

Latton Parish Council Extraordinary Meeting
27th May 2014
7.30pm in the Village Hall

Minutes

1. Apologies: Councillors Bob Jones & Nick Kennington.
Present: Councillors Graham Blunden (Chairperson), Becky Baker, Chris Lennon, David Newman & Bev Blunden (Clerk)
Several members of the public were also present.

2. Minutes from last Meeting on 12.5.14
An amendment to Item 4 was proposed by Councillor Nick Kennington (read in his absence by Bev): “The missing action was, Nick and David to contact Kate Covill of Orta Solar to explore what additional options are available to make the Solar Park less visually intrusive and more welcoming to the local residents”. All Councillors agreed on the wording and that this amendment should be inserted in the Minutes of the PC Meeting held on 12.5.14. These minutes will be signed off by the Chairperson at the next PC Meeting.

3. Declarations of interest - none

4. Response by Latton Parish Council to planning application by Orta Solar for a Solar Farm at Water Eaton (14/04326/FUL)

Graham explained the purpose of the meeting was for Councillors to discuss Latton Parish Council’s response to the application and was not a public debate on the issue. However, Graham stated questions would be taken at the end. Since Latton Parish Council is only one voice, Graham suggested that to make more impact on Wilts Council then residents could make their own views known by sending an email to developmentmanagementnorth@wiltshire.gov.uk

After much discussion among Councillors, the following statement was agreed:

Latton Parish Council objects to this application on the grounds that the amalgamation of the adjacent Castle Eaton scheme and the Orta Solar scheme will have an adverse visual effect upon the surrounding countryside. The two schemes

together will form some 215 acres, making them one of the largest solar farms in the UK.

Should the scheme go ahead, Latton Parish Council would like to make the following recommendations:

That there is insufficient screening in the form of hedging and tree planting. The intention to plant 100 metres of hedge and just 16 trees is, in the view of Latton Parish Council, insufficient and does not screen the panels sufficiently from view of the residents of Water Eaton.

That there should be close monitoring of the construction traffic. Off-site holding bays should be used to prevent large delivery lorries from passing each other on the Water Eaton road, as this has caused damage to the verges in the past. Orta Solar should liaise with gravel extraction contractors along the road to avoid this occurrence.

Orta Solar should be made responsible for the upkeep of the Water Eaton road during construction as well as restoration after construction. This is to ensure that any damage to the road is repaired promptly, preventing damage to other vehicles using the same road in the future.

A condition that regular reporting to Latton Parish Council is included in the planning conditions. That Orta Solar report fortnightly to Latton Parish Council on the progress of the construction.

That the period of construction be time bound from the start of work, to ensure that the works do not endure for an excessive length of time.

A request that Latton Parish Council is informed of visits by the Wiltshire Planning Department's Inspector to the site and that a member of Latton Parish Council is to be allowed to accompany them during any inspection visit.

ACTION: Graham & Bev to agree wording of the response to the planning application. Bev to circulate this response to Councillors for comments & then send to Wilts Council by 5 Jun 14.

5. Date of next meeting – Mon 21 July 2014, 7.30pm at Latton Village Hall.