

**MINUTES OF THE SWINFEN AND PACKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE
CONFERENCE ROOM 1, CONFERENCE CENTRE, HMP SWINFEN ON
WEDNESDAY 11 MARCH 2020 COMMENCING AT 7.00 PM**

PRESENT

Councillor Barnes in the Chair
Councillors Loescher [from 7.03 pm] and Pope

In attendance:

Ms J Minor, Parish Clerk

PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public were present.

56. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Dyott.

57. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Barnes made reference to Minute No. 50 [Chairman's Announcements - Levett Road, Botany Bay] and confirmed that he had no interest personally or financially in the land which is owned by former Councillor J Barnes.

58. MINUTES

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 15 January 2020 [Minute No. 47-55] be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

59. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Levett Road, Botany Bay

Councillor Barnes made reference to Minute No. 50 [Chairman's Announcements - Levett Road, Botany Bay] and explained that two/three developers had shown an interest in the land currently used for agricultural use and stated that 15 homes had been lost to HS2 [twelve at Knox Grave Lane and three at Packington [main house and two in the yard]. Councillor Barnes stated that Mr Richard Pitt, Senior Planning Manager, Bromford had expected a formal response from the Parish Council even though he had not asked for one and the Parish Council were not the Local Planning Authority.

Councillor Loescher explained that the Parish Council can only make comments as we were not the Local Planning Authority and stated that personally he had no

objection in principle however as the main sewer was actually overloaded on this site this would need an upgrade, he agreed that a one way traffic system would be of benefit and the site would need appropriate screening.

Members were reminded that as the site is located in the Green Belt, any developer would need to be able to demonstrate very special circumstances [a very special circumstance could be a particularly acute need within the local community for more affordable homes].

Packington Hall

The Chairman informed Members that developers were making significant process despite the weather and confirmed that calor gas had been installed underground on the site.

60. THE HIGH SPEED RAIL PLANS

Councillor Loescher thanked Members who had attended the recent meeting with HS2 and Balfour Beatty Vinci representatives.

Councillor Loescher summarised the discussions:

Concerns

- a. Raising the height of the line will increase noise impacts. We looked at HS2 Limited's own noise contour map and this indicated how sensitive noise will be to the height of the line. This would mean a negative impact on "The Steading" and "Packington House" as well as surrounding areas. Without mitigation these properties would be moved from "generally no adverse impact expected" to "likely significant effects on groups of dwellings" using HS2 Limited's own definitions.
- b. We walked part of the Heart of England Way. Increasing the height of the line would increase the visual impact from various points on the Heart of England Way, Jerry's Lane as well as on "The Steading" and "Packington House".
- c. Further demolition of buildings at Packington Moor Farm without additional mitigation will increase visual and noise impacts. The raising of the height of the line and further demolition of buildings at Packington Moor Farm could be a "double whammy" without proper mitigation. "The Steading" and "Packington House" are particularly sensitive to the height of the line and demolition of buildings at Packington Moor Farm.
- d. Swinfen and Packington appear to have missed out on HS2 Limited's green corridor. We believe that opportunities are being missed for planting of mixed evergreen and deciduous woodland planting to mitigate the effects of HS2 Ltd and enhance the local landscape.

Opportunities

- a. The bund needs to start North East of Packington Moor Farm at the North East side of "Sugar Bank Field". This would provide the best opportunity for the bund to blend into the landscape at the North East End as well as providing additional mitigation.
- b. To the extent that further buildings are demolished at Packington Moor Farm this area needs to be replaced with substantial noise and visual mitigation. This

should be in the form of a substantial bund planted with reasonably tall trees and also with trees planted in front of the bund. It may be that the bund in the immediate area around Packington Moor Farm needs to be higher than other areas to:

- Create a bund with a “natural line” running from Sugar Bank field to south west of Packington Moor Farm
 - Provide necessary mitigation for “The Steading” and “Packington House” in this sensitive area.
 - Preserve the integrity and value of any buildings remaining, that are not demolished, East of the line at Packington Moor Farm.
- c. The bund and associated tree planting throughout its length needs to be of a height of at least the height of the gantries to provide essential screening from the Heart of England Way and local properties.
- d. Tree planting in the following areas would assist in healing and enhancing the landscape:
- A strip South side of Packington Moor Farm drive to augment and thicken existing pines and poplar trees.
 - In the place of Packington Moor Farm buildings where they are demolished
 - At junction of Jerrys lane and the Railway on East side of railway on unusable land for farming on site of temporary compound

Species used should be a mix of evergreen (to give year round cover) and deciduous trees found in the locality. Examples might be:

Deciduous: Rowen, wild cherry, silver birch, beech, sessile oak, sycamore

Evergreen: Norway spruce, Austrian pine, scots pine, holly, yew, western red cedar

Constraints

The local community does not believe that there any real constraints to the opportunities suggested above:

- Trees do not need planning permission.
- We do not believe that the LLAU is a constraint. To the extent any bund needs to be outside the LLAU a planning permission will be needed that will supported by the local council and community. The LLAU is a function of poor engagement and local residents being prevented from appearing in front of the select committee. Demolition of buildings outside of the LLAU will need the local council to be notified in any event. Our local MP would be willing to make submissions to the DfT regarding works outside the LLAU where they would provide benefits to the community.
- Cost should be minimal using local placements of earth removed from cuttings
- The amount of agricultural land used will be minimal.

Other issues

- Concern was raised regarding access to land west of the line and in particular access to the borehole irrigation pool.
- The local community would be interested to hear about the plans for the environmental mitigation area opposite Whittington barracks

- Local farms would like to be kept informed of when land was likely to be taken at the commencement of work.

The local Parish Council would be interested in seeing the results of the archeological work at Hints.

- A preference for meetings and communication “little and often” was advised.

61. CODE OF CONDUCT PRESENTATION

RESOLVED That the Code of Conduct presentation produced by Christie Tims, Head of Corporate Services and Monitoring Officer, Lichfield District Council be received and noted.

62. REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERNAL AUDIT

RESOLVED That the Parish Council considers the system of internal control to be sufficiently effective and the Review of Effectiveness of Internal Audit be signed by the Chairman.

63. STATEMENT OF INTERNAL CONTROL AND ANNUAL REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERNAL AUDIT

RESOLVED That the Parish Council considers the controls currently in place are effective and that the Statement of Internal Control and Annual Review of Effectiveness of Internal Control be signed by the Chairman.

64. REVISED FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

RESOLVED That the Parish Council adopted the revised Financial Regulations following guidance received from the National Association of Local Councils [NALC].

65. STAFFORDSHIRE PARISH COUNCILS’ ASSOCIATION [SPCA]

RESOLVED That the Parish Council renew membership of the Staffordshire Parish Councils’ Association [**cheque number 100537**].

66. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED That under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 (Section 2) (and as amended by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972), the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information.

67. PARISH CLERK'S SALARY

RESOLVED That cheques be drawn in respect of the Parish Clerk's February 2020 [cheque number 100530] and March 2020 [cheque number 100533] salary, HMRC - February 2020 [cheque number 100532] and March 2020 [cheque number 100535] and Staffordshire Pension Fund February 2020 [cheque number 100531] and March 2020 [cheque number 100535].

68. DATE, VENUE AND TIME FOR NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLVED That:
Wednesday 20 May 2020 [Annual General Meeting]

in the Conference Room 1, Conference Centre, HMP Swinfen commencing 7pm be confirmed as the next Parish Council meetings.

(The Meeting closed at 7.34 pm)

Signed Dated