

Minutes relating to a special meeting held in Great Glemham Village Hall on 6 January 2017

Present: Edward Benson; Jennifer Beaumont; John Cross; Karen Debenham; Argus Gathorne-Hardy (Chairman); Lenni Lewis; Peter Lincoln; Duncan McIver; Diane Minns; Nicholas Redman (Honorary Clerk). **In attendance:** Mr Patrick Wilson, Mrs Jill Smith MBE and around four other electors. **Apologies:** Mark Runnacles and Steve Kite (who each had prior commitments); Councillor Stephen Burroughes (prior commitment).

Declaration of interests: Argus Gathorne-Hardy declared an interest as a partner in a farming business that held land some of which might fall to be affected by the proposed enabling works for Sizewell C power station; this had been duly disclosed to Suffolk Coastal District Council. Under section 33 of the Localism Act 2011 Nicholas Redman gave Argus Gathorne-Hardy a written dispensation to continue chairing the meeting because he considered that granting such a dispensation was in the interests of persons living in Great Glemham in view of Argus Gathorne-Hardy's work with the community forum looking into the Sizewell C proposal.

Minutes: The minutes for the 221st meeting held on 25 November 2016 were approved and the Chairman signed the copy in the minute book.

Mrs Jill Smith MBE: All present collectively congratulated Mrs Jill Smith, an elector who was present, on the award of an MBE in the New Year's Honour's List.

Sizewell C: Nicholas Redman stated that he had liaised with Councillor Stephen Burroughes regarding the stage 2 pre-application consultation launched by the developers, EdF. Councillor Burroughes was keen to pick up themes in the responses made by parishes throughout his ward and would meet Argus Gathorne-Hardy and Nicholas Redman in good time before the closure of the consultation. Nicholas Redman pointed out that though he had added some notes to the circulated agenda, these notes were not intended to be prescriptive and that John Cross had also gained experience of the full range of issues posed by EdF plans at community forum meetings. He added that he had been supplied with a response to the consultation prepared by Patrick Wilson, who had lived in the area and worked at the Sizewell site for around 30 years. He also said that all relevant documents (including the full consultation and the summary one) were set out at the back of the village hall and that, if necessary, the meeting could be suspended so that these documents could be considered.

After extensive discussion, it was decided that the parish council's response would focus on travel and transport issues. In this respect, it was decided that the parish council would reiterate many of Patrick Wilson's comments on travel and transport.

EdF's plans in this respect were not genuinely strategic in many respects and did not address the effects of very sizeable number of vehicle movements (including many by HGVs) over a significant area which includes Great Glemham and the market towns which serve it and for a significant period of time.

There was no recognition of the widespread use of sat nav technology in the road haulage industry and the fragmentation of that industry leaving drivers effectively free from disciplinary action for not following designated routes.

There was also no recognition of the practice of "just in time" deliveries which would routinely require the order in which lorries arrived on the site to be changed with no space to do that.

The maintenance of effective emergency services during the construction period (noting that fire engines and ambulances called to Great Glemham need to cross the A12 and that the A12 is routinely used by ambulances taking patients to Ipswich hospital) was also not addressed.

Parts of the A12 have long been judged inadequate for the volume of traffic carried by it: a four village by-pass (protecting Marlesford, Little Glemham, Stratford St Andrew and Farnham) was approved in principle in 1994.

Many electors routinely require to turn right onto and/or from the A12 and their ability to do this promptly and safely is of critical importance. For example, electors and their families need to do this routinely to effect the school run, to get to or from work or to get access to medical and retail

services or visit to care for nearby relatives.

- Many villages straddle the A12 and inhabitants routinely need to cross that road on bicycles and on foot. No means of protection for these persons is provided under your plans. At the very least, illuminated refugees could be provided in such villages allowing those people the opportunity of crossing one carriageway at a time.

- There was considerable support for the use of rail and seaborne transport though the need for existing rail services to be maintained should be addressed.

- The proposed road layout around the Northern park and ride was considered to be dangerous. Patrick Wilson's notes gave details which should be reiterated in the parish council's response.

- The proposed A12 by-pass proposals were regarded as inadequate. Option 4 (which by-passed only Stratford St Andrew and Farnham) could be described as "the least worst".

Another issue facing our electors would be how the proposal for Sizewell C will affect local services and amenities. For example, Framlingham already has around 400 additional dwellings coming on stream which will impact on services, but EdF's stage 2 consultation does not consider the impact of the proposal on schooling, health provision and so on. There was a fear that such impact may be severe as EdF's figures show that most people working on the project will be between 30 and 49 years old and so likely to wish to live with their families within a tolerable commuting distance. **ACTION:** Nicholas Redman to compose a response to the consultation for approval by the Chairman. He should also write to Dr Poulter MP so that he and the MP for key part of the area to be involved in the Sizewell C project, Dr Coffey could lobby for government backing for infrastructure improvements which may mitigate the impact on that project and for some "legacy" works.

Finance and governance - approval/ratification of expenditure: Approval was given for village hall hire costs for this meeting at going rates.

Transparency Code: The minutes for the 22nd meeting on the website should no longer be marked "draft". **ACTION:** Karen Debenham.

Next meetings: Nicholas Redman was instructed to secure bookings of the village hall for meetings on the following dates in 2017: 3 March; 19 May; 29 September; 1 December. **ACTION:** Nicholas Redman.

Any other business: Butchers Field: The parish council had agreed a couple of years ago to provide neighbouring owners with some trees as a means of screening the field but some of the trees had now died. After discussion, it was agreed that the chairman would liaise with the owners and with tree suppliers he had contact with. The proposal would be passed to Nicholas Redman so that it could be approved at a later meeting. **Flooding intelligence:** Suffolk County Council and other authorities had invited parish councils to a meeting to be held on 17 January in Beccles with a view to collating knowledge of places known locally to be susceptible to flooding. He asked those present to pass details of those places to him so he could relay the information to those hosting the meeting.

NA Redman, Honorary Clerk

13 January 2017