

WARBOYS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Planning Committee** held on 25th November 2019 at the Parish Centre, Warboys.

PRESENT

Councillor G C M Willis, Chairman

Councillors Mrs J M Cole, R J Dykstra, D W England, Ms L A Gifford, S J Green, Mrs M H Harlock, P S Potts, Mrs J Tavener, Mrs S C Wilcox Dr S C Withams and Mrs A R Wyatt.

APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from Councillor J A Parker.

51/19 MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No interests were declared by Members in respect of items appearing on the agenda.

52/19 WARBOYS LANDFILL SITE - PLANNING APPLICATION TO DISCHARGE CONDITION 29 ATTACHED TO PLANNING PERMISSION H/5002/18/CW

Members considered an application for the discharge of condition 29 of the planning permission for the proposed heat and power and water treatment plants at Warboys Landfill Site by the adoption of arrangements for the creation of a site liaison committee.

Mrs B Ball on behalf of the Warboys Landfill Group and Professor B Lake addressed the Committee on the proposals and provided their views on the scheme submitted with the application for the inauguration and implementation of the committee. It was noted that the application had been submitted by Woodford Waste Management Services Ltd, the operator of the recycling business at the landfill site, as opposed to the applicants for planning permission for the heat and power and waste water treatment plants. Members' attention also was drawn to the fact that the application to discharge the condition should have been made within two months of the issue of the permission in July 2019.

A number of concerns were raised about the format of the proposed site liaison committee, particularly the level of representation from the Parish Council and the local community and the frequency of meetings. Accordingly the following changes were proposed to the document:-

Paragraph 3.1(a) The document referred to membership including a representative of the biomass site but not to the operator of the waste water treatment plant which could be a different company. As references had been made in the scheme with regard to voting, objections also were raised to the proposal that the operators could be represented by more than one person. The Committee felt that the sub-paragraph therefore should be reworded to read 'One representative from the

operators of each of the Warboys biomass site and waste water treatment plants.

- Paragraph 3.1(d) As the proposal provided for the Parish Council to be represented on the liaison committee by the Chairman, Members were of the opinion that was too prescriptive and that it should be a matter for the Council to decide who their representative should be. It was also felt that there should be two representatives from the Parish Council as had been the case with the former landfill site liaison committee.
- Paragraph 3.1(i) Also as in the case of the landfill site liaison committee, it was felt that the local community should be represented by one person from the Warboys Landfill Action Group and two people from the community.
- Paragraph 4.1 As opposed to the attendance of additional people at meetings being subject to the majority approval of the members of the liaison committee, it was proposed that the paragraph should be reworded to require the permission of the Chair (or in their absence the Vice Chair) for the attendance of additional representation in a non-voting capacity.
- Paragraph 5.3 It was felt to be too prescriptive for all meetings to take place at the Landfill Site Office and the words ‘or elsewhere as may be agreed by the Chair (or in their absence the Vice Chair)’ should be added.
- Paragraph 5.5 As there could be more than one site operator, it was suggested that the words ‘representative on behalf of the site operator or such other’ should be deleted to enable the committee to decide who would administer the committee’s arrangements.
- Paragraph 6.2 It was felt that meetings of the liaison committee should be held every three months during the construction period and for the first twelve months of operation of the plants.
- Paragraph 6.3 Members were of the opinion that meetings of the liaison committee should be held more frequently than once per year after twelve months had elapsed from the construction of the plants and that the words ‘at least’ once a year should be added.
- Paragraph 6.4 Members disagreed with the proposal that extraordinary meetings required the signature of at least four members of the committee if the membership was not changed as proposed. If there was no change to the level of representation, it was proposed that this should require a request by two members of the committee rather than four.
- Paragraph 7.1 While agreeing that decisions should be reached by a majority of the membership in attendance at a meeting, Members found it difficult to envisage what decisions could effectively be made that were binding on either the plant operators or the regulatory agencies.

RESOLVED

that the County Council be advised of the Committee's response to the proposed establishment of the site liaison committee as summarised above.

(Councillors Ms Gifford, Mr Tavener, Green, England and Mrs Wilcox arrived in the meeting at various times during the course of the above discussion.)

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed.

Chairman.