

Minutes of a meeting of Arreton Parish Council held on-line on **Monday 18th January 2021** at **7.00pm.**

Present: Cllrs Kimber, Calloway, Cooper, Dodson, Healy, Orchard, Roberts and Verey.

In attendance: IWC Cllr Mosdell, Sheila Caws (Clerk) and two members of the public.

017/21 Apologies for Absence

IWC Cllr Mosdell

018/21 Questions from the public

There were no questions.

019/21 To receive any declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest and requests for dispensations under the Localism Act 2011. To give notice of any item to be raised under agenda item 022/21 – nothing was raised.

020/21 Planning and appeals

Reference	20/00513/FUL
Alternative Reference	Not Available
Application Received	Wed 18 Mar 2020
Address	Land to the North East of New Barn Business Park Sandown Road Arreton Newport Isle of Wight PO30 3BT
Proposal	The construction, operation and decommissioning of a well site for the exploration and appraisal of hydrocarbon minerals from one exploratory borehole (Arreton-3) and one side-track borehole (Arreton-3z) for a temporary period of three years involving the siting of plant and equipment, the construction of a new access track, a new junction with the Newport to Sandown highway (A3056), the erection of boundary fencing, entrance gates and other ancillary development with restoration to agriculture - revised plans and information relating to means of access and rights of way mitigation measures, site layout, sections and restoration; clarification relating to ecology and environmental health issues; revised location plan/ red line boundary (readvertised application)

After some discussion, it was agreed to object to this application for the following reasons:-

- i) The most recent comments from Island Roads have been noted and the various proposed conditions are supported.
- ii) With reference to the wheel wash, there is concern that the water run-off may be contaminated but there are no apparent means to contain and dispose of it.
- iii) The disposal of contaminated water is a general issue as there appear to be no definite arrangements for disposal, as noted in our original objection nos.vi, vii and xii.

- iv) There is also concern that there do not appear to be any plans in place to deal with a potential oil or other contaminant spill on the access road to prevent any run-off into adjacent fields.
- v) The Ecological Report refers to a Dust Management Plan. How will this dust be disposed of as it may also contain contaminants?
- vi) Given the date of the current ecology plan and the date of the Ecological Officer's last comments, has the EO commented on the most recent plan?
- vii) With regard to the ecology, it is noted that most of the research is now over two years old and may need re-visiting.
- viii) There is the possibility of air pollution, which is of particular concern as the village and particularly the school are in the prevailing direction downwind of the site. Due to the geographical location of the site, this might have the unfortunate effect of exacerbating any existing pollution from the anaerobic digester site as noted in our original comment no. xiii. There is a possibility that this pollution may contain methane.
- ix) Should this application be approved, the members would like to see lichen surveys undertaken in several areas, particularly downwind of the site, before work commences and at regular intervals thereafter, as lichen is an internationally recognised indicator of air pollution. A current baseline needs to be established before any work commences.
- x) Should the application be approved, who will monitor the various potential environmental impacts, who will pay for the monitoring and who will pay for any remedial work that may prove necessary? Is there a 'polluter pays' policy in place, as is the case with incidents in a marine environment?
- xi) The financial aspect, particularly the costs of returning the site to its original condition, is of considerable concern, as stated in our original objection no. xxiv. It is understood that the costs could run into many millions of pounds, much more than we originally envisaged.
- xii) It is not clear from the remedial action plan how the original land will be restored. Will it be restored to agriculture or chalk? The suggestion is chalk but the soil analysis show it to be ferruginous sands therefore their suggestion appears contrary to reality.
- xiii) Are there other exploration methods that could be considered other than drilling?
- xiv) Given the direction indicated in the borehole deviation plan, are the results of the drilling at Perreton not indicative of reserves in the vicinity? It is understood that some core samples are available for consultation locally.
- xv) It is also noted that the deviation plan includes land under the village of Merstone and parts of Arreton village.
- xvi) It is noted that the IW Council has recently stated an aim to become carbon neutral and also has a long-running commitment to reducing waste and the cost of waste disposal. This application would appear to run counter to both those aims in terms of contaminated waste products, flaring of gases, increased HGV transport on land and sea.
- xvii) The effects of the current COVID-19 pandemic make it vital that any planning permission should take into account how any future event of this kind could be dealt with; emergency planning, sickness affecting oil production staff, long-term problems affecting vehicle and ferry transport etc.
- xv) The members of the Parish Council re-iterate their objection to this application, as outlined by their original statement from July 2020.

021/21 To note the date of the next meeting, 8th February 2021

The meeting will be held on-line as Covid regulations are unlikely to be lifted before then.

022/21 Any other matters raised by councillors for discussion only

Nothing was raised

There being nothing else raised, the meeting concluded at 8.48pm.

Sheila Caws, Clerk to the Council

Hillis Side, Rew Street, Gurnard, Isle of Wight PO31 8NW

E-mail: arretonpc@outlook.com Telephone: 07587 008183

20th January 2021

..... Chairman

..... Date