



Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of Stoke Hammond Parish Council held by video conference on Wednesday 11th November 2020 at 7pm

Present: Cllr Greg Noble (Chair), Cllr Karl Johnson, Cllr Geoff Lane, Cllr Stephen McNally, Cllr Malcolm Newing, Cllr Mike Robinson, Cllr David Venn, Joanna Simonds, Clerk and RFO and 1 member of the public.

1. Apologies for absence

No apologies received.

2. Declarations of interest

No items to declare.

3. Public Participation Session

There were no matters raised during the public participation session.

4. Planning: To discuss planning applications and make recommendations on any planning applications received after this agenda is published, if urgent.

20/03539/APP – Newton Longville

Installation of a gas tanker off-loading facility for injection of renewable gas into the national gas distribution network, SGN Gas Depot, Bletchley Road, Newton Longville, Buckinghamshire.

Following discussion, Cllrs agreed to OPPOSE this application on the following grounds:

- Situated in the middle of our green belt land, so close to residential homes, this is a totally unsuitable and unacceptable location for such a storage unit facility containing highly flammable gasses. Residents are very concerned that the smallest of spark or flame could cause an explosion, having devastating effects on the area. The vivid memory of the Buncefield, Hemel Hempstead fuel depot fire of 2005 springs to mind.
- There has been no public consultation whatsoever on this application, despite the significant enormity of the proposed facility. For that reason alone, there is insufficient information on which residents may have an intellectual and informed debate about this proposal. Stoke Hammond Parish Council would expect residents in all the neighbouring areas to (i) be invited to a public meeting and supplied with a full and detailed presentation; (ii) have the opportunity to raise questions and concerns and (iii) have any such concerns fully addressed in detail.
- We concur with Buckinghamshire Highways on their concerns that insufficient information has been provided to conclude anything about the transport size and vehicle movements. We also agree with their point that the route could come in via Newton Longville which opens up all sorts of concerns, those roads not being at all appropriate and, when HGV drivers realise they can cut through Newton Longville to get to the A421, which they will, traffic on those residential roads will be badly affected.
- This facility is bound to have a negative impact on the environment with unacceptable levels of noise, given the size of the vehicles and the fact that they will be operating 24 hours a day, 7 days per week.

- The report states that as these 20 HGVs arrive at the plant throughout the day and night, each will be uncoupled manually from the lorry by the driver, who will then again manually connect to the ancillary equipment and push a button to start the download. The slightest spark or flame here doesn't bear thinking about and what type of safety training will these drivers receive. Whilst this in itself is incredibly worrying to the local community, it raises the question of where then does the driver and lorry go to wait for the download, there being no room on site? No doubt pulling up in residential areas to wait for their tank to get emptied.

In conclusion, building such a huge industrial gas off-loading facility in a residential area, is unquestionably the wrong location. This along with the fact there has been no public consultation, and we have huge concerns over not only the routes these HGVs will take but also where the lorries will wait whilst their tanks are being emptied.

There is a lot of work here that needs to be done if there is any chance of putting residents' minds at rest. On these grounds alone, Cllrs strongly OPPOSE this application.

Proposed: Cllr Johnson
Seconded: Cllr Lane
Agreed unanimously

5. **Re-confirm date of next Parish Council Meeting**
Extraordinary meeting on **Tuesday 17th November 2020** at 7.30pm

The Chairman thanked everyone for their contribution this evening and declared the meeting closed at 19:20.

Chair:  Date: 05/12/21