

WASHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL



Clerk to the Council.
Ms Zoe Savill.
Washington Parish Council
PO Box 2286
PULBOROUGH RH20 9BT
Tel: 0777 6771921
Email: clerk@washingtonparish.org.uk
Website: www.washingtonparish.org.uk

WASHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

MINUTES of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on Monday 21st November 2022 at the Washington Village Hall (Doré Room)

PRESENT: Cllr S Buddell (SB/Vice-Chairman), Cllr K Capella (KC), Cllr P Heeley (Chairman), Cllr A Lisher (AL) and Cllr J Luckin (JL)

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr James Wright (HDC) and Cllr Joan Grech (HDC). Apologies were received from Andrew Griffith MP and Cllr Paul Marshall (WSCC) due to conflicting prior engagements.

ALSO: Planning Consultant Mr Steve Tilbury MSc AssocRTPI of Steve Tilbury Consulting, and Clerk to the Council.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: 4 including two representatives from Storrington & Sullington Parish Council.

ABSENT: Cllr Brendan Hanvey (BH) and Cllr Trevor Keech (TK)

The Chairman opened the meeting at 19:40 hours.

24.59. Receive Apologies for absence

RESOLVED to **ACCEPT** apologies for absence from BH and TK.

24.60. Declaration of interest and Dispensations.

No declarations were made as defined under the Localism Act 2011 and the Parish Council Code of Conduct.

24.61. Public Speaking

Speaking on the Rampion consultation was deferred to the next agenda item.

24.62. Rampion 2 – Second Statutory Public Consultation: Potential Onshore Cable Route Changes and new access points.

To Discuss and Agree comments for submission to the consultation proposals which affect the Washington Parish

It was noted that the Rampion 2 – Second Statutory Public Consultation: Potential Onshore Cable Route Changes commenced 18th October 2022 and the closing date for comments would be 29th November 2022.

The proposed changes for Washington Parish include three modified routes (MR) including one through the middle of the village, and three alternative accesses (AA). Details of the proposals were previously circulated to Councillors.

The Chairman introduced Mr Steve Tilbury, planning consultant to the meeting. The Chairman outlined the Parish Council's concerns about the Rampion 2 inshore cable route proposals through the middle of the village, and the additional HGVs and construction traffic from the proposed multiple access routes on the A283 close to busy junctions of the Cemex quarry, Hampers Lane, Millford Grange and Georges Lane. He commented that at the PC's public meeting in September 2021 for the original consultation, the overwhelming view from residents was for Rampion to look again at other route options which avoid the village. This included the original Route A south of the village which was withdrawn by RWE for technical reasons. He said it was disappointing that RWE seemed to have wholly ignored the local community. Other main concerns were:

- Inappropriate location of the proposed construction compounds in the parish and their access, close to Rock Common Quarry, itself the subject of planning proposals which will generate more HGVs on the A283 and A24 at Washington roundabout.
- Impact on Storrington village if HGVs and construction traffic enter its High Street, an Air Quality Management Area.
- The poor quality of the consultation maps which make it difficult to understand all the issues.

Cllr Wright explained that HDC, as a statutory consultee, welcomes the Rampion project and the economic benefits it will bring to the area. He supported Washington in that the route should not go through the village and that the project should also meet the other requirements for national infrastructure projects. He spoke on his recent meeting with senior HDC planning officers and the Chief Executive and it was unanimously agreed to support the PC in its consultation submission. He responded to questions and comments from Councillors.

Cllr Worthington-Leese, Chairman of Storrington & Sullington Parish Council, commented that they would support Washington Parish Council in its consultation response. Their main concerns were that there must be measures in place to prevent HGV construction traffic from entering Storrington and the AQMA (Air Quality Management Area) via any route.

SB reported on the Open Spaces Committee's discussion on the RWE's proposal to move the cable route a few metres south, close to the MUGA on the Recreation Ground, to avoid a gas pipeline and trees. The meeting had been attended by RWE's Commercial Manager James D'Alessandro and Carter Jonas Land Agent Lucy Tebbutt to explain the proposals, the legal process for land access rights and to answer questions.

Main concerns from members were:

- Disruption from drilling the 4 cable ducts underneath the grounds. There was the potential for noise levels, described by Mr D'Alessandro as equivalent to a washing

machine on high speed, for up to 7 days a week from 7am to 7pm during the operation. Each cable would take up to a week per drilling activity. Although there would be noise barriers in place, RWE was unable to confirm the decibel levels from the drilling under the grounds and if it would affect residents, the school, and users of the grounds and village hall.

