

LEVINGTON AND STRATTON HALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Planning Meeting held

at 7.00 pm on Friday, 24th March 2023 in the Village Hall

Present

Cllr David Long Chairman

Cllr Julian Mann

Cllr John Ross

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr David Pryke (illness), Cllr John Bailey, Cllr Andrew Abram and Cllr Sarah Gregory.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

Members of the Public

3 members of the public were present.

The Parish Council met to consider the following Planning Applications.

Ref. No: DC/23/0756/FUL

SITE OF SZC FREIGHT MANAGEMENT FACILITY, FELIXSTOWE ROAD, LEVINGTON, SUFFOLK

Development of a temporary "Water Sourcing Facility" comprising a pipeline connection to a mains water supply, three water tanks and pumping infrastructure, HGV and car parking, mobile welfare building and security kiosk, site access and internal road layout construction compound, landscaping. Drainage infrastructure and security features (fencing, CCTV, lighting, gates and barriers)

Open Forum

Cllr D Long opened the meeting by stating that Planning Permission for the site had already been agreed and the Planning Application being discussed at this meeting is about the development of a temporary "water resourcing facility". Residents in Levington and Stratton Hall have been involved in all stages of the consultation since 2012 by holding village meetings and frequent references in the Newsletters.

A resident queried the landscaping of the site. Cllr D Long said that there would be three bunds of varying heights; North West 3.6 metres high, East 2 metres high and South 1.3 metres high. In addition, the security fencing around the site is 1.8 metres high. Cllr Long stated that the water will be from mains supply on the Old Felixstowe Road. Concerns were expressed about what effect the water supply to the site would have on local properties. Allegedly, Anglian Water state that the water supply will have no effect on the pressure or volume of water to local properties. Parking on site will be for 12 HGVs and 16 car parking spaces for staff and visitors and that the movements to and from the site will be far

less than FMF. Concerns were expressed about the safety of the lorries accessing and leaving the site and in particular access to and from the A14 and A1156. It was reported that there are currently two holding objections from Suffolk County Council, one from Highways but nothing from the Countryside Officer or Environmental Health at East Suffolk Council. Reference was made that FMF and the water holding facility do not work concurrently. Concerns were expressed about the noise from the pumps and vibration at the site. It was noted that concerns have been expressed by residents who live near Brightwell Lakes in relation to night working. Cllr J Bailey prior to the meeting had expressed concerns about the site remaining a lorry park and that the site should be returned for agricultural use and the road should be reinstated.

Parish Council Discussions

Parish Councillors agreed that the Parish Council needed to express their concerns and object to the Planning Application for the reasons which were cause for concern.

Cllr John Ross proposed, seconded Cllr Julian Mann that the Parish Council **objects** to the Planning Application for the following reasons:

1. The proposal is to draw off large quantities of water to supply the Sizewell C site by water tankers. The Parish Council would wish to receive complete assurances that there will be no detrimental impact to the supply of water to Levington and Stratton Hall parishes and the Felixstowe Peninsula, nor any reduction in water pressure to these areas. It is also interested to know why water could not be supplied by water mains nearer the Sizewell C development site.
2. The Parish Council has concerns about the traffic management plan. Firstly, when leaving the site, water tankers should not travel eastwards along the Old Felixstowe Road and attempt to join the A14/ Stratton Hall junction as this would be dangerous for slow moving vehicles. Secondly, if the water tankers turned westwards from the site, the Parish Council considered it dangerous for slow moving tankers to join the A1156 by turning right on the tee junction from the Old Felixstowe Road.

Tankers and lorries **must not** be allowed to turn eastwards as the slip onto the A14 is too short for slow moving vehicles – it required the police to slow or stop westbound traffic at this point to let lorries onto the A14 after Operation Stack. The new entrance to the site must prevent exiting left.

The alternative of vehicles exiting the FMS site westward has two serious hazards:

- They first have to turn right across the fast-moving traffic on the old A45.
 - Secondly, they present a similar hazard turning right onto the A1156.
3. The Parish Council is unconvinced that noise from the water pumps – mains to storage tanks/storage tanks to water tankers, will not be a noise nuisance.
 4. Planting is mentioned as a form of screening. Plants take a long while to mature so what year will it be when the plants provide an effective screen?

It was considered that the proposed bunds were insufficient in height and length to provide adequate mitigation to offset the detrimental impact on the character of the landscape.

5. A commitment has been made to return the site of the FMF/Water Sourcing Facility to its original use at the end of the Sizewell C project. This must also apply to the newly created junction on the Old Felixstowe Road which is purely to be used as an access to the temporary facilities on this site. The Old Felixstowe Road must therefore be returned to its original and current form.

Voting: 3 in favour, 0 against. **Action: Clerk**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.40 pm.