West Itchenor Parish Council

Minutes of a Planning Meeting of the West Itchenor Parish Council held on Monday 13th July 2015 in The Itchenor Memorial Hall.

Present: Mr J Dunn, Mr C Mead-Briggs, Mr C Watson

In attendance: Mrs C Smith (Clerk)

In the absence of the Chairman of the Planning Committee it was agreed that Cllr Mead-Briggs would chair the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Trevelyan and Cllr Colbourne.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.

None.

3. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING MEETING HELD ON 29 June 2015.

The Chairman called for the approval of the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 29 June 2015. It was **AGREED** to approve the Minutes and the Chairman duly signed the Minutes as being a true record of that meeting.

4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

4.1 BO/14/03987/FULEIA - New Barn Farm, Old Park Lane, Bosham

The installation of photovoltaic arrays for the generation of renewable energy and associated fencing and equipment.

It was noted that the development site covered about 6 hectares of land. Of major concern was the siting of the solar farm within the AONB although it was possible that this would not be visible from the water. In many applications for solar farms there was provision for grazing within the farm. It was felt that this would not be possible because of the height of the panels from the ground being set at only one metre.

Although there may be some general support for solar farms as it provides a cheaper sources of power, it was noted that solar panels can only produce power from sunlight and this has to be stored. In practice electricity generated gets fed back to the National Grid and redistributed as required.

Reference was made to National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 115 which states that “Great weight should be given to conserving landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which have the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty.”

Reference was also made to the Chichester Local Plan, Policy 43 which gives guidance on the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the AONB.

It was noted that the habitat survey had omitted the importance of the cereal crops as winter foraging for Brent geese as at the time of the survey different crops had been planted from the usual cereal crop.

AGREED RESPONSE: West Itchenor Parish Council objects to this application on the following grounds.

The application conflicts with NPPF paragraph 115 which states that “Great weight should be given to conserving landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the

Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which have the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty."

The application also conflicts with Chichester Local Plan, Policy 43 which gives guidance on the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the AONB. The application is considered to be a major industrial development and does not comply with the requirement to reinforce and respond to, rather than detract from, the distinctive character and special qualities of the AONB.

The proposal would require the cessation of agricultural land management which is deemed to be an important component of the AONB.

West Itchenor Parish Council requests that permission for this application is therefore refused.

5. PLANNING DECISIONS

None.

6. ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

The Chairman had met with Cllr Taylor as requested and this had been reported back at the Parish Council meeting the previous week.

In regard to Old Haven, it was noted that the applicant had advised the Planning Officer that substitute plans would be submitted in due course.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 27th July 2015 providing there are applications to consider.

Signature _____ Date: _____

Chairman of the Planning Committee