- Concerns that the cable installation may affect the MUGA court. Mr Alessandro had assured members that there would be no impact on the structure of the court or buildings. Neither the court or the Village Hall would be affected.
- No development of tree planting would be permitted for the 99-year period of easement around the 30-metre area of the cable route on the grounds. This would be potentially harmful as it would prevent any future improvements in the location which would benefit the local community.
- Proposed operations access point AA13 on the public bridleway leading to The Street: potential for construction traffic through the village.

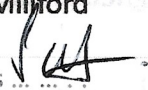
SB reported on RWE's proposed compensation payments and willingness to cover up to £6,500 of the Council's professional fees in negotiating land access rights.

The Chairman thanked SB for his report. He reminded everyone that the Council was acting both as the parish consultee for the main proposals. It also had a separate role as and a responsibility for an ongoing dialogue as landowner to prepare for the eventuality of a cable route on the Recreation Ground should it happen. He welcomed the support of Cllr Wright and confirmed that Andrew Griffith MP had requested feedback from the meeting for his own submission to the consultation.

Mr Steve Tilbury advised the PC in its consultation response and on the consultation process for a future Development Consent Order application by RWE. He advised it was crucial that the PC raised its traffic concerns about the proposals directly with WSCC Highways Authority. Ultimately they would be the deciding authority on the traffic proposals and traffic management plan. The PC should look to them to look after the parish in this regard, with the assistance of HDC. Cllr Wright pointed out that HDC would be raising their own concerns regarding the construction compounds and would be raising the issues with Cllr Paul Marshall (WSCC). He advised that PC do this too, at the earliest opportunity.

Following a discussion, it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to frame the Council's consultation response on the following main issues of concern:

- That there has been no effective response from RWE to the Council's position: i.e. that no alternative route avoiding the village has been looked at again by RWE. The Parish Council restates its objection to Route B. If Route B is sanctioned by the DCO process, it will expect all points raised to be given full consideration.
- The location of the proposed construction routes AA11 and AA12 which would be accessed from the busy A283 Washington Road. One is close to the operational Cemex quarry and means of access to Hampers Lane, residential development at Millford



Grange and Clayton Kennels. The other would be close to Georges Lane which provides access to the National Trust car park at Warren Hill. Both Hampers Lane and Georges Lane are popular public bridleways and means of access to residential properties; the proposed AA13 operations permanent route which leads to The Street into the village: any use of its very narrow road network would be wholly unsuitable and detrimental to the village which has a conservation area.

- Concerns that Rampion-related HGV traffic does not enter Storrington village. There should be effective measures in place to enable this.
- The location of the construction compounds, particularly those close to the Washington village and Rock Common Quarry. The quarry is subject to a planning application which if permitted will generate more HGV traffic to the already busy A283 and A24.
- Concerns about the very little information available regarding the scale and nature of the drilling compounds and how they will be operated and kept safe at all times
- Concerns about the lack of information available regarding the noise of the drilling operation for the cable route on the Recreation Ground, and how these will impact local residents, the school as well as the users of the grounds and Village Hall.
- Concerns that the presence of the cable will restrict opportunities for the expansion or improvement of facilities to benefit the community.
- The difficulty in reading underlying information and locations on the consultation maps.

Mr Tilbury agreed to assist the Clerk in drafting a consultation response before the deadline. He would also contact Horsham District Council to check if they have any special concerns on the proposals affecting the parish. The Chairman agreed to raise the issues from the meeting with Cllr Paul Marshall. The Chairman of SSSPC would provide relevant points for inclusion in the PC's submission.

The Chairman thanked Mr Tilbury for his advice and assistance in drafting the PC's consultation response.

At 20:45 hrs: 4 people left the meeting.

24.63. Boundary Commission – Final consultation on revised proposals

To Discuss and Agree comments on the consultation proposals which affect the Washington Parish

Supporting papers for the consultation, including the response from Andrew Griffith MP and the Council to the original Boundary review were previously circulated. The Chairman welcomed the proposed revision which included the reinstatement of the parish back into the rural Arundel and South Downs constituency. He was pleased that the Commission had listened to the Parish Council's and local concerns. Following a discussion, it was proposed by the Chairman and unanimously **RESOLVED** to send a further response that the PC is pleased to see that its concerns have been recognised and incorporated in the revised plan. Clerk to action.

Meeting closed at 20:55hrs.

Signed.....  Dated..... 6. 2. 23