zone. A Planting scheme is required.
- Land Contamination consultee – west part of site formerly Municipal landfill site – suggests possibility of risks to human health and the environment.
- Archaeology report of 31/10/22 - County Archaeologist recommends further work to be undertaken
- Transformer hum and effect on local properties – detrimental effect on properties in Hooks Lane and Stream Lane
- There are a number of other proposed Solar Farms in the area.
- Mineral & Waste – mineral resource assessment – concerns at GCC level.
- Screening hedges should be planted at much higher level and plans should be in place for preparation works
- Concern regarding damage to bridges in Hooks Land and Stream Lane during heavy and continuous vehicle movements during construction

A Member commented that he believed wind turbines as mentioned by a member of the public would be worse than Solar, that renewable energy was needed and the application was much smaller than other applications for Solar farms in the area.

The Deputy Chairman proposed an Objection to the application for the reasons outlined. A vote was taken resulting unanimously in favour of the objection.

This concluded the business of the meeting and it was declared closed at approx. 8.00 pm