

WINGERWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20 September 2007

Present: Cllr Ann Sainty (Chairperson)
Cllr Tom Snowdon (Vice Chairperson) Cllr Bill Pickford
Cllr Chris Hutchings Cllr Margaret Parker
Cllr Kevin Moore (*left during 117/2007*) Cllr Jan Robinson
Cllr John Ollis with Mike Taylor (Clerk)

176/2007 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Stuart Ellis, Ron Lewin, Anne Knyhynyckyj, Peter O'Neill and Michael Prout

177/2007 The Avenue Remediation Proposals

The Chairperson reminded Members of the purpose of the extraordinary meeting and outlined the format for the meeting.

John Gower of COTEP briefly summarised his own background and experience in working with the potential problems posed by airborne particles before recounting a number of concerns that he had with the remediation process being proposed. After noting some of the serious risks to health that could result from working with the hazardous wastes that were at the site, he provided Members with a list of ten recommendations that would be helpful in protecting the health of the local communities. The Chairperson thanked Mr Gower for the presentation and for answering questions.

Marcus Foweather from the VSD contracting group and Trevor Parkin from advising consultants Entec UK Limited gave a brief description of the proposed project and then responded to a wide range of questions from Members. These included queries on monitoring for some of the smaller particles, the location of monitors, the thresholds to be established, and the action to be taken if thresholds were triggered. In addition to responding on each of these matters, Members were informed that the planning authority would require an Air Quality Management Plan which would have to address all of these issues in a satisfactory manner. Other questions including the raising of alarms, the impact on the flood plain area, the availability of the monitoring records and the baghouse filter effectiveness. Mr Foweather and Mr Parkin were thanked by the Chairperson for dealing with such a wide range of questions. In reply, they offered to deal with any subsequent questions that were forwarded after the meeting.

Peter Rhodes introduced colleagues from the South Chesterfield Environmental Protection Partnership (SCEPP). Their presentation commenced with a brief explanation of the campaigning group, its origins, its intended style of operation and its current plans. It was stressed that the group wanted the work at The Avenue to go ahead in as safe a way as was possible, accepting that no such operation is entirely risk free. They wanted to work with EMDA and the contractors to minimise risk and to ensure that a comprehensive system of monitoring would be in place. The CPL site was not currently included in the proposals although the group would like it to be brought into the remediation process. Plans for promoting SCEPP were detailed including a new website as were the group's plans to achieve legal status and legitimacy. The group hoped that the Council would help with achieving legitimacy though some form of support and offering facilities for a public meeting at the Parish Hall. Questions from Members covered the phasing of the remediation work, the need for negative air pressure tents, the monitoring of smaller particles, the action to be taken in the event that emissions reached a danger level, the existence of comparable data from other similar processes in other parts of the country and the way in which the felled trees would be disposed of given that they could well be contaminated. Mr Rhodes and his colleagues were thanked for attending the meeting and the Chairperson stated that the request to use the Council's facilities would be considered by the full Council.

Resolved: that the Clerk forwards to the planning authority a request that all ten protection recommendations listed by COTEP are covered by planning conditions with an additional one concerning the need for an independent expert to assess the effectiveness of and compliance with the monitoring process; that the provision of facilities for a public meeting for SCEPP are placed on the agenda of the Council's next meeting.

The Chairperson thanked Members for participating in what she felt had been a very useful meeting and declared the meeting closed at 9.37pm.